

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon, everyone, welcome to the House, to the gallery; those watching from home or on the Internet.

This is Administrative Professionals' Day. I'm sure that we all have people that support us in our work. We certainly do, in our case, on the second floor and acknowledge everyone who is part of that team. I do, in my office, and I had an opportunity to distribute quite a few Vanco tulips today. It's a great way to make sure we enjoy spring, and the great products of our province, and certainly the people that we work with.

We have a number of guests joining in the gallery. Welcome everyone, who is here. I see friends from Stars for Life, who will be introduced; Carolyn Bateman. It's good to see you, Carolyn. We have folks in the publishing business, who are being recognized. I want to especially welcome Jim Macnutt, Dr. Don Stewart, Roberta MacLean from TechnoMedia. I've worked with Roberta before. David Keenlyside, who is the head of the Museum and Heritage Foundation.

I want to welcome and acknowledge Jamie Larkin, who, since he was here, last week, has stepped out into the public space as a candidate to be mayor of our capital city. I want to wish you well in that, Jamie.

This is a week that seems, by the day, when there's another golf course opening and that started last week. It's another of those rites of spring. It's something like the fishing. We're starting to hear already about some pretty good scores. Also, hearing, that conditions are dry for this point in the year. So, we will run into anyone, who is complaining about any precipitation that we get over the next while, let's remind them that we need the rain, too.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 in the House today, as well, and to recognize some of the various guests that have joined us here.

Of course, Mr. Daniel Larter, down at the end. Jim Macnutt, who I have known for many, many years, and I admire your work, and all historical endeavours that you put forward for our great province; in particular, the City of Charlottetown.

Of course, we have Jamie Larkin and I don't know what his position is on your campaign team, but Kevin Clory, Jamie you're on your way very well in having a team with Kevin Clory included on it.

I'd also like to congratulate the Charlottetown Islanders –

Ms. Casey: Yay.

Leader of the Opposition: – in a terrific overtime win, last night. I know the member across normally gives us an update on the scores, but unfortunately, we had to wait until after the game was over to finally find out what the results were.

I congratulate the Islanders on their success thus far and I'm sure that they're going to continue rolling on.

It's a particularly busy and enthusiastic day in Kings County, Prince Edward Island. As we speak Brayden White, the Easter Seal Ambassador, is currently wrapping up his tour in the eastern end of the Island. One of our member's is actually rolling along with him today, and sending some great pictures and commentary on social media with regards to the tremendous turnout at the various schools that Brayden is visiting today. In addition to the overwhelming financial support the students, the families, the teachers and administrators of the various schools throughout Kings County are providing towards this great initiative.

There are another couple of events that I wanted to just touch on, base – real briefly, that are taking place, tonight, as well. In District 1 Souris-Elmira, the member there is hosting his AGM and a – sorry, an AGM and a founding meeting. Then, just a short while later, down the road in District 4 Belfast-Murray River, the member there will be holding her nomination meeting. I'm looking very much forward to attending these events. I know that they've already had to shift the locations a couple of times just to make sure that they had enough space for everyone that's going to turnout. Those are just some of the fascinating events that are happening throughout Kings County.

But just in closing I would also like to thank the team that works with our caucus, the opposition office, and although we do single them out on one particular day every year that's the Administrative Professional Day, we actually thank them every day and we thank them largely because we couldn't do our work if they weren't there to support us.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Another historic event which occurred in Kings County today was that two of my boys played Belfast highland links golf course this morning, to pick up on the Premier's remarks, and apparently had a wonderful time. The course is in great shape and they loved it. I only wish I had time to join them.

I also want to welcome people to the gallery, the representatives from Stars for Life, Carolyn Bateman of course, and Dan Later. I see Jim Macnutt and David Keenlyside, and of course Jamie Larkin, welcome to you as he begins his run for the mayorship of Charlottetown.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome everybody here today and congratulations to Jamie for putting his name up. I'd also like to welcome my friend Carolyn Bateman from Stars for Life. You do great work, Carolyn. I'd also like to welcome Jim Macnutt and David Keenlyside, members of my Rotary club. Jim has just recently written the 100 years of rotary. He did a wonderful job for us, and I thank you for that.

