

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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Third Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

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- BILL 110 – Mandatory Sexual Assault Law Education Act
- BILL 123 – An Act to Amend the Innovation PEI Act
- BILL 127 – Autism Coordination Act

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker (Watts): Hon. members, following last evening's recorded division on the Motion of Bill No. 128, *An Act to Amend the Election Act*, be read a second time, I just want to clarify on the rules and procedures of this House for recorded divisions.

The procedure for a recorded division is outlined in Rule 42 of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island*.

Last evening during the recorded division, the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture sought clarification regarding the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora entering the Chamber in the middle of the recorded division. During this intervention, I asked the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, I said: Are you here? Were you here? And the member then indicated that he would abstain from voting.

Hon. members, according to Rule 42 of the rules, the Speaker will call upon those voting in the negative to rise, followed by those voting in the affirmative. The order of consideration begins with the front row to the left of the Speaker, followed by the back row to the left of the Speaker, and next, the front row to the right of the Speaker, followed by the back row to the right of the Speaker.

I will direct honourable members to a ruling made by former speaker Casey who responded to a similar inquiry on the 25th of November, 2010, and the ruling reads, in part, as follows:

"I wish to advise that during any future divisions in this House, and subject to any further direction on the subject that may be given by the House itself, after both whips have advised that all members are present, and after the Clerk has commenced the calling of the recorded division, a member returning to their seat after the seat has been considered during the recorded division, will not be recorded."

A member returning to their seat after the seat has been considered shall not be

recorded; however, to clarify for future reference, a member whose seat has not yet been considered, may return to the Chamber and may be recorded in the division.

The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora's seat had not yet been considered when he entered the Chamber, and could have voted on the motion. In this case, the member voluntarily abstained.

With respect to the interjections that took place during the division, and I direct your attention to *Beauchesne (6th edition)*, citation 308, which states: "When the Speaker's attention has been called to a breach of order during a division, the division will proceed and the Speaker will deal with the matter when the division is completed."

In future, I insist that if a member has a point of order or a matter of privilege to raise, the appropriate time to do so is following the conclusion of the recorded division.

I want to thank you and that was just for clarification purposes.

Mr. LaVie: The Brighton lawyer is used to that.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: (Indistinct) it's all interpretation.

Mr. Fox: I'm waiting (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: Read the rules.

Mr. Fox: I'm waiting.

Mr. MacEwen: (Indistinct) should be an apology there.

Mr. J. Brown: My apologies to you (Indistinct)

Speaker: Accepted.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, welcome, of course, to everyone here in the Chamber and especially, folks joining us in the gallery.

We've got some who've been here on a regular basis, some occasionally, and some for the first time. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to a good session here today.

Of course, welcome everyone watching from throughout the province or even beyond by television or by Internet.

I note that there's a group of students, grade nine students, from Birchwood school (Indistinct) –

étudiants en immersion français et c'est un groupe qui assistent avec leur professeur Josh Underhay, et nous leur souhaitons aussi la bienvenue à l'Assemblée.

– French immersion students, and this is a group who is here with their professor, Josh Underhay, and we also welcome them to the Assembly.

Tomorrow will be the memorial services for victims of violence as part of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, December 6th, an important date and a date that is in our minds throughout the year and certainly as we conclude the purple ribbon campaign. There will be events at Charlottetown and Summerside.

Later today there will be a group in the gallery, and I'll introduce them in the tabling of documents, who are here with the Prince Edward Island Acadian and Francophone community.

Finally, to recognize that at this moment and starting yesterday the United Nations conference on climate change, COP 24, is taking place in Katowice, Poland, and there are some important discussions taking place there and discussions that parallel important matters that we're dealing with here in this Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's certainly an honour for me to rise as well and to recognize a group of students who have come in today from Birchwood Intermediate. As the Premier alluded to, it's Josh Underhay's grade nine French immersion social studies class and the majority of the students actually hail from my district. So, I'd like to thank Mr. Underhay for bringing his students to the Legislative Assembly today in the gallery.

It's heartwarming and fantastic to see so many students express an interest in current affairs and provincial politics, and learn a little bit more about our legislative process. I encourage each and every one of you to continue to be engaged, and also to look into programs down the road, particularly in high school. There are two programs, in particular, that I know are wonderful and you could learn a lot from, and all the Members here in this Legislative Assembly support them tremendously, and that, first and foremost, would be the Page program; to actually come and join us here in the Legislative Assembly and work as a Page, but also the Rotary Youth Parliament, as well, is a wonderful program to be involved with.

Not that I necessarily polled the junior high students that are here from Birchwood today, but I have been speaking to a lot of my constituents, younger constituents that take the bus every day to Birchwood from Stratford. I'm told by all of the students I have spoken to so far that the average bus trip every day from Stratford to Birchwood junior high is at least a minimum of 20 minutes, and those are when the conditions are perfect. So, I know that the minister of education and the Premier have both been able to make it over in four minutes and 20 seconds and I think four minutes and 17 seconds –

Mr. LaVie: Breaking the law.

Leader of the Opposition: – but you know what? I implore these gentlemen to try to stay within the speed limit and obey all traffic, and if they're comparing apples to apples, I would ask them to actually follow a school bus or talk to the constituents of Stratford to find out what the issues are.

Just in closing, I also want to recognize Mr. and Ms. Myers who have joined us here today. I know I attended a wonderful anniversary celebration this summer of their nuptials and it was a great event.

I would also like to recognize – and this is the last time I'll be able to say this – councillor elect Steven Gallant, because after tonight he'll be sworn in as a councillor for Stratford.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I, first, want to welcome the grade nine social studies class from Birchwood school.

Bonjour, bienvenue.

Hello, welcome.

Thanks to your teacher, Josh Underhay, for always showing an acute interest in politics and I'm sure that's in part being passed on to you here today. So, thank you, Josh, for what you're doing for these kids and thank you for being here.

I also want to welcome Bethany Collicutt-McNab and her daughter, Jane Marie. Bethany is, if any of you ever go on Twitter, Bethany is one of the most astute and hilarious commentators on PEI politics and if you want to know what's going on in PEI politics, @bethanycoll123 is her handle and you won't be disappointed; always funny and always very astute.

Welcome to Boyd Leard also, and Eddie Lund, of course, sitting in the corner, nice to see you all here today.

Today is World Soil Health Day, and F.D. Roosevelt once said that the nation that destroys its soil destroys itself. We have some amazing farmers here doing brilliant work to produce the food that we all eat. But, I'll never forget the comment made by a farmer once who was asked what he grows and he said: I grow soil – understanding that the absolutely fundamental importance of the health of living soil when it comes to,

not only the economic well-being, but the environmental well-being of our Island.

Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition passed on his condolences to Greg MacDonald. We all know Greg. He greets us in the parking lot most mornings and he's always a bright point of my day, and I regretted I did not mention yesterday to pass on my personal condolences to Greg and his family at this time. I have missed Greg the last couple of days and hope that with time, we has peace and healing.

I also want to, at this time of year, particularly pass on my thanks to all the people who work in the food banks and the food kitchens across Prince Edward Island. I think we have six food banks and this is a time of year when they are particularly busy in the run up to the holiday season, so I want to thank all of the people who volunteer an enormous amount of time and effort and energy, and put a lot of love into those places.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to say hello to everybody out in West Royalty-Springvale and thank them for all their support over the past few years.

I would like to give a shout out to Hal Parker and his council who are showing excellent leadership in the community of Miltonvale Park.

I'd like to welcome everybody here today, Eddie Lund and also, especially the grade nine social studies class from Birchwood. You're in great hands with Josh Underhay here today, and good to see you, Josh. Josh teaches with my daughter, Tara Jeffrey, at the school. Tara Jeffrey and Josh Underhay, you fellows are in real fine company. All the best to you and your studies as you go forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise again today in the House and welcome everyone to the gallery, all of the students from Birchwood and Josh Underhay.

I would like to especially welcome Captain Hans Dyrлие and his wife, Nina, joining us from Indonesia. He's a partner in NorCan Marine and they've been staying with us as houseguests through two days of power outages and Saturday was a day-in-the-life of the MLA. We did three craft fairs, a church supper and a community Christmas concert, so we've been keeping them very busy. It's great to have them here. Hans is originally from Norway and he's used to the snow – not so much Nina. But, welcome and thank you for coming in.

Also, I'd just like to mention all the community groups in District 4 and all the work they're doing to ensure everyone has a wonderful Christmas and that everyone has a Christmas dinner. So, I'd just like to thank them for their work and hope that everyone has a great day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to welcome those in the gallery and those from Birchwood school. It's not very often I get a constituent here in the gallery but I do have the opportunity to welcome Harvey Collicutt, a constituent from the riding of O'Leary-Inverness and Springfield West. He must be making it a bit of a family event because I see he has his daughter, Bethany, and his granddaughter, Jane Marie, here today. Harvey is always pretty good on the quips too, as well, so I think I know where Bethany's got the political chops for good commentary when it comes to politics.

I also want to acknowledge, I guess, the farmers and fishers. I noticed today on my way down to Charlottetown, there are some of them trying to get their fields plowed. They had a very difficult fall this year, both on the harvest perspective, as well as trying to get their oysters sunk and things of that

nature. I know a lot of them are out, once again, trying to get the plowing done, as well as get their lease buoys and lease markers and things all put back in place and cleaned up because a lot of them broke free with all of the ice.

All the best to the fishers.

Thanks.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, thank you for your indulgence and I will be away on Thursday and Friday at first ministers' meetings and no idea whether we'll be here next week, so I just wanted, Mr. Speaker, before completing recognition, to say to you and to the Clerk and the team and everybody responsible for the successful operation of this House, that we respect and appreciate all of your good work and to wish you all the very best.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

It's a pleasure to rise today and I'd like to welcome any viewers from the Charlottetown-Sherwood area that may be watching in today and I hope they do enjoy the proceedings.

I, too, would like to welcome all guests into our public gallery today, but I would like to point out one young individual in particular, Liam Sheridan Schultz is one of the students that are in the gallery today from the group from Birchwood. It's really great to have the whole group in there, but I know Liam has a very keen interest in politics from our discussions in the past. It's really good to see you here, Liam. I hope you have another chance that Mr. Underhay will bring you back in many, many times over the next course of the few months.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise and welcome all of the folks in the public gallery, especially the folks from the west there and the students. It's great to see you here today.

I'd also like to send out best wishes and get well wishes to my mom who landed in the hospital there up in Alberton.

I have a couple of condolences I'd like to pass on. I'd like to pass on my condolences to the Weeks family in the passing of their loved one, Ann, and to the Fraser family on the passing of their loved one, Roy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Mr. LaVie: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say hello to everyone and welcome them back here today, especially those in the gallery and those watching on EastLink.

There's one gentleman I'd like to say hello to in the gallery and that would be the good friend of mine and a long-time family friend. That would be Boyd Leard. Boyd has decided to run in politics and he has decided to go for the Green Party and one thing Boyd and I did discuss, whatever the outcome will be, we'll always be friends and that's the way we shake hands. I wish Boyd luck in his campaign.

My good friend from Georgetown-St. Peters here must have questions today because I see he brought his fan club with him. His mom and dad, Al and Sandra, are with us today here. So the only time he has questions he brings his fan club, so I'd like to welcome Al and Sandra and I'll keep him under wraps here for you and make sure he doesn't get out of hand on you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Premierment ie voudrais souhaiter un bon bienvenue aux étudiants de Birchwood.

First, I would like to welcome students of Birchwood.

I would also like to mention that the Premier and I were out to West Kent this morning for a coding event and I'd like to thank Patty Graham, Jillian Casey, Jamie Matheson and Karen McCabe for helping to coordinate that event.

Then, I was off to École François-Buote for a similar event over there put on by Stephanie Gallant, Julie Gangon and Justine Arsenault. It's great to see the kids doing all kinds of wonderful things with coding in those schools.

Also like to welcome about-to-be-minted councillor Steve Gallant, who is also a police officer with Charlottetown Police Services, and Helen Kristmanson, who is a neighbour of mine from just down street, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to say hello to all those watching today from my District Charlottetown-Lewis Point. Over the almost 12 years that I have had the pleasure to be their voice in the Legislature, I have appreciated their support, advice and wisdom.

I feel I have left the district better than I found it. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me to be your representative.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome everybody watching from District 18 Rustico-Emerald.

Bonjour, bienvenue à Josh Underhay et tous les étudiants de Birchwood.

Hello, welcome to Josh Underhay and all of the students from Birchwood.

It's great to have you here.

I recognize everybody in the gallery, really, and I noticed the Member from Belfast-Murray River missed a very important person in the gallery. She told me to make sure that I relay a message to you, and I'd like to recognize Mr. Russ Compton and say: *Baby, it's Cold Outside*. I won't sing it though, Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Members

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

Farewell to Charles MacKay

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There comes a time when you meet that special person who comes into your life and leaves a lasting impression. That person for me has been Charles MacKay, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

As all members are aware, the Clerk has announced his retirement. For the majority of my almost 12 years in the Legislative Assembly, I have had the pleasure to spend the majority of my time at the presiding officer's table as your speaker and now Deputy Speaker working closely with the Clerk.

Charles has instilled in me a deep respect and appreciation for the important work of the legislative branch that I will carry with me forever.

Charles MacKay has provided non-partisan advice and guidance on parliamentary procedure to speakers and all Members of the Legislative Assembly who passed through this House over the past 30 years. I have witnessed his work, both nationally and internationally, as one of the most respected clerks in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Clerk, you have had the best seat in the House to witness history in the making of this great province. We appreciate and thank you for your service. On behalf of all speakers and Members of the Legislative Assembly, past and present, I wish you, Jackie, and Emma, peace, happiness and good health for a successful retirement.

Thank you.

[Applause]

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Reach Foundation

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

Things are really starting to heat up in Stratford. A cooking partnership has sprouted between the Reach Foundation and Sobeys Extra in Stratford this fall.

The foundation provides a stigma-free environment for young adults recovering from mental health and addiction issues. Nutrition and fitness are two key elements of that.

At Sobeys, chef Nathan Schoenfeldt, well-being counselor Hannah Scribner and dietitian Margaret Young, have teamed up to put on the classes every two weeks since October. The program wraps up December the 7th at the completion of the 16 week program.

Shopping on a budget is a major theme of the program. The participants get a tour of each department, learning where the best buys are and cuts of meat and they can ask the butcher how to cut those. The dishes are meant to be inexpensive and full of flavor. The program acknowledges the link between mental health recovery and a healthy lifestyle.

The Reach Foundation received a wellness grant from the Department of Health and Wellness to add a fitness and nutrition component to their work with people in recovery. That encompasses the cooking program and a personal trainer aspect with Jason Mosher from Naturally Fit.

This program is a great asset to the community, and instills a sense of confidence in marginalized youth. I am looking forward to seeing this program continue to reach Island youth, and aid them in building healthy futures for themselves with the resources provided to them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Civil Society Organizations

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This year has been a challenging one for many Islanders. Food and housing insecurity have created uncertainty for families across the Island, and this is perhaps hardest felt around the holiday season.

We are fortunate to have such a close-knit province where Islanders take care of each other. It is worth acknowledging the power of non-governmental organizations and individuals when they mobilize around an issue, keeping in mind that most of the Islanders who do this critical work are volunteers, out-of-sight and active all-year-round.

While I do not have an exhaustive list of community groups doing this important work, I would like to extend a personal and heartfelt thank you to the following groups: The Upper Room Food Ministry Food Bank and Soup Kitchen; food banks across the entire province including the most recent at UPEI; the CBC Feed a Family Christmas food drive; The Salvation Army operating Christmas kettles; the oil program with funding from government, an every weekday breakfast program for the homeless and needy; Meals on Wheels and school breakfast programs; The Family Violence Prevention Services Anderson House Family Campaign providing gift cards to current and past families and their monthly recurring needs list; gifts for seniors run by Ray Murphy; Santa's Angels who deliver Christmas for families who otherwise would have none on Christmas day; Gifts from the Heart run by Betty Begg. I'd like to extend a thanks specifically to Minister Brown for the trailers that were provided for Betty to be able to finally get the donations out of her house, some of them, anyway.

The Adventure Group for their free shopping night for current and past clients; Coats for Kids run by Downtown Charlottetown Inc.; Christmas in the Village and the Island Mothers Helping Mothers private Facebook group that has over 5,000 members and was started by Sarah Stewart-Clark – the PC candidate in the leadership

race – the Lions Club Wisemen, the six Rotary clubs in PEI who all do incredible community outreach, church ministries and service clubs across the province and finally, Blooming House who are working on providing an out of the cold shelter for homeless women in Charlottetown right now and are urgently seeking volunteers for organizational and outreach roles, as well as funding partners.

Individuals in these organizations are filling an incredible gap in PEI to ensure that all Islanders have an equitable standard of living. So many Islanders are giving in every way they can, not only with money, but with their time and love.

What can you do to help? Well like Mr. Rogers said: you look for the helpers and you volunteer. Offer your services; get out of your comfort zone. Your Island needs you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

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.

Last week we talked about the huge amounts of money that government has collected from PNP deposit forfeits. Close to \$41 million alone just in the last three years.

Notification to PNP client re: money forfeited

Question to the immigration minister: How does government notify a PNP client that their deposit money has been forfeited?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm sorry. I was reading something when the member asked me that. Could he repeat it again just for clarification, I want to know if it's the program that we've closed or if it was something else?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yeah. Hon. leader, I'll get you to ask the question.

Mr. LaVie: Check your notes there.

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

As I stated last week, we talked about the huge amounts of money that government has collected from PNP deposit forfeits. Close to \$41 million in the last three years alone.

Question: How does government notify a PNP client that their deposit money has been forfeited?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That clarification was good, because that was the program that is closed.

How we would connect with people to get their forfeit, their deposit, is to connect with them with the information that they give us at time of application.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

A common way to notify PNP clients that their deposit money has been forfeited is by letter, assuming that you have their current contact information for that client.

Question to the immigration minister: How does government notify PNP clients that *they're* losing *their* deposit money if government has no contact information for that client?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As people go through this program, we get a lot of contact information from them and there's a verification process that we go through during that. We would use the information that we were given at time of application.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

That seems odd because when we asked questions previously about the Sherwood Motel, this minister said that he didn't have the contact information.

There are challenges government faces when it loosely manages a program involving millions upon millions of dollars.

Question to the immigration minister: Shouldn't alarm bells have gone off when you couldn't find your PNP clients to tell them that you were keeping their money?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We contact all of the folks that applied through our PNP program, through the business stream.

Leader of the Opposition: At the Sherwood Motel?

Mr. Palmer: And we do communicate to them to the address that they give us at time of application. We continue to stay in touch with them as it goes through the process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So if government collected close to \$41 million from PNP forfeitures in three years, it would mean a lot of letters were mailed out according to the minister.

Letters sent out to PNP clients between 2015 and 2018

Question to the minister: How many letters did your government send out to PNP clients telling them their deposit was being forfeited between 2015 and 2018?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will take that under advisement, and I will get the number and bring it back here. I know we were sending out fewer and fewer letters each year, because our retention rates were starting to get better, but they weren't getting good enough for us and they weren't getting good enough for Islanders.

Leader of the Opposition: So CESA shut you down.

Mr. Palmer: So that's a program that we closed. We will – I'll get that information and I'll certainly bring it back.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We could also, I guess, just do the math at \$25,000 for residency and language deposit. It would be between 1,500 and 2,000, just using your own numbers. That's how many letters should have gone out to your PNP clients between 2015 and 2018 to tell them that they had defaulted.

Question to the minister: Those deposit forfeiture letters that were sent between 2015 and 2018 – how many of them did you not have addresses for?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll also get that information, but we would have gathered contact information at time of application. So we would have addresses – I would assume, but I will certainly check that out and bring that back, because I'd like to make sure that that information is all very accurate.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So according to IIDI annual reports, government tracks some data about the PNP clients, like what percentage of clients were in which program stream, the demographic percentages, and their country of origin percentages.

Percentage of PNP clients defaulted

Question to the minister: What percentage of PNP clients defaulted on their deposits between 2015 and 2018?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I'll bring those numbers back, but I do know our retention rates were getting better every year through a combination of efforts that we had undertaken and adjustments that we had made to the program over the years – one of those being the community endorsement. I will certainly bring that information back.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So certainly since I've been elected, PNP has been a major file for government as far as something that they have had in a complete and utter mess. More recently, this exact situation has brought this government down to the courthouse, which is happening today. Keeping track of how many people defaulted on the program would seem like

one of the key indicators to measure your performance.

Letters sent out to PNP clients between 2015 and 2018 (further)

Question to the minister: What percentage of PNP deposit forfeit letters sent to clients between 2015 and 2018 didn't have any address?

Leader of the Opposition: Good question.

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I will bring that information back. We would have received contact information at time of application. I would assume it would be 100% we would have contact information for. But let me get that information back to the House on the dates that we're requesting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So back in the spring, this minister told the House that out of 650 people who used the Sherwood Motel as its address only 17 reported Sherwood Motel as their residence in this province.

Approval of clients at Sherwood Motel

Question to the minister: Why did the government approve 17 PNP clients who gave you the Sherwood Motel as their permanent address?

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

Mr. Palmer: Mr. Speaker, the way the process works is when folks are coming here to PEI to begin the process, and even before they come to PEI, we need some contact information for them. Sometimes it's a hotel, but then it will be switched to a more permanent address. So, –

Leader of the Opposition: Toronto, Vancouver (Indistinct)

Mr. Palmer: – that wouldn't be out of the ordinary, to have a hotel as the beginning address, when the application process starts.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think the minister's question behind the question I just asked, because we clearly laid out that these were permanent residents – according to his numbers, anyways, and that's what he told this House.

Of the 17 clients who said the Sherwood Motel was their address, 14 defaulted on the residency portion of their ESCROW, meaning that the province kept their deposit, meaning that the province had to notify them what they did.

Letters sent to 14 PNP clients at Sherwood Motel

A question to the minister: Why were no red flags raised when you mailed 14 separate letters to the Sherwood Motel, informing clients that you were keeping their money?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will take that information back, as I have already promised to the hon. member –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Palmer: – and we will get the details on that because we want to make sure that we are accurate with the information that we have. I'll certainly bring that back.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

Mr. LaVie: Lost your clappers. Lost your clappers.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Revoking nomination certificates

A question to the minister: Can you explain how government failed to revoke the nomination certificates, rescinding approval for these clients – instead turning a blind eye and simply pocketing their money?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is a due diligence piece of this that we go through all the time while we are evaluating the applications; some of those we do turn away and some of those that we will nominate for their permanent residency with the federal government. We continue to look at all of these and will due diligence on each one of the applications that come in.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So the government only tracked these individuals who actually reported to IIDI offices in person. Of the 605 PNP clients, who used the address to have their permanent residency card mailed to another address in Canada, the minister only has records of 17.

Selling of Canadian passports

A question to the minister: Will you admit that this government has no tracking, no paper work, and no idea of the whereabouts of the other 588 people that you sold Canadian passports to.

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We do gather contact information as people enter the program, and we continue to update those as part of the discovery that we do, as they go through the process to make sure that there is fulfillment. Those addresses – the questions that we're talking about here are federal – these are federal charges. This information was given to

federal authorities. We don't have those addresses here on the files that we reviewed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So, the Canadian Press told government that CBSA informed them that all of these clients were PEI PNP clients, and their status was unknown to CBSA, as they were provincial nominees.

Provincial investigation for PNP case

A question to the minister: Why, then, would this government refuse to launch their own investigation to get to the bottom of this residency fraud scandal that your government created?

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

Mr. Palmer: Mr. Speaker, these are federal charges and we continue to work with the federal government to assist them with this because as the member knows, these permanent residencies is a federal jurisdiction and we continue to work with them to help deliver all information that we have when it is requested.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a provincial mess that has been created by this government and –

Mr. J. Brown: Gail Shea (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – the government refuses to clean it up; the government refuses to acknowledge it –

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – the government refuses to even acknowledge that this is the biggest problem that this government has faced here on Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: Not only did they pocket 14 residency deposits from the Sherwood Motel; the other three of the 17 with that listed address actually convinced the province that they lived there. And this government gave them their residency deposit back.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Returned residency deposits

Mr. Myers: A question to the minister: How did you approve three clients to live at the Sherwood Motel and give them their residency deposit back?

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

Mr. Palmer: Mr. Speaker.

I will check on those three applications to see that we did actually give those deposits back –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. Fox: (Indistinct)

Mr. Palmer: – and I'll that back here because we want to make sure we are accurate with all of the information that we deliver.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So this government used to break down the number of immigrants defaulting every year in the IIDI annual report. The Minister of Finance stopped that when he was in charge in 2017 and it was missing in this year's annual report, too.

Immigrant defaults no longer released in IIDI report

A question to the minister: Why are you refusing to publically release the breakdown defaults and refunds in the last two years?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll gather that information and bring it back to the House. That is something that we continue to track, it's one of the important measurements of the program, and it's one of the things that led us to one of the pieces of evidence that we had that helped us in the decision to close the program.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, it was revealed here in the House that there are over 11,000 people – Islanders – on the patient registry list. But, in 2016, we know from a written question response that there were only 8,400 Islanders on that patient registry.

Doubling of patient registry list

Question to the health minister: How did the patient registry grow in size by nearly half in just two short years?

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) math's not very good.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I did indicate yesterday –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Mitchell: – that we do currently, as of Monday morning when I got that report that we go have 11,822 patients that are on the registry. But, I did indicate yesterday that we have three physicians who have retired and one had left the province, which leaves us with an additional 3,800 patients that are not on the registry but are not associated with a doctor.