I'd also like to thank the administrative people, staff. We had wonderful staff; still do on the second floor. They were absolutely wonderful to me, and I'd like to also thank the new legislative staff that that are helping me through this today. I'm going to be very careful to call them ladies today, because a few years back I called them girls and I got in an awful lot of trouble in here.

Mr. LaVie: I know how you feel.

Mr. Dumville: So anyway, I'll leave it at that and I'd like to wish all of my – wish a good day to all my fox friends that are down there in Montague Consolidated School.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Charlottetown-Lewis Point is the proud home of the Stars for Life Foundation for Autism, and joining us – and I'd like to welcome to the gallery today Carolyn Bateman, president, Kim Donnelly, program manager, and Helena Reeves, the house manager, who do awesome work for those persons with autism spectrum disorder. I hope they enjoy the proceedings today.

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

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

It's my pleasure to welcome a number of folks to the gallery here today. Firstly, James Macnutt QC, and we'll be speaking more about a book that these folks have prepared a little bit later. But Mr. Macnutt QC, Dr. Don Stewart who is there that has contributed, and has a depth of knowledge about the history of Island furniture. Roberta MacLean from TechnoMedia who was responsible for the layout of the book, and

Dr. David Keenlyside from the museum and heritage foundation as well, which had a role to play as well; Dan Larter as well.

I'd also like to give a shout-out to Bev Brown, my administrative assistant and Terri Wood who is filling in for her while she's on a much-needed vacation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise and welcome everyone watching from home today and of course everyone in the gallery, the folks from Stars for Life, thank you for picking up where the government leaves off.

I wanted to say hello to my good friend Kevin Clory who is here behind me, and of course Jamie Larkin who is running for the mayor of Charlottetown. Congratulations, Jamie, and with some great ideas of course for housing; the Minister of Family and Human Services, hopefully you guys are having a conversation. As well, I'd like to point out the great work that Jamie does with Lennon House, which is of course in my district out in Rustico.

I also wanted to recognize Jim Macnutt. Congratulations on your award. I don't know if you know this, but your daughter Dr. Carolyn Macnutt, I think it's your daughter –

Unidentified Voice: Yes, that's right.

Mr. Trivers: That's right.

She was my dentist in Ottawa when I lived there, I don't know, about 15 or 16 years ago.

Anyway, thank you.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise in the House today. I'd like to recognize everyone here in the gallery, Stars for Life, Jim Macnutt. I look forward to reading your book. I haven't had the chance yet, but I'm sure it'll be very interesting. I always like to read about historical facts, and furniture is one of those that's very interesting.

Roberta MacLean from TechnoMedia, she's a partner there but more importantly, she's a great neighbour and friend and you can always call on Roberta for, really, anything that you need done in the district. Welcome, Roberta, Kevin and Jamie. Jamie, Congratulations on your endeavour.

Lastly, I'd just like to say I was on the bus this morning with Brayden White and we had a wonderful morning; toured five different schools and I rushed back in here to make it here in time, but he is a really engaging young fellow and he sang at three different schools for all of the students, and he was a real hit. It was a pleasure to be on the bus with him and we had lots of fun.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Importance of Infrastructure Support

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure to rise today to speak to the importance of infrastructure support for industry and public consultation.

Over the past number of years we have seen a number of roundabouts constructed and intersections realigned across the province. Fixing dangerous intersections is very important and safety should always be of high importance when making any decision by the departments.

All we want is to have public consultations before such big projects move forward. The new roundabout proposed in Newton is a prime example. I asked the department if they would hold public consultations before this project went to tender and I was told a flat out: No, that there would be no consultation before it went to tender.

It's very unfortunate that the department chose to go that way. We often forget about industry when we are making these decisions. Do we need to make it bigger to support larger farm machinery and also trucks? These are questions that could be answered at public consultations. Perhaps roundabouts aren't always the best option, but we should at least take the time to listen to local residents in the area.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say I am highly and very disappointed in the department for not hosting public consultations before the tender was sent out and they have heard all the options. I hope in the future they will change their practices.

I can tell you that I will be hosting a public meeting on the roundabout proposed in Newton within the next nine days, which will be open to the public, submissions will be accepted, and they will be filed with this House.

Thank You.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Forbes Kennedy

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is my honour to rise today and recognize Forbes Kennedy, an icon and Island celebrity.

Kennedy is a Stratford resident and played more than 600 games in the NHL with Boston, Chicago Blackhawks, Detroit Red Wings, Philadelphia Flyers and the Toronto Maple Leafs. He signed, but didn't play with the New York Rangers. He is the only player out of PEI to sign with all six original teams.

He went to school at West Kent and played baseball. He didn't start playing hockey until he was 11-years-old. When he was 16, he headed for Barrie, Ontario, in hopes of playing for the Barrie Flyers. However when he arrived he was told you had to be 18-years-old to play.

He stayed and practiced with the team, but left mid-season to play junior hockey with St. Mary's in Halifax, where he finished

second in scoring in the league. In his last year of junior he was traded to the Chicago Blackhawks. He couldn't believe it at first that he would be playing in the National Hockey League.

He earned \$8,500 in his first season and a \$2,000 signing bonus. He played one season with Chicago before he was traded to Detroit where he had three-and-a-half productive seasons, until an argument with a coach and manager. Imagine, Forbie having an argument with a coach or a manager.

He was sent down to the minors. He ended up in Detroit and was immediately traded to Boston. He would eventually be traded to the Philadelphia Flyers and then to the Toronto Maple Leafs.

When his playing days finished he would lead an extensive coaching career, which took him from North Carolina to Newfoundland. He eventually landed back on the Island coaching the junior Abbies.

He was a successful coach for those teams, nearly always finishing at the top, or near the top of the league.

This is one of my favourite quotes from Forbes, "...if they had sent me to Timbuktu, I would have gone. I believe to play hockey, you've got to love the game. If you don't, it's a job. When we played hockey, it wasn't a job, not for one guy in the league."

I enjoyed Forbes when he was a player and I enjoyed him more when he was a coach. I know there are many young players, who still look up to him today. I wish Forbes all the best.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Rotary Radio Bingo

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tuesday, October 18th, 2016, Rotary Radio Bingo went live. But the planning and work began months before that date led by a small committee of dedicated Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Charlottetown.

The Rotarians that led the creation of the bingo include, Lori Carver, myself, Wes MacAleer, Craig Bradley, Paul Crant and Moe Rodgeron.

Launching a major, new fundraising project is a massive undertaking. The project had to be carefully appraised to ensure it was manageable, and a good fit for our club. Agreements had to be negotiated, retail outlets arranged, supplies purchased, delivery set-up, volunteers organized. That was just to get ready for the launch.

The project required daily administration in the early stages to ensure its success. Even today, the bingo is a large volunteer effort with the Rotarians arriving on Tuesday night at radio station 95.1 CFCY FM to prepare next week's bingo card distribution. Then, another shift arrives at 6:45 p.m. to operate the live bingo at 7:00 p.m. We have a volunteer on switchboard to direct the phone calls from the winners. From there, the calls are directed to one of the three volunteers. We have a live host operating a bingo machine, as well as, somebody operating a laptop to verify the winning bingo cards. We have a game captain relaying information between the laptop operator, the radio booth, and the call centre to ensure a timely flow of information.

In addition, we have someone writing the cheques and preparing the mailings to the winners. It takes about 10 Rotarians volunteering one-and-a-half hours each Tuesday night.

That is not all the volunteer effort required. On Fridays, the unsold bingo cards are returned from the retailers so that we can verify what is actually sold. This is a team of three or four Rotarians giving an hour of their time, each.

Then, the tracking of last week's sales, deposits at the bank, invoices prepared for the next week and a decision on how bingo cards are to be distributed for the following week.

These tasks are all done by Craig Bradley. It requires another three or four hours of volunteer time. This does not take into account the ongoing management of the game fielding inquires from winners and retailers.

In total, we estimate 1,400 hours of volunteer time is required to operate the bingo successfully. I would like to thank those who purchase our cards and the many Rotarians who give their time, every week, to ensure its success.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Last week, I raised the issue of doctor shortages in West Prince and the impacts of the health on the residents in the area.

We learned that 3,000 Islanders in West Prince, who have lost their family doctor are being told, by the government, by this government, not to put their names on their patient registry. Some of these individuals have been without a family doctor for well over a year.