I guess that proves that I may be a better politician than a mathematician because I indicated those numbers were subtracted.

When physicians leave or retire, it seems to be better to keep their patients – those registries – together, it becomes easier to recruit physicians to take on all of those individual pieces.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't really think I got an answer, but we'll move on.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Patient registry waiting list

Mr. MacEwen: A question to the health minister: How does someone on the patient registry actually find out where they are at on that waiting list?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is a contact number that anybody who is on the registry can call in. Just last week, the last week of November, 45 Islanders were given a physician.

I indicated yesterday that when you look at the numbers of 11,000 plus the other patients, we have a population of about 9% or 10% of Islanders who don't have a physician; but, conversely, 92% of Islanders do have a pharmacare provider, and that is much better than the national average of –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Mitchell: – 84% across the country –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct) you and I got to talk after this.

Mr. Mitchell: – that do not have a physician.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We're talking to Islanders who are calling in, and their being told: Don't call us, we'll call you – you don't have to be on the patient registry, we'll keep all those lists together and transfer.

We hear from people who say: You know what, I've been waiting for so long, my neighbour who has been waiting a less amount of time, all of a sudden has a family doctor.

Annual reporting re: patient registry

A question to the health minister: What annual reporting is done by government on the state of the patient registry?

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, anybody can call at any time to see where they are on the patient registry.

I've asked as a department that we can post these numbers online, and they will be posted online in the very near future. They will come under several headings of patients in West Prince that are looking, East Prince that are needing a doctor, Central Queens, Queens, Southern Kings and Eastern Kings.

It will be very transparent of Islanders to see exactly how many people are on the patient registry. I continue to work with the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island, to find solutions to methods and ways that we can incorporate other healthcare professionals to draw people off the patient registry. They have been very supportive of that, and we will continue to work towards those ends.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well now we're getting somewhere, although I still don't like this 'very soon' talk.

We've been talking about a patient registry here for all as long as I've been paying attention to the Legislature.

Mr. LaVie: Eight years.

Mr. MacEwen: I am grateful to hear that that stuff is going to start being posted –

Mr. LaVie: Eight years.

Mr. MacEwen: – because you know what –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. MacEwen: – do you know how we've been finding out information about this? We have to put in written questions to find answers years later; we have to do freedom of information requests to find this information.

It is very satisfying to hear that this minister is finally, finally going to start posting this stuff.

Key performance indicators for patient registry

Another question to the health minister: What key performance indicators is this government going to use to measure the effectiveness of this patient registry going forward?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

As I said, we are trying to make this as transparent as possible for all Islanders to see how many people are on the patient registry. I'd like to remind the hon. member that he does not need to provide written questions to find the answers to these questions – simply give me a call and I can have the answer to him within ten minutes.

Ms. Biggar: Yeah.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

An Hon. Member: Oh.

Mr. Myers: Put them in writing and wait four years.

Mr. R. Brown: He doesn't know the numbers (Indistinct)

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm glad to hear that this minister is much more committed to getting responses back than many of his colleagues over there.

I've got a pretty decent memory here for sure and I can remember back in 2007 when this minister was going door to door in Sherwood, knocking on every door saying: I promise you, I promise you, a doctor for every Islander. We all remember that promise in 2007 and that's when this minister was first elected.

Mr. LaVie: You said it too.

Mr. MacEwen: How do we go from a doctor for every Islander when he was first elected –

Mr. LaVie: The Premier said it.

Mr. MacEwen: – to a patient registry with over 11,000 names on it today.

Mr. Myers: Won't be fooled again.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. LaVie: The Premier said it to get elected, you said it too.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When I indicate the patient registry, we are working towards ensuring that every Islander has a health professional to go and see to have their health care needs met.

When you look across the country, we are no different – actually, we are better by 11% –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. R. Brown: Great.

Mr. Mitchell: – than other provinces across the country who all have residences of their provinces needing physicians. Obviously, we continue to recruit physicians to the province, we continue to work with nurse practitioners, we want to ensure that every Islander has their health care needs met in the best possible way.

We will continue to do that as we have from 2007 and we will continue over the next dozen years to do that.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: (Indistinct) 12 years, most of you.

Leader of the Opposition: Another broken promise.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

As I mentioned in my opening remarks today is World Soil Health Day and the crop rotation act was put in place in order to foster good soil management, which is the foundation of good agriculture – ultimately of sustainable and profitable farming.

Earlier this fall, the Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment discussed the *Agricultural Crop Rotation Act* and its enforcement, in particular, the amount of land that is exempt from the normal three year rotation required by the act.

When asked how many acres of the fields under contract at Cavendish Farms were exempt, Robert Irving said this: it's quite high, I would think.

Island farmland acres exempt from act

A question to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: How many acres of Island farmland are exempt from the three year requirement of the crop rotation act?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. Henderson: When it comes to the crop rotation act, there's some definitions of what's determined a row crop versus just a crop. So row crops would be defined as potatoes, something that's in a row – carrots would be defined as a row crop.

To my knowledge there are no crops that are contrary to the crop rotation act being grown on Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. LaVie: That was short.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

I understand that this data is neither collected nor kept, while I accept that the number of years between row crops is only one critical aspect of good soil management, many farmers because of the razor thin profit margins on potatoes are now growing cash crops, like corn and soya as part of the three, or even a two-year rotation.

To the same minister: how are exemptions granted and who monitors compliance?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. Henderson: To my understanding, if an individual farmer wants to get an exemption, they would have to make an application to the minister – I believe it's the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment for that particular request –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Henderson: – to my knowledge there's been no exemptions granted and I want to emphasize, when you look at crops – like I said, there's a difference between a row crop and other particular crops. Soybeans are not considered a row crop, grain is not a row crop, forages are not row crops.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

And corn, strangely is also not considered a row crop.

To the same minister, with an 18 year study telling us that soil organic matter has been on a steady decline in Prince Edward Island, clearly the current practices are not enhancing soil health and are therefore threatening Island farmers long-term wellbeing.

Review of act to improve soil health

To the minister: Will you undertake a comprehensive review of the act, specifically focused on improving soil health?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. Henderson: As the hon. member mentions, he is very right in saying that soil health is imperative in providing good crops, good sustainable agriculture in the province of Prince Edward Island, or anywhere else.

We have actually implemented growers groups, and these grower groups work together and try to actually farm their watershed as a watershed region so they're not having fields on the same rotation by different farmers – so they can mix that up a bit to make sure that they're providing sustainable agriculture.

I'm happy to work with growers, work with the industries, for whatever commodity it is, to try to make sure that we're providing the best of possibilities for soil health in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: the November 2nd, 2018 summary on the parliamentary precinct master plan stated and I quote: that by the end of November 2018, the Department of Transportation,

Infrastructure and Energy will be closer to understanding and confirming the outcome of the parks PSCP functional review and schematic design process at Province House.

Minister, the rules of the Legislative Assembly state: the legislative management committee is responsible for the facilities and services required for a fully functioning Legislature.

Plan for Legislature at Province House

Minister, does your department have a plan to invest the \$6 million in Province House and have you shared that plan and received confirmation from the legislative management committee or the Clerk's office that your plan will result in the facilities needed for a fully functioning Legislature at Province House?

Mr. R. Brown: Great.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all I want to assure the Legislative Assembly and all Islanders that we are committed as a government to a full review and are in the middle of that. As was mentioned, we did do an intern report which was presented to the Legislative Assembly office on November 2nd.

In regard to the precinct itself, the precinct is identified as Province House and the George Coles Building, the J. Angus MacLean Building and the Rectory.

We are in the middle of finalizing the final review, we are being in touch working, certainly with the Legislative Assembly staff and Parks Canada and Public Works Canada and we will expect to have the final report in very soon.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Have all concerns, issues and operational challenges raised by the legislative management committee and the Clerk's

office respecting the facility requirements for the Assembly been addressed by your department?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In looking at each individual part of the precinct review, one of them is certainly Province House and there were a number of things that have been identified there in the interim report which we are continuing to have discussions on with Parks Canada.

That is where we targeted as a start, the \$6 million – the federal government, we are very fortunate here – that have invested \$60 million for the restoration of Province House and recognizing that we want to make the Province House a workable facility beyond the restoration.

There are some other improvements like accessibility, improvements to ventilation and climate control, broadcast services and security – so, identifying that as an estimate within the capital budget to be able to proceed, we have identified the \$6 million for that, but I certainly don't have time to explain everything that's in the report and I'll be tabling that during tabling of documents.

Mr. Fox: (Indistinct)

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, your department has put a \$6 million figure in the capital budget for Province House.

Assurance of facility plan for Province House

Given that all concerns, issues and operational challenges have not yet been addressed, what assurance can you provide this House that a comprehensive facility plan will be submitted to the legislative management committee for approval, thus respecting the rules of this Assembly and allowing the legislative management

committee to fulfill its responsibilities as assigned to it by all members of this House?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I had noted earlier, we have weekly meetings with the staff of the Legislative Assembly who are working on that project, with Parks Canada, working forward to identifying a final master plan that can be looked forward to the functionality of the Legislative Assembly and the precinct itself. There are a lot of other changes in regard to moving a number of facilities around to make sure that there's lots of room for everyone.

It's fully explained in the report and I will be tabling the interim report during tabling of documents.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

Recently, Highway 2 was closed for a few hours due to an accident in Portage. This particular location is between Portage and West Devon that was closed and it's the only passage to West Prince, which includes the towns of O'Leary, Alberton, Tignish, and many other municipalities. This is obviously concerning when the road closes. It means that there's no other way to get into West Prince or, heaven forbid, try to leave in case of an emergency because all access is cut off.

Alternate route for Highway 2 in West Prince

Minister, can you tell the House if emergency measures has a contingency plan in place for such occurrences as there is no alternate route?

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

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

I would thank the hon. member, too, for the question.

There were some questions asked earlier this week on this general matter.

PEI emergency measures office is responsible for creating and maintaining something called the provincial all-hazards emergency response plan. That plan can be found on the government website and it outlines the roles and responsibilities of all government departments in an emergency such as this.

Its objective is to coordinate the activities of the province's response in a major emergency and to protect Prince Edward Islanders in that event, and to protect and reduce any loss of property or economic loss or disruption.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, West Prince residents, they need to know and they deserve to know that if something happens in that area of Route 2 that there is a contingency plan.

Emergency plan for West Prince

Can the minister tell the House exactly how emergency vehicles such as ambulances or fire trucks will get through?

Also, minister, will you commit to the House today to reach out to first responders in each of these communities to develop and/or update a plan specifically for West Prince?

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

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

This plan does not focus on specific emergencies. You would need – I would say it would be impossible to develop a plan that would list all of the different emergencies

and responses to them. But what it does do, is it delineates how departments will work together to coordinate in the event of such an emergency.

As an example, if the road was blocked, EMS, for example, might do a patient transfer at the site of the blocked area. It would depend on what the emergency is, how long it was so last and what the requirements might be.

Mr. LaVie: You have no idea (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A contingency plan is necessary now and in the immediate short-term solution – we have to do something. We also need a long-term solution.

Will the minister work with his colleague, the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, to examine, perhaps, an alternate route? Maybe – I'm going to throw it out there – maybe extending the Canadian Road and hooking it to the Cascumpec Road so that West Prince residents have an alternate route.

Thank you.

Mr. LaVie: No plan (Indistinct)

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

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

This plan is updated regularly. In fact, just last month the team came together to test the plan at their annual emergency operations centre exercise, and we're open to all options at all points in time.

But, emergency response is always directed by the specifics of a situation, as I indicated previously, and there are many factors that need to be considered in each individual situation. This is why we have a team of experts at EMO that prepares for these kinds of emergencies, that updates the plan

regularly and that is always open to input, as the hon. member has made here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The National Energy Board report released in November of this year clearly indicates that solar energy can reduce energy costs and carbon output.

Government buildings with solar panels

Question to the energy minister: How many government buildings currently have solar panels installed to reduce energy costs with locally-produced renewable energy?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe I answered that question yesterday

—

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: No, you didn't answer it.

An Hon. Member: You did.

An Hon. Member: No, you didn't.

Mr. LaVie: Answer.

Chair: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

No, the minister didn't.

Provincial manors with solar panels

Our provincial manors use a lot of energy and the two new manors coming online after years of government delay — question to the energy minister: Are there solar panels in place producing local renewable energy on any of the provincial manors under your leadership?

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

Ms. Biggar: Mr. Speaker, local renewable energy? Yes, there are.

The Prince County Hospital and the Summerset Manor are 100% heated by renewable energy, biomass.

Mr. R. Brown: Biomass, great.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) solar.

Ms. Biggar: The manor — Wedgewood Manor and Elm Street school in Summerside are heated by 100% renewable energy — biomass.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: We have a number of buildings and in regard to the manors, the manor in Tyne Valley, which I will announce, certainly, the residents moved into today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Biggar: That's not heated by oil. It's not a renewable, but it is a carbon reduction. We're heating that with propane, but all our — we have numerous buildings across the government that are heated with biomass. We're continuing to develop renewable and we will continue on with that.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly, we have a minister that does not know about solar energy. She's never heard of it.