Standard practice when losing doctor

My question to the Premier: Premier, is telling patients not to add their names to the patient registry standard practice when someone loses a family doctor?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, the situation in West Prince is that we are a couple of doctors short. Currently, those patient lists from those doctors, we've suggested to – that those panels stay together so that when a doctor is found you will be – the transition will be consistent to a new doctor.

Obviously, it's taking, perhaps, a little longer than we had hoped for recruitment of new doctors there. It is getting to the time period where some of those patients may do, indeed, decide to put their names on the registry. They are quite – possible for them to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Government states that there are 8,000 Islanders currently on the patient registry, plus the 3,000 individuals in West Prince that have been told, by this government, not to put their name on a registry, even though they're without a doctor.

Names of residents on patient registry (further)

Again, question to the Premier: How long does a person have to be without a family doctor before they're encouraged to put their name on the patient registry?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, Islanders health and positive outcomes for those with health issues is our department's number one priority.

When it comes to Islanders that do not have a family doctor, or who have lost their family doctor due to retirement, we work with those patients to maintain that registry, or their patient list, or their panel size, so that when a new doctor is found it provides that consistent transition. It also provides a new doctor coming that they do, indeed, have a panel size of X amount of patients. That allows them to come in and provide service for those Islanders that need that service, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It has recently come to my attention that a Dr. Barton, a family doctor in the Summerside area is leaving their practice in June.

Replacement for family doctor

Question to the Premier: Has a replacement for Dr. Barton been secured, yet?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, we do, as a department, we do our best to determine or work with doctors to determine when they are either leaving the province or are choosing to retire.

Obviously, we know that our doctors, a lot of them are looking to retire from practice in the next few years, so we are actively recruiting and working with other recruiters to try to determine doctors that would be available, that would come to Prince Edward Island, that, in particular, would like to work in rural areas of Prince Edward Island. That work is continuously going on.

We have a great recruitment team that put in full effort towards trying to identify doctors to come to all of our regions of Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

With Dr. Barton's impending departure from the Summerside practice, we are seeing something a little different here. We are seeing actually advertisements put up in the doctor's office, where the patients are being advised if they're looking to have their prescriptions updated and filled that they should be visiting the doctor's office before this vacancy occurs in June.

Patients are also being advised to have their name added to the patient registry.

Names of residents on patient registry (further)

Question to the Premier: Why are two groups of patients with the same problem being told two different things about putting their name on the patient registry?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, Islanders have a choice to put their names on the registry at any time. Currently, if you went through the registry today, there are patients that are on that list those looking for new doctors that currently have a family doctor, but they are choosing to move to a different one if one becomes available.

Islanders certainly have their choice and their wish to put their names on the patient registry. It is, as I said earlier, it does provide that fluid transition, though, if you stay as a full panel size, if a new doctor is able to come and take on those patients.

We are currently looking at ways to maintain doctor service for those, including nurse practitioners. We have seven new ones that will be rolling out in the very near future, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

We have two different scenarios that are actually identical because they're both the individuals in West Prince who have already lost their doctor. Many of whom have been without a family doctor for well over a year, and now we have a group of patients in the Summerside area who are going to be without a doctor very soon.

But, both groups are being told something entirely different. We have 3,000 Islanders in West Prince not on the patient registry, and a new batch of patients in Summerside who, as I said, will be soon without a family doctor.

Padding numbers on patient registry

Again, a question to the Premier: Why does government seem more intent on padding the numbers on the patient registry than actually providing health care services to Islanders by ensuring that Islanders have a family doctor?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I can assure the hon. member that the numbers are not padded. He used the number today of 8,000, when in fact the number that I have is 9,300, Mr. Speaker.

Leader of the Opposition: I had 18,000.

Mr. Mitchell: When you look at those numbers, we are trying to get out and recruit doctors to come to Prince Edward Island, specifically in rural regions of Prince Edward Island, to take on this patient need right now.

There are various reasons why that is at 9,300 today. Yes, we have doctors that have left in recent months and years. We also have significant immigration growth in our province. So, all of these things contribute to that when people are trying to find a family doctor. But, we are working diligently. We are out every day. We are talking to people and trying to encourage doctors to come to Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

From time to time, government uses and engages illegal actions with individuals, organizations, and businesses and sometimes even other governments.

Current legal actions of government

Question to the Attorney General: How many legal actions is the government currently involved in?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

I can say that I do not have a number on that here today, but that I will bring that back. That would be a number that would be fluent from one day to the next. As I committed in estimates here earlier, I guess it was last week now, this is something that we have been looking at within our department so I'm happy to bring that back.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Between 2014 and 2017, this government was involved in 86 legal actions.

Legal actions re: government is defendant

Question to the Attorney General: How many legal actions is government currently involved in where you are the defendant?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

Again, I don't have an answer for that at my fingertips, but I'd be happy to bring it back.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, legal actions can be costly and very time consuming, especially if outside legal counsel is required.

Legal actions using outside lawyers

Question to the Attorney General: How many of these legal actions involving government use outside lawyers?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

Again, I don't have the answer to that at my fingertips, but what I will say, as I have said before in response to questions along these lines, is that I would be very careful to characterize the use of outside legal counsel as being something that we shouldn't be looking to do.

Coming from a private sector legal practice, I can tell you that we would have had a number of lawyers in our firm with expertise in different areas and that would likely be the case in any firm that would offer a full service legal practice to their clientele. We have some lawyers within government that offer services in different fields and have

different areas of expertise, and different levels of seniority.

It's important for the effective provision of legal services that you take advantage of an effective legal team across those different variables.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

These legal actions can range from participating in coroner inquests to adult protection hearings, to appeals of lower court decisions to lawsuit defenses.

Cost of outside lawyers for legal actions

Question to the Attorney General: How much did government spend on outside lawyers for government legal actions last year?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

As I indicated previously in response to this question, we do not have a uniform number in relation to expenditures on legal counsel across all departments. Those are involved in each of the department line items, although we are looking at this issue and we have committed to, and we will continue to work towards a policy that establishes when and for what reasons we would look to retain outside legal counsel or to utilize internal counsel through government.

I should also note that a lot of the lawsuits particularly against government are handled through the risk management fund, who does that already.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Internal lawyers versus outside lawyers

Question to the Attorney General: Has your department ever looked at what it spends on internal staff lawyers working on internal government matters or lawsuits versus outside lawyers to see if it's the best value for taxpayers?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

The answer to that question is we are looking at that right now, as I've indicated, and going back to last fall when the Premier was minister of justice in response to a question at that time, he had indicated that we would look into that and we have commenced that work. We do plan to see it through to a further refinement of what it is that we do.

But let me say, again, we do have a number of internal counsel who are very busy every day doing the work of government that we would all expect them to do. There are certain things that when they come up, require the expertise of lawyers that practice in those fields and we're happy that Prince Edward Island has the capability within the private sector stable of lawyers to offer that service for us and in the times that we can't get that here, we recognize that there will be requirements that we might have to look further than within Prince Edward Island, and we do that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

One of the legal actions government is involved in is the \$50 million e-gaming lawsuit.

Cost to government on e-gaming lawsuit

Question to the Premier: How much has government spent to date in outside legal work on the e-gaming file?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and the Attorney General.

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

This is ongoing litigation so I'm not going to comment as to the exact number.

Mr. Fox: Ballpark (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: I would note that in relation to proceedings that have taken place thus far, there has been an order in respect of costs and a further order in respect of security for costs, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We heard yesterday from the Leader of the Opposition about the youth housing report and the good work that was done under Mayor Clifford Lee's leadership and the hard work of Alex Youland, Lydia Peters and Zac Murphy, among others.

One of the report's recommendations deals with what's known as inclusionary zoning. How it works is that a certain share of units in new projects gets set aside for people under a given income threshold.

Use of inclusionary zoning in PEI

Question to the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment: Is your government looking at encouraging the use of inclusionary zoning on Prince Edward Island?

Speaker: The Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

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

I thank the member for that question, and it is an important question and one of fairness to all people on Prince Edward Island. I agree with the City of Charlottetown's report that zoning has to include areas for people with disabilities in buildings that are being constructed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, are you asking your department to follow up with the city on that specific recommendation?

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

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

My department works closely with all municipalities across the province, and I know the mayor and I know most of the councilors in the City of Charlottetown, and I will be following up myself with the city because I think this is an important change that must be made.