Mr. LaVie: No.

Mr. Fox: Transportation accounts for nearly half of our carbon emissions in this province. A new government garage is being developed out past the airport, much of our highway maintenance and the school bus fleets will be serviced at this new depot.

New government garage solar panels

Question to the energy minister: Are there any solar panels planned at this new facility under your leadership?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We are building our new building out at the government garage with the roof that will hold and sustain solar panels on it, so that we are prepared for future development in solar energy.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So, she's holding and sustaining. The lack of solar panels at the new government garage seems like a lost opportunity. Last week when we raised the idea of having more solar energy produced locally, the energy minister told the media that if more Islanders used solar, then the province would have to look at an energy grid upgrade.

Capacity of current electrical grid

Question to the energy minister: How much extra energy can our electrical grid handle at this point?

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

Ms. Biggar: Mr. Speaker, we do know that solar energy is certainly renewable energy and we're watching developments and the advancements in that very closely.

We need to have the generation – it only occurs during the day, which is why we're developing our wind energy policy.

Just out, we have issued an RFP that will be going out for another 30 megawatts of wind power.

Mr. Trivers: Newsflash (Indistinct)

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: And we will be continuing to develop our solar – our wind and our biomass. We had 20 new tenders –

Mr. Myers: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: – come back in for 20 new areas across government buildings. That's renewable energy. Wind is renewable energy. We're the second in the world – wind energy and we're going to continue to develop that.

Mr. R. Brown: Right on, minister.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't about you, but I never heard an answer to that question. –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

In fact, Maritime Electric has stated that the grid can handle an extra 10% of more energy from any source. Right now, locally produced solar energy makes up less than point 2%.

Mr. Trivers: Lots of room.

Solar energy and costly upgrades to grid

Mr. Fox: Question to the energy minister: Isn't the saying that having more solar energy would force costly upgrades to the energy grid just a bit of a dodge from your department?

Some Hon. Members: Ooh.

Mr. Myers: You're clawing your way back up Jamie.

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

Ms. Biggar: We're very pleased with the development that Islanders have come forward on with using electrification with their heat pump systems.

We're now using 15% more electricity than we have since 2015 through all of our electrification programs. We're working on

those programs, we're working towards smart grid that's something that we need to work to improve, and we're going to be continuing to work on innovative ways that we can put more electricity on the system and balance that out properly. We'll continue on those innovations.

Mr. R. Brown: That's smart.

Mr. LaVie: Last chance to be smart, last chance.

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

Mr. Fox: My final question. Well, I'd like to know why this energy minister fails to recognize solar power. She fails to recognize.

In fact, the Island company Solar Island Electric, was formally specified to qualify for the CEBD program. This has helped many Islanders to invest to get a 35% equity tax credit to help offset the installation costs. However, when Solar Island Electric applied for more shares to support this program, this government and this minister turned them down.

Mr. LaVie: Oh shame.

Mr. Fox: Why are you so against having Islanders invest in solar power?

Some Hon. Members: Ooh.

Mr. Myers: Saved by the bell.

An Hon. Member: Rescued.

Mr. Myers: Call in the House doctor.

Leaders of speech, the last one.

Mr. Trivers: Minister of almost everything.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaking in regards to first of all solar – passive solar is solar. So there are other options of solar and solar panels, hon. member.

Ms. Biggar: Yes.

Mr. MacDonald: Anyway, we've looked at this program. We have companies that are utilizing this program. We had a new one last year. We will continue to build on what we have in regards to this program that the hon. member is talking about.

I think it is an opportunity for Islanders. We're actually reviewing this, and we haven't discontinued this program. I'm not sure where that information is coming from, but we're working with the companies that are presently utilizing it and Solar Island, I know, has been in contact with our office and we'll continue to work with them and possibly expand what we have already.

I think there are opportunities and larger opportunities relevant to this program that we should be looking at.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The honourable Premier.

FLSA Annual Report

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

J'aimerais tout d'abord reconnaître la présence à l'Assemblée de Colleen Soltermann qui est présidente de la Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin: Jacinthe Lemire, présidente du conseil avisoir sur les services en français: Isabelle Dasylva-Gill qui est directrice générale de la SSTA et Aubrey Cormier qui est directeur des affaires acadiennes et francophones de la province.

First of all. I would like to recognize the presence in the Assembly of Colleen Soltermann. Chair of the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin: Jacinthe Lemire. Chair of the French Services Advisory Council: Isabelle Dasylva-Gill. Executive Director of the SSTA and Aubrey Cormier. Director of Acadian and Francophone Affairs for the Province.

Depuis la promulgation de la Loi sur les services en français du gouvernement de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard en 2013, il y a de plus en plus de services gouvernementaux en

français offerts aux Insulaires de la communauté acadienne et francophone.

Since the proclamation of the Prince Edward Island French Language Services Act in 2013, there has been a continuous increase in services offered in French by government to Islanders of the Acadian and Francophone community.

Since the proclamation of the French Language Services Act in 2013, there has been a continuing increase in services offered in French by government.

Le gouvernement poursuit la mise en œuvre de la Loi en étroite collaboration avec la communauté acadienne et francophone. C'est par cette collaboration fructueuse que nous arrivons à harmoniser les capacités du gouvernement aux besoins prioritaires de la communauté.

Government is continuing to implement the Act in close collaboration with the Acadian and Francophone community. Through this productive collaboration, we are able to harmonize government's capacities with the priority needs of the community.

J'ai le plaisir aujourd'hui, Monsieur le Président, de déposer le rapport annuel 2017-2018 sur la Loi sur les services en français. Le rapport dessine le portrait des activités et du progrès du dernier exercice financier.

Today, I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to table the 2017-18 French Language Services Act Annual Report outlining activity and progress over the past fiscal year.

J'aimerais souligner les trois nouveaux services qui se sont ajoutés au mois de décembre dernier.

I would like to mention the three new services that were added last December.

Government works diligently with the Acadian and Francophone community to harmonize our capacities with the priority needs of the community.

Today, I am pleased to table the 2017-18 French Language Services Act Annual Report outlining activity and progress over the past fiscal year.

In December of last year, we added three new services: *Télé Santé 811*, the 811 service; *l'offre d'information sur les expositions du Musée acadien*, information pertaining to Acadian Museum's exhibitions; *tous les services offerts au Musée acadien*, all services offered at the Acadian Museum.

Ces services s'ajoutent à une liste croissante.

These services have become part of a growing list.

These services are part of a growing list, one that we have continued to add to since the start of this fiscal year.

I might add with real pride, Mr. Speaker, that government's bilingual workforce and capacity continue to grow year over year, whether these are positions designated bilingual or equal who perform their duties with that capacity to speak in English and serve the public in English and French.

More employees are undergoing language assessments and more are taking advantage of the French language training offered by the Public Service Commission in partnership with the Collège de l'Île.

By building a stronger bilingual workforce, Mr. Speaker, government is in a better position to offer Islanders services in the language of their choice throughout the province.

Avec l'aide de la Commission de la fonction publique, nous continuons d'augmenter le nombre d'effectifs bilingues.

With the help of the Public Service Commission, we continue to increase the number of bilingual employees.

L'offre de service ne se limite pas aux services en personne. Depuis le renouvellement du site web, nous avons pu constater que l'accès aux informations en français a beaucoup augmenté.

The offer of services is not limited to services in person. Since the Web site was renewed, we have noticed that access to

information in French has considerably increased.

I speak about the amount of translation – 1,700 pages – this is on the Web site available in both English and French, Mr. Speaker.

Le gouvernement continuera de travailler sur l'offre de services et l'accès à l'information en français pour la communauté acadienne et francophone.

Government will continue to work on service offer and access to information in French for the Acadian and Francophone community.

Mr. Speaker, government in the province and all Islanders are proud of the service that is offered and of the cultural and linguistic vitality of the Acadian, Francophone and French-speaking communities in our province, an opportunity we will have to celebrate in 2019 when Prince Edward Island is host to the Congrès mondial acadien.

Mr. Speaker, it's with real pride that we table this report and that all Islanders can see that we continue to expand the offer of services in all aspects of government.

Thank you, Premier

Speaker: Before I go to the honourable member from Rustico-Emerald, hon. members, I just want to bring your attention to the Honourable Dwayne Taylor who has just joined us, the speaker from the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The honourable member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: *Merci, Monsieur le Président.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Merci, Premier Ministre.

Thank you, Premier.

La Loi sur les services français est très importante.

The French Language Services Act is very important.

It's a very important act, *the French Language Services Act.*

Quels services doivent être offerts en français selon la Loi sur les services en français?

What services have to be provided in French according to the *French Language Services Act*?

La Loi stipule qu'une réponse écrite en français doit être envoyée au destinataire d'une correspondance en français.

The act states that written correspondence received in French must be responded to in French.

The act states that any written correspondence received in French must be responded to in writing in French.

Je pense, Monsieur le Président, que c'est une question d'attitude.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it's a question of attitude.

It's a question of attitude, it's a question of leadership, Mr. Speaker, and it starts at the top.

Mais le ministère des Transports, de l'Infrastructure et de l'Énergie a enfreint la loi, mais aucune excuse n'a été offerte dans cette législature.

But the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Renewal broke the law, but no apology has been offered in this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy broke this law, but no apology has been offered in this Legislature.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: *Il me faut des éclaircissements sur la déclaration de la ministre faite par le premier ministre.*

I need clarification from the Premier on the Minister's statement.

I need some clarification on this minister's statement from the Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Quelle formation ont reçu les membres du conseil des ministres au sujet du respect de la Loi sur les services en français?

What training have Cabinet members received on compliance with the French Language Services Act?

What training and guidance have been provided to your Cabinet around respect and compliance with the *French Language Services Act*?

That's my question.

C'est ma question.

That's my question.

Speaker: You're seeking clarification?

Mr. Trivers: Yes.

Speaker: The hon. Premier, if you care to respond you may.

Premier MacLauchlan: I encourage the hon. member and all members and Islanders to read the annual report where in fact this matter is addressed.

By way of clarification, I think all other members did indeed hear the minister offer an apology on the floor of this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Get out the Hansard.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: *Merci, Monsieur le Président et merci, le première ministre.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Premier.

Je suis très heureux de répondre à cette annonce.

I am very happy to respond to this announcement from the Premier who I think said that we've had a steady increase in French services since the French languages act was proclaimed in 2013, and that's of course not entirely accurate.

For a government that certainly made some recent missteps when it comes to our francophone family here on the Island, I think it's important that the trust and the confidence of the Acadian community be regained by this government.

I haven't, of course, read the report yet but I am glad to see that some new services have been added.

We'll remember that in 2016 Darlene Arsenault's predecessor, Jean-Paul Arsenault, resigned because after three years in his position no further services beyond 511 and some road signage and French library services were being offered.

It is good that we are moving forward, but it's been a long time coming and this is a small step.

I'm particularly happy; however, that we have an increasingly bilingual workforce in the civil service here and that's extraordinarily important for all sorts of reasons. I think it, again, is a question of respect and attitude.

But also, we all are aware of the new requirements, for example, at our airport. We're going to have to offer bilingual services there so while this is a nice thing to be happy about, it's also something that we're compelled to do.

This expansion of bilingualism in the civil service is very welcomed. It's very necessary, and I hope to see in future years that this expansion of French services, which has occurred in this year, the three new services will continue in future years.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

John J. Sark Scholarship 2018 Recipients

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let me first welcome the presence in the gallery of Sonia Timbre and of Helen Kristmanson; Helen is the Director of Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat for the province and Sonia is the recipient the John J. Sark Memorial Scholarship that I am about to speak about.

I'm pleased to rise today to recognize three outstanding youth from the Prince Edward Island Indigenous community and the Canadian Indigenous community, who are the recipients of the John J. Sark Memorial Scholarship.

Nine years ago, this scholarship was established through the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat to support Indigenous students studying at the University of Prince Edward Island. The scholarship is in honour of a distinguished Mi'kmaq Islander, John James Sark, who earned his post-secondary education at St. Dunstan's University. He was also the Island's first Mi'kmaq teacher.

It is also important to recognize Jacob Sark, John's brother. Like John, he also graduated from St. Dunstan's University as a teacher and took up the profession, initially in Big Cove, and at other locations in New Brunswick. Jacob Sark took on John's responsibility as a teacher here on the Island when John answered the call of duty for World War I.

Today, I have the pleasure of announcing this year's scholarship recipients: I have noted Sonia Timbre, who is in the gallery; Nathan Sark and Dylan MacLennan, are the other two recipients, unable to join us with other duties. Each of these recipients and students will be making significant contributions to their communities and each has made education a priority in their lives.