I live in a community downtown. I remember years ago where we donated any land we owned in the City of Charlottetown for social housing and I can say today, it was the best thing we ever did for the people. They're not crowded into one area – they're within the community and it goes a long way to helping these people integrate back to the community.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's probably a good fit right now to have this member sitting in this row because you do understand the problems in Charlottetown around housing.

Another recommendation from the Youth Matters report is: to be more creative in the adaptive reuse of older buildings. Adaptive reuse retrofits older structures for a new use, as well maintaining the historic integrity of the property. An approach like this makes sense from an energy conservation lens and a sustainable development lens.

Reuse of buildings for youth housing crisis

Question to the same minister: What is the government doing to be more creative in

promoting the adaptive reuse of buildings to help address the youth housing crisis?

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

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

We have some people in the gallery here today that have spent a lot of money in repurposing their buildings, but they maintain the integrity and the heritage of the building. I want to send out a big thank you for all of them. I also want to send out a big thank you to Catherine Hennessey, who is a big promoter of retaining buildings. I remember one time there were discussions at city hall to tear down city hall and make a new, modern, Jetson building and I think we made the best decision to keep with the old, to keep with our heritage, to keep with our tradition because it's a great symbol in the city.

I agree, one of the things we are doing through the department of energy will be new programs that are coming on board – will encourage the maintaining of these buildings in all areas of the province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Another one of the report's recommendations involved revolving loan funds. Revolving loan funds are a creative financing approach for projects that may struggle with conventional financing.

Revolving loan fund re: youth housing crisis

Question to the same minister: Have you had any discussions with your municipal or federal partners about exploring a revolving loan fund to help ease the pressure of the youth housing crisis?

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

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

Again, another excellent portion of the report. I want to thank the youth committee here because they're the ones that are struggling in finding housing and anything that we can do to assist them in affordable housing is good for the Island, and good for the city, and it's good for them because it is important that we retain our youth here on Prince Edward Island because they are the future of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Another area flagged by the report: was the need to better understand the impacts that the growth of the sharing economy is having on our local housing markets.

Impacts on local housing market

Question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism: What work is being done by government to measure the impact that sharing economy tools like Airbnb and VRBO and others are having on our local housing market?

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

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We're continuing to evaluate across the province what are the inventories, what the take-up is from the consumer side and we're making sure that we manage those in a safe manner. Things like Airbnb, which is just another form of advertising, that we do manage that and we make sure that it is safe for customers and we'll continue to do that here on Prince Edward Island

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Often times in standing committees we hear about transit in PEI and especially in the city.

City transit aligning with provincial housing

Question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Could we look at aligning the city transit strategy to compliment our provincial housing strategies?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have funded the transit here in Charlottetown – the line that goes from Stratford to Cornwall. We've been partnering with them to ensure that they do have adequate funding and as a partner, but it would be up to the city to align where their routes go, not the government.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Often times, homes slightly out of our urban centres – about 20 minutes out or so – I'm thinking of a community like Mount Stewart are great spots for youth to own and live in. Of course, transit can be an issue there too, because as we all know, if someone is working in an urban centre, but living a little bit farther out in rural PEI, the cost of transit comes into play.

Will the minister look at, perhaps, aligning some sort of a transit strategy for rural PEI so that it aligns with the provincial housing strategy?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have great conversations that have happened in the past around those kind of initiatives with the city – T3 Transit – but what we have done in rural areas is encourage people to car pool. We have provided parking spaces for people so they can park their cars and go to work. If you go to any of those particular parking areas, you will see that they are full and we're happy to provide more of those spaces in different areas. If it's an initiative that community and

people want to do – to travel together – we'll be happy to work with them.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I represent a rural district and like all MLAs in this House, many of my constituents are financially challenged, with a substantial number relying on social assistance. One expense, which is sometime predictable, but it often is not, relates to the cost of attending medical appointments. With no local doctor currently available in the South Shore region, those with regular or unexpected medical issues must travel outside their community to receive quick care.