Nathan Sark, of Lennox Island, is in his first year of study for a Psychology degree. Nathan has been active in his community of Lennox Island working in the community garden, landscaping and helping Elders. Nathan is also an avid photographer and has produced a short film for the Lennox Island First Nation.

Dylan MacLennan, of Tyne Valley, is in his fourth year of Sustainable Design Engineering. Dylan has been involved in several Lennox Island youth programs. He is passionate about providing sustainable solutions to global issues. He is involved with the Wind Energy Institute of Canada, facilitates tours for youth groups there, and has a strong interest in the development of an innovative system for effective waste management.

Last, but certainly not least, Sonia Timbre is from the Northwest Territories, and is a member of the Acho Dene Koe First Nation. Sonia is a first year student in the Bachelor of Environmental Studies Program. She is actively involved with her community as a Band Councillor and participates in many community events.

Nathan, Dylan and Sonia are exemplary role models for the young and fast growing Indigenous youth population and I wish all of them the very best in your studies. Please join me in congratulating all three of the scholarship recipients.

Thank you Mister Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's certainly a pleasure for me to rise on behalf of the opposition, as well, to acknowledge the Premier's statement here today, with regards to the John J. Sark Scholarship and the three very deserving recipients.

As the Premier acknowledged, Nathan Sark, Dylan MacLennan, and of course, Sonia Timbre, who has joined us here in the Legislative Assembly today – it's wonderful to have you here. I applaud you for your leadership and your commitment to our Nation, and to our First Nations Peoples. I wish you all the best in your further studies and future endeavors.

Congratulations.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I, too, would like to pass on my personal congratulations to you, Sonia; and also to Nathan and Dylan, who are not with us. It's wonderful when we acknowledge and encourage groups in our community who are underrepresented in post-secondary institutions, and that it certainly true of our Native population. So, the scholarships are a really important way of redressing that balance.

And I would just like to make note that just a couple of weeks ago at the Nichola Goddard Foundation dinner, a similar scholarship was given out in her name to a young Inuit woman, who is doing some very important work here.

Again, it's just lovely to see these scholarships being given out and us redressing the balance and giving equal opportunity to everybody in our community to pursue post-secondary education.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

New Student Well-being Teams

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure to stop by St. Jean Elementary this week with the minister of education, to visit the new Colonel Gray family of schools Student Well-being Team. It is one of three new teams created this year in the Bluefield, Souris-Morell and Colonel Gray families of schools. The Student Well-being Teams help students build strength in the area of mental, social, and physical health.

I'm very pleased to welcome some of the Student Well-being Teams members to the Gallery today, including: Chantal Smith, Bilingual School Health Nurse; Kerri Thompson, School Health Nurse; Christina Sherry, School Health Nurse; Cindy Breau, Bilingual School Outreach Worker; Linda Mahood, School Health Nurse; and Geoff MacDonald, Provincial Coordinator.

Welcome, everyone.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you all for joining us here today. It was amazing to hear this team speak about their work and how much has been accomplished to help students in such a short period of time. Each team member has a responsibility for certain schools – with bilingual members providing services to three of our four French first language schools. They work with students on a variety of areas.

One member said she was spending time helping elementary children build social skills. Another described her work with intermediate students on relationship building and connecting parents with resources to support their children. One of the nurses said she was helping youth who are dealing with PTSD and depression, and helping them develop positive coping skills.

One common theme we heard was that many students and parents are either unaware, or uncomfortable, accessing the supports or services they need. But when a team member helps them break down the fear barrier, they feel safe to ask questions and then take action.

Both children and adults can build trust with someone they feel connected to, and the teams are creating those connections. They are also providing early interventions and forging relationships between families and health services that were not there before. The teams are an excellent example of strong and effective collaboration across government departments.

By locating health and justice services directly in schools – where the children are every day – we are reaching them much earlier and supporting their family as well, which is the key to their success.

Through these upstream investments, we are able to make a difference in children's lives, which will pay great dividends, both now and later.

Today, I'd like to table, during tabling of documents, the new Student Well-being Team brochure and it is available in both

French and English – for the information of all the members of this Assembly.

I want to commend our team members and school staff for the tremendous work that they are doing – helping our children to have a stronger, better, start in life.

Thank you.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the *French Language Services Act Annual Report for 2017-2018, la Loi sur les services en français rapport annuel 2017-2018* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table documents entitled ‘Student Well-being Teams Here for You’ in both English and French versions, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, that the said documents be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy and Status of Women.

Ms. Biggar: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the Interim Report of Parliamentary Precinct Master Plan presented to the Legislative Assembly office on November 2nd, 2018 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table questions to the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy regarding availability of fuel during power outages and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table three written questions referencing previous promises from this Liberal government that occurred in 2011 and 2015 relating to the traffic issues in and around St. Peter’s Road, Riverside Drive intersection, Norwood Road and Northridge Parkway, and St. Peter’s Road. These promises were both made around election time and what I’m looking for is clarification and an update on what this government plans to do as they failed to do anything since these promises were made in 2011 and 2015, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table questions to the Department of Justice and Public Safety regarding timeframes in the *Mechanics Lien Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day Government

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that Order No. 20 day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 20, *Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No. 62, ordered for second reading.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: *Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No. 62, read a second time.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair (Casey): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *Climate Leadership Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) overview.

Chair: Thank you.

May I have permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: We'll allow them to come in and setup, and introduce themselves to the House.

Good afternoon. Could you introduce yourself and your title for the record?

Todd Dupuis: My name is Todd Dupuis. I'm the Executive Director in the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

Gail MacPhee: My name is Gail MacPhee. I'm Project Manager at Department of Finance.

Chair: Welcome to the table.

The minister has an opening statement, so minister you have the floor.

Mr. MacDonald: Bill 62, The *Climate Leadership Act* is significant in that it establishes our ambitious emissions reduction target and law. This is the first time this will have been done in Prince Edward Island.

Prince Edward Island has been active in international efforts to combat climate change. This includes, working with the government of Canada to achieve the national GHD target under the Paris agreement. The province of Prince Edward Island adopted a provincial GHD target for the first time in May – 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. The new provincial target, which is the national target, is considered ambitious given the emissions per capita profile in the region and nationally.

Islanders emit approximately one half the national average; having said that, Prince Edward Island has a solid plan to reduce carbon. PEI has reduced its reliance on heating oil by 40.7% or 80.2 million litres. This results in annual savings of \$82.8 million to Islanders' pockets.

Our economy has grown over the last decade while we have reduced our emissions. We understand price signals; we also understand that price signals can be carrots or sticks. We started many years ago with a positive price signal on fuel switching when we offered efficiency PEI grants on heat pumps and it worked. Applicants are up 300% this year.

This spring we announced a further price signal, the rebate provincial portion of HST on electricity, propane, wood based fuels, saving of \$10 million to Islanders. And because of this price signal, which the federal government understands, we were granted an exemption for furnace oil under the carbon tax. We have committed 24 million over the next four years to low carbon economy fund combined with a matching federal contribution.

In total – when you include the rebate on electricity, the efficiencyPEI initiatives, and the initiative announced last week that includes more affordable transit, and reduced and free registrations, including for electric and hybrid vehicles – we are returning back to Islanders over \$100 million over five years.

The federal government has estimated that the only impact on carbon price would get us only 7% of the way to reducing our emissions by 400,000 tonnes which is required to meet our 2020 target.

It is recognized that carbon price is only a small portion of what we will reduce in greenhouse gas emissions.

In short, we have chosen to focus our efforts on helping Islanders to reduce their carbon output and save money in the pocket at the same time.

Our plan to reduce carbon is already working; we have already achieved a reduction of almost 200,000 tonnes of carbon without a carbon tax.

Under the climate action plan and through the *Climate Leadership Act* Prince Edward Island will continue to lead the way.

Thank you.

Chair: Hon. members, am I to read the bill line by line or do you want me to do sections or?

An Hon. Member: I think just (Indistinct)

Chair: Okay and that's what the minister just did.

Mr. Trivers: I'd like to comment on –

Chair: Oh sure, Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, minister.

I mean, in many ways I think that you are sort of stuck between a rock and hard place when it came to the carbon tax. The federal government was forcing it in here and I think it was pretty clear that there's not a great appetite for that amongst Islanders.

I think it's really clear and I think I can speak for the official opposition here when I say that in our ranks, no carbon tax is definitely what we felt was needed. We feel that as the market forces change and technology becomes more affordable, we will reach those goals.

It's kind of ironic that this is called the *Climate Leadership Act* because it's really not this government that has shown leadership on this file in any way.

There's a saying that: we stand on the shoulders of giants. The reason, we're in a position that we are today in this province with that, with such a low number of carbon emissions and with our wind farms in place and those sorts of things, is because of past governments.

Really, if you look at the record of governments like Angus MacLean and Jim Lee and Pat Binns – it was very clear actually in the timeline of the climate action plan document that the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment released – it was very clear in that timeline that the vast majority of the leadership, the vast majority of the actions were taken place under those Progressive Conservative governments, those great leaders.

It just goes to show you what kind of strides can be made when you have a long term plan and when you put your mind to something and you have a vision. That's what real leadership is and that's why we're in a position today where this government, in fact, is not even really – let's face it – they're not really inputting any sort of carbon tax in place.

They managed to pull the wool over the federal government's eyes, or they came to an agreement – a political agreement – that said hey, this is our best chance to get elected next election so we're both going to pretend we have a carbon tax in place.

It was in the fall of 2016 when I first used the vernacular: carrots versus stick. This is when the Premier first brought up talking about the fiscally neutral, as opposed to revenue-neutral and we've seen the Premier change his stance over time, we've seen the various ministers as they've changed positions, changed their stance.

Originally it was: we flew to Pairs, we signed the agreement, everything was great then we signed on to the Pan-Canadian framework, the Premier had announced that himself – wouldn't even let the minister announce that.

Now, slowly we're: oh PEI actually doesn't even want a carbon tax anymore; we've heard the minister say that in the past. Now, what they have brought in is something where they actually give back money on the gas tax so there is absolutely zero chance that people will reduce their fuel consumption – which is a whole argument about a carbon tax in the first place.

Islanders are the ones that have done the hard work over the years with some help from past governments that put the Island in such a good position on this file. Again, I think I can speak on behalf of the official opposition, when I say that we will not be supporting this bill because it really does not reflect reality.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

Let me first – I want to respond to what the minister said but I'm going to respond to something that Rustico-Emerald just said that: there is no appetite for carbon tax with Islanders and that's just simply not true.

There is an appetite for measures which will effectively reduce carbon, as the preamble to

this bill states: the government of Prince Edward Island acknowledges that carbon pricing is widely recognized as an efficient way – and I would say the most efficient way that's widely recognized as well – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help achieve our objective.

There is an appetite for carbon tax and there is even more of an appetite for carbon tax when the money is returned through rebates to citizens.

I'd have to say of the two bills, bill 58 which we debated earlier this week and last week, that to me is the egregious one of these two.

This is actually a decent bill, it has a couple of problems and we'll get to that shortly but this bill as a standalone piece of legislation, is not bad – but when you pair it with bill 58, bill 58 it just neuters all of the goodness which could have been accomplished by this bill here.

There is an appetite for carbon tax, there's particularly an appetite for carbon tax when it's implemented properly and I would argue this government is not doing that, but more than there there's an appetite amongst Islanders for passing on a livable planet for our children – that's where the real appetite lies. The minister and I have disagreed on this.

I hope in 10 years, we can sit and look each other in the eye and that he can reassure me at that time that the work that your government is doing now is producing the results that our children deserve. I'm not so sure about that.

Another part of the preamble here that I'd just like to comment on because it won't be debated as we go clause by clause – is the one, two, three, four – the fifth whereas clause: the government of Prince Edward Island recognizes that efforts to reduce emissions must complement efforts to grow our economy while avoiding undue hardship for low-income Islanders.

Two things I want to talk about here, one is: is overall infinite economic growth as far into the future as you can see, is that compatible with a stable climate and with a future for our children? I'd like the minister's opinion on that but before I ask his thoughts on that – and by the way I

should make a nuance comment here that I understand that some parts of the economy will grow – solar panels hopefully for example – while other parts of the economy will shrink – internal combustion engine driven cars, for example.

Overall, the size of our economy in terms of it's the throughput of resources and energy required to sustain it, it's becoming increasingly clear that that's not compatible with a good future for our children. I'd like the minister's opinion on emissions that must complement efforts to grow our economy. Again, are we working in cross purposes there?

The thing I'm more concerned about is, while avoiding undue hardship for low-income Islanders – I talked about this the other day while we were debating bill 58, that with the Green Party plan the made in and for Prince Edward Island plan that we presented – and also the federal backstop, they were both specifically designed in order to return the funds created by carbon tax to individuals, to citizens.

More than that, they were both designed to give low income or vulnerable citizens more money back than they would payout.

The way that this government's carbon plan is structured, unless you own a car – and there are many low-income Islanders who do not – you will actually be paying more out, because of the carbon tax, because of bill 62 then you will be getting back in rebates, because the rebates are focused on driver's licenses and they're focused on license plates and they're focused on reducing the price of gas. The only possible benefit would be the 10% reduction in public transit fees, and I acknowledge that is a good measure.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) electricity.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: But the measures in this bill –

Mr. LaVie: He'll get there.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: – absolutely do not avoid undue hardship for low-income Islanders.

So there are two questions regarding the preamble. One is: do you think that infinite growth is compatible with a healthy planet for our children? The second one is: how is the combination of this bill and bill 58 avoiding – as you say in your preamble – undue hardship for low-income Islanders?

Chair: Minister?

Mr. MacDonald: I think the answer to your first question is with the additions of – or the exemption that we negotiated on home heating would certainly put low-income at an advantage, and the addition of the 10 million that we're spending on electricity would certainly have an impact on low-income.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's not part of this bill though, minister.

Mr. MacDonald: Pardon me?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's not part of this bill though. I'm speaking specifically about how your carbon regime, your carbon pricing regime will impact –

Mr. MacDonald: Well I think it –

Chair: Don't forget about me (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Sorry, Chair. My apologies.

Chair: Thank you, minister.

Mr. MacDonald: Hon. member, I think it's the whole package of reducing taxes, as well. I have a carbon plan sitting here in front of me on how it will impact New Brunswick, and it's very interesting because you did talk a little bit about it. I don't know if it's one of your questions, but you did talk a little bit about the economy in relationship to us continuing to grow the economy at the pace that we have.

I must say that after reading this, I find it interesting that New Brunswick – if they continue to use the backstop with Nova Scotia and Newfoundland implementing the plans that they've proposed and are going to implement I guess – they will certainly be at a disadvantage. If we look at it as a region, we will be at a disadvantage if we went with the backstop, and especially with our

economy that is driven by transportation to some extent.

In that regards, about that, and your last question was if you want to repeat it again because I'm –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Sure – whether growth everlasting is compatible with a planet that our children will be able to live on successfully?

Mr. MacDonald: Well, I think theoretically if that's what you want to call this, but I think that's why we're all here. I mean, we have to look forward and create that atmosphere that we have to look out for our children and for the future.

I think part of it after we do a two year review and have a better handle on this – right where we sit right now, we've got the second smallest footprint in Canada – we're bringing in – I think – good initiatives that will impact Islanders to the point of that they will see the changes.

I was on Twitter today – I think it was Twitter – and East Wiltshire – Charlottetown Rural High School was actually doing a presentation to East Wiltshire students today on climate change. It's an educational component. I think we're going in the right direction as far as that perspective.

I do think in 10 years you and I will be sitting here having a draft beer somewhere in Charlottetown and talking about: well you know, we didn't always agree on things, but maybe we're starting to get this right. Your input – and I commend you for complimenting us, and I shouldn't say me because it's these guys that – Todd's and Richard's department – that put this together, because I think it is a very good plan. I think if we stick to that plan and try to meet our targets or surpass them –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. MacDonald: – because I think we will surpass them – I think we're going to be in good shape for the future.

Chair: Thank you.

Before I go back to the Leader of the Third Party, the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy has an intervention on this subject.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Chair.

The member referenced the driver's license initiative and registration, and I just wanted to provide some facts because he keeps referring to low-income Islanders not benefitting from that.

I just like to quote and I'll table this as well, but the total PEI population as of July 1st, 2017 and we'll have certainly another update at the end of December – but that was 153,244; 18% of that population is under 16 years of age, so they aren't eligible to drive obviously.

We have 110,000 Islanders that are registered drivers in this province, out of that balance – out of that other percentage that we have there. I also quote a *Guardian* poll that was done on December 3rd and Islanders were asked: What is the best way for the province to spend the revenue from the carbon levy, and 77% said free licenses, 13% said rebates.

Mr. LaVie: We're going with *The Guardian* polls (Indistinct)

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: But, Madam Chair –

Chair: Hon. members.

Ms. Biggar: I know you don't want to hear anything good, so just calm down.

Mr. R. Brown: Calm down; Merry Christmas.

Ms. Biggar: Madam Chair, if I may add some other information.

Leader of the Opposition: Minister of scientific (Indistinct) fact –

Chair: Hon. members, the minister has the floor. If you could help me out, only one – you all are seasoned members of this House. You know only one person should be speaking at a time.

Leader of the Opposition: (Indistinct)

Chair: Leader of the Opposition, thank you.

Ms. Biggar: I have the right to speak as any other member, do I not Madam Chair?

Chair: You have the floor, minister.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I do believe I'm a member of this Legislative Assembly, the same as everyone else.

Chair: Absolutely, I just told them that you had the floor.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, I appreciate that, Madam Chair.

Chair: Thanks.

Ms. Biggar: Again, there was some mention of some of the initiatives, but I want to mention specifically what has been accomplished in the reduction of the amount of furnace oil that has been reduced in this province, and there's lots else I can go on about, but I want to mention that in 2003 there were 200 million litres of oil being used and that has dropped to 120 million in 2017.

Again, to remind the Leader of the Third Party, that while we have the initiatives in the bill, there are so many other initiatives that Islanders are taking part in that are helping to overall reduce our carbon footprint on Prince Edward Island – in a conjunction with the initiatives that former governments started to implement, our government has continued on implementing, adding to. That is all playing into the fact that Islanders are involved, engaged in reducing carbon emissions, our GHGs, greening our province, and I want to thank them and we want to support them.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Ms. Biggar: Thanks, Chair.

I think I'm ready to debate the bill. I don't need to go clause by clause. I don't know how others feel about that.

Mr. Trivers: Do you want to do section by section?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah.

Chair: Thank you.
Section 1

Definitions

Shall Section 1 carry? Carried.

Section 2 –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: (Indistinct)

Chair: Sorry, you have a question on Section 1 or 2?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Two.

Chair: Two, thank you.

Section 2: Purpose.

Leader of the Third Party has a question.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you very much.

I mentioned to the minister that we have a House amendment to the bill, which relates to this section of the act.

Chair: To Section 2?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yes.

Chair: Do you have copies of the amendment?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I don't have – I have a copy. It's a very, very simple amendment. I'm not sure whether we need, given the topic of the bill in front of us, to go through the process of copying this for everybody. I can (Indistinct) if you like.

Chair: Hon. members, if we could pay attention to the amendment.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yes, so this move that:

Subsection 2(1) of Bill No. 62 is amended by the deletion of the words: 1.4 megatonnes and the substitutions of the words: 1.2 megatonnes.

So basically, you're scratching out a four and you're putting in a two.

Are people okay without having an official copy of the amendment?

Chair: The Clerk needs a copy.

Mr. LaVie: I'm okay with that.

Mr. Trivers: Save the trees.

Chair: Anybody like to speak to the amendment?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I would.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party speaking to the amendment.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

Yes. So ultimately, all we're trying to do here – all we're trying to achieve is reduce carbon emissions. That's what we're trying to do, and we all know that that's what has to be done in order to curb catastrophic climate change.

The latest reports that instruct us on how we're going to do this, tell us that we need to really speed up the rate by which we're reducing carbon emissions if we want to keep global warming below 1.5, which was the Paris Accord's critical figure, and that we have to achieve carbon neutrality by 2015.

Now, this bill as currently written has a goal of 1.4 megatonnes by 2030, and that works out to an annual reduction 0.04 megatons of carbon dioxide every year. That does not get us to carbon neutrality by 2050; in fact it would take us until 2065 before we become carbon neutral. The IPCC report, of course, tells us that we only have 12 years to sort this out.

To get to carbon neutrality by 2050, to be on a linear path to get there, we have to move from being – and I know title of this bill is the *Carbon Leadership Act*, but really, if we want to be anywhere near leaders, if we want to get beyond being carbon (Indistinct) or moderates, we have to up this limit.

If we want to become true carbon leaders, as this bill would suggest, we need to increase that rate per annum to 0.06 megatons a year

of reductions. That would give us – if we were to do that, it would give us a goal, as the amendment suggests of 1.2 megatons of total emissions by 2030, rather than 1.4. That would make us true leaders; it would mean that this section of the bill is in alignment with –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: – with the title of the act.

So our amendment is to that affect, and I would characterize that as true carbon leadership – as climate leadership. I would be interested in your thoughts on that, minister.

Chair: Thank you.

Todd Dupuis has a response.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Todd Dupuis: Thank you, Madam Chair.

So the climate action plan, which is a five year plan, charts the course for that 1.4 that we talked about – and remember, that is a five year plan, so that post 2023, we've got to relook at that plan and chart the course beyond that. If you look at the act, it says: province to less than 1.4 – so it says less than 1.4 in the act – right now, we charted a course to 1.4, not knowing what the future lays with respect to what's coming for technical advances, et cetera.

That's why we picked a five year action plan to start with, knowing that by 2023, we hope to realize some technical innovations when it comes to the transport sector, et cetera, et cetera – which means we would likely see more emissions coming forward.

Remember that this charts about a 200 ton reduction – 200,000 ton reduction – and we still have a transportation strategy that is being constructed as we speak, which will envision more reductions above and beyond what is in this document going forward. So, although we've charted at 1.4, there is good reason to think that we will be able to beat that target point, based on other initiatives outside this action plan.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

So Todd, are you suggesting – a couple of things about that – are you suggesting that this will not be a linear decrease over the next 12 years or whatever, but that it is going to accelerate as new technologies arrive?

Todd Dupuis: Yeah, I think so.

If you look at our initiatives profile, the one that is the most concerning is the transport sector; you know, half of our emissions almost, 48% climate. We're still waiting for innovations in that sector. Now, we hired a firm – Dunksy – to look at that; they had said by 2022, that we would have on the lots – on the car lots – we would have cars that were the same price as gasoline cars, parody in price, et cetera. We are not going to see that by 2022, we think it's going to be a little later than that.

We think that the promises that are being made in the industry – the car manufacturing industry – won't be realized until after 2022-23, and we think in order to get the emissions down in that particular sector, we would have to see those technology changes and have the options on the lot, which are not here today. Just can't get an electric car, – if you walk onto a lot today and get one, you have to order one and it takes a year, and there's not a lot of options but we think by 2024-2025 we're going to get to a point where there will be a lot of options and we hope to drive that sector to electrification, which we think will make big gains in emissions reduction.

We're getting emissions reductions in the built environment. As you probably know, that emissions (Indistinct) is going down. The transport is going to take a little more, but we have to have to options on the lots that are affordable and reasonable for Islanders; we don't think that's probably going to happen probably until 2025.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Appreciate that, Todd, thank you.

You mentioned that you don't think price parody by 2022, and I suspect that you're probably right on that; which is part of the reason why governments have to start offering incentives, as they do in other

jurisdictions, and rebates for people to buy those electric cars so that price parody is created.

Can you tell us why there is no plan for a rebate for EVs in anything that I've seen so far?

Todd Dupuis: Right. So, if you look at this plan again, there are a few items and recommendations that centre on transportation. There is, of course, getting electric charging stations in place, but remember, as we speak, there is a transportation strategy focusing solely on emissions and transport sector being developed – as we speak. We should see it in the New Year, which will focus on all of those things: active transport, EV stuff – I don't want to let the cat out of the bag, but there will be a bunch of recommendations focusing –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Oh, go on, Todd.

Some Hon. Members: [Laughter]

Todd Dupuis: – there will be a bunch of recommendations –

Ms. Biggar: Stay tuned.

Todd Dupuis: – focusing solely on the –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Todd Dupuis: – transport sector. It's fairly light on transport, this particular document, but going forward, we will see much more initiatives in the transport sector, and perhaps, as you mentioned, (Indistinct).

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

If you think that 1.4 is something that we might actually exceed before 2023, why did we not – if this is – if we are climate leaders, why did we not set a more ambitious target? Why not 1.2?

Todd Dupuis: Well, I think it is ambitious, and here's the thing – if all jurisdictions in the country picked a federal target, you know, the 30% below 2005 by 2030; if we all picked that target and embedded that target in the legislation, it would be – the

ambition is different between region to region, depending on your emissions profile.

We are already low emitters. Today, we're at 2.5 tons of CO₂ per person, per year. If Nova Scotia picked that target, they would meet it today, they've met that target; if New Brunswick picked that target, they have also met that target – they had 20 tons of emissions per person per year. Nova Scotia is at 16.5 tons – they're met those targets. But, because they are starting in a different location, if you go back to 2005, the emissions were much higher in those regions. They have more options to reduce their emissions going forward compared to a lower emitting jurisdiction like ours. We would have to get to nine tons per person, per year to match what New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have met, and that's because we're starting in a much lower area.

I link it like to losing weight, you know? If I was overweight and I have to lose 10 pounds, is not too hard; but if I was rail-thin and I had to lose 10 pounds, it would be a lot harder. So, because we were starting at a different location in 2005, as a much lower emitter, it was harder and more expensive for those jurisdictions to get to that target. So, it is ambitious – it's more ambitious than most jurisdictions in the country because we are starting in a lower spot.