Medical visits on transportation allowance

A question for the Minister of Family and Human Services: Dr. Giordani who used to work in Crapaud and now practices in Cornwall – how many visits to a medical clinic in Cornwall would a social assistance client in Crapaud be able to make with their current monthly transportation allowance?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today and answer that question because as I mentioned yesterday, we are very flexible with our clients and we work with their clients – with what their needs are. If a client had to travel extensively for medical purposes, we would ensure that they would not have any out-of-pocket expense. We do not want to see any of our clients worse off than when they started. So we work individually with our clients on a one-on-one basis to make sure that their needs are met.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

A one-way taxi ride from Crapaud to Cornwall costs \$59 and if you have an emergency at 2:00 a.m. in the morning, it's impossible to get to the department to come up with the funds. Not many social service people will have \$59 sitting around to pay for that taxi. Since the transportation allowance is \$25 per month, a Crapaud social assistance client cannot even make one visit to a doctor in Cornwall.

Extending of exemptions for social assistance clients

Question to the Minister of Family and Human Services: Your social assistance policies have several very narrow exemptions. Have you considered extending those exemptions to all rural social assistance clients attending medical appointments?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, to follow up from the conversation I guess we started yesterday, our social assistance program is under review. As I stated in my answer to the previous question, we work with our clients and we are very flexible. Actually, we have a Chit system with many of the taxi services out there so that if one of our clients approaches them and they do not have the cash up front, they can go on a Chit system and get to where they need to be because, again, we do not want any of our clients while we are transforming and reforming our social assistance program to be any worse off than when they started.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Increase of transportation allowance

To the same minister: Yesterday when my colleague asked about social assistance claw backs, you were able to come back a few hours later to announce that the rates will be adjusted in June and I appreciate that. In addition to an exemption for medical travel,

will you also consider substantial increase to the transportation allowance paid to all social assistance clients?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

While all of our social assistance program is under review, we have been making changes – working with those clients on a one-on-one basis to meet their needs.

When we talked about a claw-back yesterday, we spoke about the Harvest and Prosper program. We also, the Premier has been on his feet, in this House, and he said spoken about the Canada Child Benefit, which we do not touch. That is money in each and every Islanders' pocket. We do not claim that for child care subsidy, nor do we touch that. We're already starting to transform our programs and implement changes while the overall transformation is taking place.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Minister, some constituents of mine have complained that at various waste management sites across PEI that they have different pricing for dumping of similar materials.

Pricing at waste management sites

Is it true that there are different prices at different waste management sites across Prince Edward Island?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We actually have six Island waste management sites across PEI. If you're going to any of those sites, the prices at all of those sites are equivalent. If you're going to a private site, obviously, a C and D site

that might be a privately owned, that could be an issue that, perhaps, someone has incurred.

All the prices, all the rates at those sites are the same.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, minister, for that clarity.

I also have constituents, and also I see it on social media, that Island Waste Management employees, specifically in Brockton, are forcing people to sort their own garbage, even after they've sorted it property before they went to the dump.

These people feel as though they're being interrogated each time they go there. I'm concerned that they may revert to dumping their garbage down some back road.

Accommodation of WM sites

Again, I had heard that they were more accommodating in another site, specifically in Wellington. Is that the case?

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

Ms. Biggar: Mr. Speaker, the goal of Island waste watch management is so that people take their waste to the site. I'm not aware, personally, other than what you have told me about the social media. I will certainly go back to the manager, Gerry Moore, of Island waste watch site and raise it with him, and have it looked into. We want to have, and make sure that all frontline staff is helping Islanders if they have issues with sorting specific pieces of garbage.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, minister thank you for looking into that for me.

Nicer weather means spring cleaning has begun, and some Islanders have complained that Island Waste Management sites aren't open long enough during the days, specifically on Saturdays, which, I think, at the present time, is 12:30 p.m. that they close.

Extending of WM hours

Minister: Would your department consider lengthening the hours of these sites across PEI are open in order to meet the demands for Islanders?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a great time of year to start cleaning up yards, looking at other products that are laying around, whether it's fridges and stoves or old sofas. We want to encourage people to come to the Island waste watch sites to drop those off. Products like that can be dropped off free of charge.

Because of the spring cleanup coming, we are going to be doing a pilot project, this spring, for eight weeks up until the end of June, where all of our sites will be open until 2:00 p.m. We'll review that at the end of that period. I will look at extending that into the fall cleanup period, as well.