Chair: Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Good analogy.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

I'm going to pick up that, because it is a good analogy and of course, if you're going to lose weight, you have to watch what you eat; you have to move a little bit more and eat a little bit less, is sort of the way we do that.

So when it comes to carbon, you eat a little bit less by putting in place things that will encourage you to use less. If we wanted, again to carry on your analogy, if we here are already fairly slim when it comes to our carbon, I agree with you. Compared to our neighbours, we are; but, that doesn't mean that we couldn't still lose a few pounds and would be happy to do that.

If we are true climate leaders, like many other small Island states across the world, who are true climate leaders; many of them have come carbon neutrality already or are heading fast in that direction. We're just not doing that with this document.

This document gets us to carbon neutrality at 2065, if we have a linear projection from 1.4 in 2023 – that's not to my mind climate leadership. IPCC tells us that we have to lose weight faster, and they say that we have about 10 or 12 years in order to – and this is very new information.

Since the Paris accord was signed, they are saying that that's not going to be good enough, we're going to have to speed up and we're going to have to go on a crash diet. This document does not do that. Again, I'm wondering why you feel that the adoption of the amendment, which would put us as true leaders and reduce the weight that we need to get off healthily, why we can't do that?

That's enough of that analogy – I'll stop.

Chair: Todd?

Todd Dupuis: You want me to answer?

Chair: Oh sorry Leader –

Mr. MacDonald: Go ahead if you can.

Chair: – are you – are you finished with your discussion on the amendment –?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: No, no – I'm just wondering why 1.2 is not – and maybe it is acceptable, I'm not sure.

Chair: Okay.

Todd Dupuis: Well, if you look at the piece of legislation, it says less than 1.4; we could meet the 1.2, once we see – remember, this is a five year document and we will have to look at what we're going to do after 2023 – further initiatives, the transport strategy which I mentioned earlier will be tabled sometime in the new year, which will drive emissions down a little further.

It may get us to a 1.2, but of course, remember that because we are low already and it's going to be more costly for us than

our neighbours to get down to that area, so have to be – some people would say: you have tread a little lightly. If we're going to be spending a lot more to get to a level which our neighbours won't get to, then we have to be careful with respect to the economy and what have you.

We think it's a real balance, we think it's leadership because we're already low emitters and picking that target is more ambitious than our neighbours because we're leading.

So it is ambitious already at 1.4, it doesn't mean that we can't make 1.2, but without that crystal ball, we don't know what's going to happen in 2024–2025 with respect to the (Indistinct) stuff in the transport sector. We don't make promises we can't keep, I'm not going to say we couldn't make it 1.2.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, can I just get clarification on the scope of this bill, am I correct in thinking this is a finite two-year document and in two years this bill –

Mr. MacDonald: We've been asked through the federal government to – they're telling us that they want a review done in two years based on the negotiations that we had with them.

Interesting enough, back to your other point just on the – because it is important to be parity within the provinces, but if my math's right and that may not be appropriate, but we would have to increase our fuel prices by 33% if we went to 1.2, so that may make us –

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Well, I mean that's if you're relying solely on carbon pricing to achieve those reductions and of course, as it says in the preamble and as I have stated numerous times in this House – that's only one portion.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yes, I accept that that was our only –

Mr. MacDonald: It's a concern that we have based on being what we – our economy, to some extent.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I'm fine with the amendment.

Chair: You're good?

Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, are you speaking to the amendment?

The Leader of the Third Party's finished.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, speaking to the amendment.

Mr. R. Brown: This has been negotiated over a number of years by the provinces and you know, the Pan-Canadian agreement that was signed a number of years ago sets that target and we're all on the same target. We're all on the same target, so we're all working towards that target.

I'm a bit concerned about the extra 100,000 tonnes he wants to reduce because we're at 600 and you want to go with the 30 by 30 under 1990 – I think that's yeah, so that's about another 100 tonne you want to reduce.

I'm concerned about the price effect it would have on the carbon pricing, as you said, it would increase carbon pricing.

We're also talking about – as the member from Georgetown said the other day: innovation is being driven here and we should be pretty proud here on Prince Edward Island – tables of documents here, some CBC reports: how a PEI company plans to cut its electricity bill in half, that's a company down at Poole's Corner, Aspin Kemp & Associates. I'll table how they plan to do that.

I think we, like the member from Georgetown said: innovation is being driven right now and a lot of companies are out there – you've got General Motors. General Motors already said that they're investing billions of dollars in electric cars so the innovation is going to be there. I'm pretty proud of the company in New Brunswick

Stash Energy Inc. which is a local – Daniel Larsen from Prince Edward Island here – extremely innovative, he’s taken the heat pump and he’s taken batteries and he’s combining the heat pump with battery power and that’s an innovation that’s going to complement the current heat pumps industry out there.

So yeah there – you got three young people here come up with a fantastic idea, they’re working with the City of Summerside, they’re working with Maritime Electric.

I have a lot more faith in science than the Leader of the Third Party has. Moore’s Law, which is the computer law, is doubling of technology every two years and that did occur.

I think you’re going to see a tremendous amount of technology advantages coming out over the next few years now that everybody sees the IPCC report and that. So I have a bit of faith, I have a lot of faith in science.

I think you’re going to see autonomous cars, you’re going to see electric cars.

Last week we had a minster’s meeting of environments, PEI was noted for its low – we have already met our targets for waste in Canada, it was 355 kilograms we need and we’re below that, we met that target.

Also at that meeting, I told the National Assembly of Quebec – has just passed legislation – I understand BC’s going to pass legislation An Act to Increase the Number of Zero Emission Motor-Vehicles in Quebec in order to reduce greenhouse gasses.

I’ve asked the federal minister, that’s a good piece of legislation, but for a small place like Prince Edward Island it’s very hard to implement. I’ve asked the federal minister and there’s got to be some federal leadership here also – that that’s a piece of legislation that should be federally mandated. We should federally mandate zero emissions.

So are we on target? I think we are on target. We’re going to meet our target, we’re going to exceed our target but it is a target that everybody else is looking at. I think we should stick with the target we have, let’s do

the best we can and we will meet it and we’ll exceed it.

Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Chair: Is everybody ready for the question on the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Chair: All those in favour of the amendment, signify by saying ‘aye’.

An Hon. Member: Aye!

Can I see a show of hands for that? One, two, three, four.

All those voting against the amendment, say ‘nay’.

Some Hon. Members: Nay!

Chair: And the amendment is defeated.

Shall section two carry?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Chair: Oh sorry, Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

I have a question on section 2(2) which is the use of the revenue.

Would the infrastructure upgrades or programs be included under that section? For example, if we wanted to fund a solar program Islanders?

Mr. MacDonald: Do you want to repeat it?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah sure.

Whether infrastructure upgrades or programs would be included under this section, the use of revenue and the example I gave was: if we wanted to fund solar programs here on PEI.

I understand the money left over after we’ve reduced the gas tax is very little, \$2.5 million but you could still put up a decent number of solar panels if that’s what you choose to do.

Mr. MacDonald: I think going forward I think there would be an opportunity because it will increase year after year as our emissions go down, so I don't see any reason why that couldn't happen.

Chair: Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. R. Brown: Also under the Low Carbon Economy fund, PEI has been designated \$34 million, we've only signed up for \$24 million to date, so there is an extra \$10 million there that we are looking at projects to do in times of that and more innovation.

We would be probably making an amendment to the Low Carbon Economy Fund in order to fund some of those projects.

By the way, there's a lot of other funds out there also.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

Just before I ask another question I'd just like to recognize that my daughter has just come in.

Chair: Yay.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Dr. Bevan-Baker: The inspiration for the doctor bill that we were –

Mr. R. Brown: He needs help.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Hi. I'm sorry I've lost my place –

Ms. Biggar: Carry the bill.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: No I do have a question on section 2(3) that's the clause that's related to reporting and it's a little unclear to me.

I'm wondering whether that it would be in conjunction with the blue books or whether it would be part of the AG annual report or whether it would be an independent and totally separate thing?

Mr. MacDonald: I think – first of all, it's independent because we sent her a letter indicating that this is what we require for the people of PEI to ensure that everything that we collect goes back into the province.

It could be either/or, but I'm not 100% clear on where we would do that, would we do it with the blue books or would we do it with her annual report. It would likely be her annual report we could include it. That's a good question.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Just for clarification that's all, it's not for the public.

Mr. MacDonald: The important thing is to have her report on it for future –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Absolutely.

Chair: Shall section 2 carry? Carried.

3. Administration

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: I'm just wondering should we go part by part perhaps and then if we have prepared questions or thoughts we could ask them on each part?

Chair: I appreciate your systems on the matter, hon. member.

Mr. MacEwen: If everybody is agreeable.

Chair: Is everyone agreeable to that?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah I do have a question on that section.

Chair: On section three?

Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

This is regards to the administration of this and I know this in terms of authority. The cost of administering this program and getting the monies out and whether that be in license fees or registration fees or managing the 10% reduction in public transit – now do you have any sense how much that administrative cost is going to be?

Mr. MacDonald: It's going to be revenue neutral. So there's not going to be any administrative fee tied to this.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: But there certainly will be administrative cost in administering all of these extra programs. So which budget line will that be coming out of?

Mr. MacDonald: Go ahead.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Hon. member, we already have a system in place through Access PEI, as you know, where we administer our registration, our licensing. So we're able to administer this program through the existing system that we have in place. We will still be processing licenses, processing driver's license plates. We had that system in place, which we can adapt this to very quickly. We don't need to put another administrative system in place to do that.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I understand that that would be true for that portion of the rebate, but the 10% reduction on the T3 Transit – how or where is that going to be administered?

Chair: The hon. Minister of transportation, infrastructure and – who's going to answer that?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. MacDonald: What's that?

Ms. Biggar: It'd be a grant.

Chair: Are you answering that?

Mr. MacDonald: I can, yeah.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Basically, it would be a basically a grant towards the T3s, so they would do the reduction. So there's no administration basically on our behalf.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Just to clarify that, minister. A lump sum of money will go to T3 Transit and they will use that money to reduce –

Mr. MacDonald: To reduce the cost.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Will that be based on prior ridership from the previous few years or how are you going to figure out what 10% is going to be?

Mr. MacDonald: I think it'll be based on prior ridership, which they're up over – what? Was it 500,000 a year?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's growing rapidly, yeah.

Mr. MacDonald: Yeah, so and it'll be reviewed on a basis. (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I'm good with that section. Thank you.

Chair: Shall Section 3 carry? Carried.

Hon. members, there's been a request that we move forward with the parks. So we are now on page eight.

Part 2 – Levy on Fuel

Shall Part 2 carry? Carried.

Then we'll move on to page – if I find it – Part 3, page 19.

Inspection and Enforcement

Shall Part 3 carry? Carried.

Part 4 is on page 20.

Offenses, Penalties and Administrative Penalties

Shall Part 4 carry? Carried.

Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Oh wait now, we have a few more things that need to carry with this bill.

Shall the schedule in this bill carry? Carried.

Also the preamble at the beginning needs to be carried.

Shall the preamble carry? Carried.

Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: I move the title.

Chair: *Climate Change Leadership Act.*

Mr. MacDonald: I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. MacDonald: Thanks, Todd.

Chair: Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Climate Change Leadership Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Biggar: Great work, Madam Chair.

Speaker: I call on the hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the 1st order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant: Order No. 1, Consideration of the Supplementary Estimates, in Committee.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

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

Hon. members, permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Thank you.

Hon. members, we are here to discuss the 2017-2018 Supplementary Estimates.7

Summary by Department, Schedule "A" Supplementary No. 3.

Health PEI: 5,741,870

Total Current Expenditure: 5,741,870

Grand Total: 5,741,870

Expenditure Health PEI: 5,741,870

Shall Schedule "A" carry? Carried.

Mr. MacDonald: Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair, and that the Chair make report to Mr. Speaker.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, I wish to report that the committee has gone into supplementary supply to be granted to Her Majesty and has come to certain resolutions thereon, which said resolutions I am directed to report to the House whenever it should be pleased to receive same.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the report of the Committee be now received.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee be now adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the 14th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant (Doiron): Order No. 14, *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*, Bill No.49, ordered for second reading.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant: *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*, Bill No. 49, read a second time.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, 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 once again ask the Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point and the Deputy Speaker to Chair this bill.

Chair (Casey): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Chair: Thank you.

Hon. members, this is the schedule before you – to spend the Capital Expenditures. I will read those.

Agriculture and Fisheries: 50,000

Communities, Land and Environment: 623,000

Education, Early Learning and Culture: 25,162,000

Family and Human Services: 12,502,800

Finance: 12,434,400

Health PEI: 30,915,300

Justice and Public Safety: 1,880,000

Tourism PEI: 750,000

Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: 72,250,000

Total Capital Expenditure: 156,567,500

Shall it carry? Carried.

Shall the schedule carry? Carried.

Thank you.

Mr. MacDonald: I move the title.

Chair: *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. MacDonald: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal servants, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, towards appropriating the several

supplies raised for Her for the exigencies of Her Majesty's Government and for the other purposes hereinafter mentioned, do humbly beseech that it be enacted. Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:

1) There may be paid out of the operating fund, a sum not exceeding in the whole \$156,567,500 to be applied toward defraying the several capital charges and expenses of the public service not otherwise provided for. For the fiscal year ending March, 31st, 2020, is set forth in the schedule.

2) There may be paid out of the operating fund toward defraying the several capital charges and expenses of the public service, not otherwise provided for, from the expiration of the fiscal year ending March, 31st, 2020, until the passing of the Capital Estimates for the fiscal year ending March, 31st, 2021. A sum sufficient based on the Capital Estimates for the fiscal ending March, 31st, 2020.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the 21st order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant: Order No. 21, *Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 2018*, Bill No.63, ordered for second reading.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018*, Bill No. 63, read a second time.

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

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move 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 once again call on the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to chair this bill.

Chair (Casey): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Thank you.

Schedule

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2018

Additional Current Expenditures

Health PEI: 5,741,870

Total Current Expenditures: 5,741,870

Shall the Schedule carry? Carried.

Thank you.

Mr. MacDonald: I move the title.

Chair: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. MacDonald: I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, sir.

Well done.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the following orders be now read: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

[The following bills were ordered for third reading]

Committee Clerk: Order No. 4, *Post-secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Policies Act* (Bill No. 41);

Order No. 5, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act* (Bill No. 47);

Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 48);

Order No. 7, *An Act to Amend the Unsightly Property Act* (Bill No. 30);

Order No. 8, *Justice of the Peace Act* (Bill No. 50);

Order No. 9, *An Act to Repeal the Truck Operators' Remuneration Act* (Bill No. 53);

Order No. 10, *An Act to Repeal the Uniformity Commissioners Act* (Bill No. 54);

Order No. 11, *An Act to Repeal the Physiotherapy Act* (Bill No. 51);

Order No. 12, *An Act to Repeal the Emergency Medical Technicians Act* (Bill No. 52);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Health Information Act* (Bill No. 56);

Order No. 14, *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019* (Bill No. 49);

Order No. 15, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 57);

Order No. 17, *An Act to Amend the Personal Property Security Act* (Bill No. 59);

Order No. 18, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act* (Bill No. 55);

Order No. 19, *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act* (Bill No. 60);

Order No. 21, *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018* (Bill No. 63).

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that these orders be now read a third time.

Speaker: Hon. members, do we have unanimous consent for a third reading of those bills?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Speaker: Okay.

[The following bills were read a third time]

Committee Clerk: *Post-secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Policies Act* (Bill No. 41);

An Act to Amend the Securities Act (Bill No. 47);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 48);

An Act to Amend the Unsightly Property Act (Bill No. 30);

Justice of the Peace Act (Bill No. 50);

An Act to Repeal the Truck Operators' Remuneration Act (Bill No. 53);

An Act to Repeal the Uniformity Commissioners Act (Bill No. 54);

An Act to Repeal the Physiotherapy Act (Bill No. 51);

An Act to Repeal the Emergency Medical Technicians Act (Bill No. 52);

An Act to Amend the Health Information Act (Bill No. 56);

Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019 (Bill No. 49);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 57);

An Act to Amend the Personal Property Security Act (Bill No. 59);

An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Bill No. 55);

An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act (Bill No. 60);

Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018 (Bill No. 63).

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the said bills do now pass.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, 'nay.'

Those bills are carried

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the following orders be now read: Order No. 16 and 20.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the Order No. 16 be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 16, *An Act to Amend the Gasoline Tax Act*, Bill No. 58, read a third time.

Mr. Perry: (Indistinct)

Speaker: Pardon?

Mr. Perry: Can I have a recorded vote, Mr. Speaker?

Ms. Casey: Yes.

Speaker: Yes.

Sergeant-at-Arms, a recorded division has been requested. You can ring the bells.

[The bells were rung]

Mr. Perry: Mr. Speaker, government members are present and ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, the opposition members are ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, the Third Party is ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. members, all those voting against or not supporting this bill, please stand.

Committee Clerk: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale and the hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Speaker: Hon. members, all those voting for and supporting this bill, please stand.

Committee Clerk: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment; the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism; the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy; the hon. Premier; the hon. Minister of Finance; the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries; the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness; the hon. Minister of Rural and Regional Development; the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture; the hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning; the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point; the hon. Leader of the Opposition; the hon. Opposition House Leader; the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque; the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora; the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale; the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road; the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald; the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid; the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Speaker: Hon. members, this bill has passed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the 20th order of the day be now read.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Casey: Third reading.

Mr. Gallant: For third reading.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Gallant: Would you like me to read it again?

Speaker: Yeah, go ahead.

Mr. Gallant: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the 20th order be now read a third time.

Ms. Casey: No.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Casey: No, no.

Mr. Gallant: No?

Ms. Casey: Wait?

Mr. Gallant: No?

Ms. Casey: That the bill be read a third time.

[audio malfunction]

Committee Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Gasoline Tax Act*, Bill No. 58, read a third time.

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

Mr. Gallant: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the bill do now pass.

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, could I have a recorded vote, please?

Speaker: Yes, you may.

Hon. members, this is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of

the Whole House, reported agreed to with amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do now pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, 'nay'.

Some Hon. Members: Nay!

Speaker: The bill is carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sorry for the confusion.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that order No. 20 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 20, *Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No. 62, ordered for third reading.

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

Mr. Perry: (Indistinct)

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Speaker: Hon. members, do we have unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

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

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: *Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No. 62, read a third time.

Mr. Perry: (Indistinct) recorded vote (Indistinct)

Speaker: A recorded division?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Speaker: Sergeant-at-Arms, a recorded division has been requested.

Ring the bell.

[The bells were rung]

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, official opposition is ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, the Third Party is ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Perry: Mr. Speaker, government members are present and ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. members, all those not supporting this bill, please stand.

Committee Clerk: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale; the hon. Leader of the Third Party; the hon. Leader of the Opposition; the hon. Opposition House Leader; the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque; the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora; the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald; the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid and the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Speaker: Hon. members, all those voting in favour of this bill, please stand.

Committee Clerk: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment; the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism; the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy; the hon. Premier; the hon. Minister of Finance; the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries; the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness; the hon. Minister of Rural and Regional Development; the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture; the hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point; the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale; and

the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

Speaker: Hon. members, this bill is carried, it has passed.

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

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill do now pass.

Speaker: Hon. members, this is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to without amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, ‘nay’.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

Speaker: The bill is carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker.

I wish to inform this House that government has concluded our business for this fall session.

Mr. R. Brown: Great.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: There is Private Member’s Bills.

Okay, I will now call on the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, that the 40th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. MacEwen: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture –

Some Hon. Member: Honourable –

Speaker: Honourable –

Mr. MacEwen: Oh, yeah, sorry.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 40, *Autism Coordination Act*, Bill No.127, ordered for third reading.

Mr. MacEwen: Forgot about the Clerk.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, that the said bill be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: *Autism Coordination Act*, Bill No. 127, read a third time.

Speaker: Hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, that the said bill do now pass.

An Hon. Member: Carry.

Speaker: Hon. members, This is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to with amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do pass.

All those in favour signify by saying Aye!

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, Nay.

Bill is carried and it’s unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: I'll call on the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, that the Order No. 30 now be read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 30, *Mandatory Sexual Assault Law Education Act*, Bill No. 110, ordered for third reading.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Justice and Public Safety, that the said bill be read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: *Mandatory Sexual Assault Law Education Act*, Bill No. 110, read a third time.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Justice and Public Safety, that the said bill do now pass.

Speaker: Hon. members, this is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to with amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, 'nay'.

The bill is carried and it is unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Third Party, that Order No. 32 now be read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Committee Clerk: Order No. 32, *An Act to Amend the Innovation PEI Act*, Bill No.123, ordered for third reading.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Leader of the Third Party, that the said bill be now read a third time.

Committee Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Innovation PEI Act*, Bill No.123, read a third time.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Leader of the Third Party, that the said bill do now pass.

Speaker: Hon. members, this is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to without amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, 'nay'.

The bill is carried and it is unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, your business is finished, is that what I understand?

Mr. Gallant: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. members, I am advised that our Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, has arrived in the Coles Building to consider the grant of Royal Assent to additional bills passed on this date, the 3rd session of the

65th General Assembly. I now propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of her Honour's arrival.

Clerk: Your Honour,

The Legislative Assembly has passed certain Bills during this the 3rd Session of the 65th General Assembly, and now begs your Honour's consideration of the grant of Royal Assent for the following Bills:

An Act to Amend the Unsightly Property Act, (Bill No. 30);

An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act No. 4, (Bill No. 32);

An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act No.3, (Bill No. 40);

Post-Secondary Institution Sexual Violence Policies Act, (Bill No. 41);

Eric Donovan Act (An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act), (Bill No. 42);

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act No. 3, (Bill No. 43);

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act No. 4, (Bill No. 44);

An Act to Amend the Police Act, (Bill No. 45);

An Act to Amend the Public Departments Act (Bill No. 46);

An Act to Amend the Securities Act (Bill No. 47);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act No. 2 (Bill No. 48);

Justice of the Peace Act (Bill No. 50);

An Act to Repeal the Physiotherapy Act (Bill No. 51);

An Act to Repeal the Emergency Medical Technicians Act (Bill No. 52);

An Act to Repeal the Truck Operators' Remuneration Act (Bill No. 53);

An Act to Repeal the Uniformity Commissioners Act (Bill No. 54);

An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Bill No. 55);

An Act to Amend the Health Information Act (Bill No. 56);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 57);

An Act to Amend the Gasoline Tax Act (Bill No. 58);

An Act to Amend the Personal Property Security Act (Bill No. 59);

An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act (Bill No. 60);

Climate Leadership Act (Bill No. 62);

Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2018 (Bill No. 63);

Mandatory Sexual Assault Law Education Act (Bill No. 110);

An Act to Amend the Innovation PEI Act (Bill No. 123);

Autism Coordination Act (Bill No. 127).

Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry: In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government. We do humbly beg for Your Honour's acceptance of a bill to be intitled *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2019*, thus placing at the disposal of the Crown, the means by which government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the province.

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

Her Honour Lieutenant Governor

Antoinette Perry: I wish to commend all hon. members for the conscientious manner in which you have conducted your deliberations at this point of the 3rd Session of the 65th General Assembly of Prince Edward Island. At this time, I pray that until the Legislative Assembly again meets, each of you enjoy good health and prosperity and that peace and freedom for all people shall be more nearly achieved.

Speaker: You may be seated.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

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

Speaker: Before I put the question, I just want to thank everybody for their deliberations and the work that you've done during this session.

It was probably the best session that I've seen, certainly since I've been Speaker. There were times when there were disagreements, major disagreements and that's fine, that's good. That's what makes the world tick, we all can't get along.

The beauty of it was, was that there were times when you did get along and you did agree and there was collaboration and there was agreement and that meant good things happened. There were good things happened this session when you learned to work in a collaborative way, work together and success prevailed in the end.

So I certainly want to thank you for that. I want to thank our Pages – where are they?

[Applause]

Speaker: They're certainly our young professionals and they certainly performed their duties in a very professional manner.

I want to certainly thank all of our security people who look after us from daylight till dark and (Indistinct)

[Applause]

Speaker: I also want to thank the members of the media who were certainly here to do their part and to record all the good things that happened.

[Applause]

Speaker: It was all good things, lucky that there was nothing bad happen this year – there were no scandals, nothing to report.

Ms. Biggar: None, none.

Speaker: I don't want to miss anybody, but certainly our own members of the Legislative Assembly who work so hard to make this place really work, only for those people the likes of Joey, our new Clerk, who will be taking over in April and certainly Emily and Ryan and everybody else.

But I'm not going to forget Charlie MacKay. I certainly want to thank Charlie for everything that he's done for this Legislative Assembly, for every speaker that occupied this chair while Charlie was Clerk. It made our jobs so much easier. I'm sure the Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point can attest to that. If Charlie hadn't have been here I don't what in the name of God I would have done.

[Laughter]

Speaker: I just would have fumbled around.

Well anyway, Charlie has done the yeoman's work and there's nobody – there's nobody, that knows more about the business of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island than Charlie MacKay and he's certainly a good teacher and those who follow him have big shoes to fill, but, Joey I'm sure you're going to give it a good try.

Once again, thank you everybody, I really enjoyed working with you and the chance that you might never see me up here again, I don't know, that depends.

Anyway, I certainly want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, all the best in the New Year and who knows, we may all gather here again in April.

Mr. Trivers: You never know.

Speaker: Thank you.

[Applause]

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Legislature adjourned