We want to encourage all Islanders to bring those products to our sites to have the time to do that in the morning and make sure they get there. But, we will be keeping track of the uptake on that, but I want to encourage everyone, and make them aware, again: you don't need to throw those fridges and stoves and all those things into the woods. You can go there free of charge.

Thank you.

Mr. R. Brown: Go to the dump; not the ditch.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is for the Minister of Family and Human Services.

Minister: Recent statistics indicate that one in 59 school-aged children will be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and one in 42 will be boys.

The Stars for Life Foundation is currently working with 30 clients and have 40 others on a waitlist. The Stars for Life Foundation is grateful for the \$150,000 they received from the Department of the Family and Human Services, but, as you know, minister, this money only covers overnight and weekend staff for five clients, who require 24-hour care, and has nothing to do with day programming.

Supports for autistic students leaving school system

Minister: What is the government's plan for the hundreds of kids with autism spectrum disorder, who are leaving the school system, the hundreds more, who will follow them? Where are they doing live? What are they doing do? What supports will be available to them?

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

Ms. Mundy: I was going to say, you'll looking at me and you want me to keep it to 45 seconds, right?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you hon. member, for this valuable question, and for your advocacy for Stars for Life and vulnerable Islanders on Prince Edward Island. I will say you are consistent.

I will assure you that Stars for Life is a valued partner, and they are a priority in our department. We value the important work that all of our community partners do with the programming that they provide and the residential services that they provide.

Actually, this year-end, we were able to approve and provide many of our community partners with over \$1 million in spending. Some of it did go to Stars for Life for their day programming, and others went for residential supports for QCRS and Inclusions East and West.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, programs offered through Stars for Life allows clients with autism spectrum disorder to lead long and successful lives, and they have many success stories to prove it.

However, before Stars for Life can offer a client a program, they first have to meet with the individual, determine what programming is needed, they need to write an individual program, submit this proposal to the department, wait for approval, then they have to hire and train a person to work with the client.

The \$200 received from the Disability Support Program per client does not even cover anywhere near the work required to develop a program. Monies for this has to be raised through fundraising by Stars for Life.

Long-term funding for programming needs

Minister: What can groups like Stars for Life Foundation do to obtain long-term core funding to meet their programming needs?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Actually, just this morning, I met with over 30 of our community partners, Stars for Life included; Carolyn was there.

We engaged in a discussion about how we can all work together to meet the needs of Islanders. It was a wonderful meeting. It was a lot of collaboration. There was a lot of wonderful opportunities. We were able to share ideas and opportunities on how we can work together.

It was an open dialogue on the challenges that many of our NGOs face, community partners, but I will say that there was an awful lot of information that was gleaned from that meeting. I am very positive moving forward into the future that we will have a lot of very positive solutions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Stars for Life can only pay staff \$15 to \$17 per hour. Often, they train staff, and then they leave for higher-paying positions. QCRS, Community Connections and Harbourview all receive core funding. As a result they are able to pay their staff \$20 to \$22 an hour and some of those are unionized.

Funding for groups for day programs

Minister: Why do some groups offering day programs have core funding, and groups like Stars for Life do not?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, appreciate this question, and appreciate your advocacy, and appreciate the wonderful work that Stars for Life does do.

We have engaged and hired an external consultant who has done extensive work with many of our sister provinces to help develop a funding model so that, not only government, but our community partners could get to work and keep working at what they do best, which is serving our vulnerable populations. I look forward to working with them all and engaging in all of them as we move forward with this new funding model.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our education system provides a foundation for success for young Islanders. I have tremendous respect for teachers, administrators, and support workers who provide this foundation for our children. But, occasionally they need a day off. We continue to hear about the shortage of available substitutes.

Shortage of substitute teachers

Question to the minister of education: Are you aware of a shortage of substitute teachers?

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

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

I will say that I am aware of some concern in this area. This is something that we've done some looking into. There are a number of substitutes – there were actually 410 when I last checked on the substitute list, and that would be over a complement of about 1,600 or 1,700 teachers in the province.

I'm not sure that the issue is as much related to shortage of qualified substitutes in the province as it is in ensuring that they're engaged and in the places where we need them at a particular time. And that's something that as we start to staff up in our increases, we're going to have to keep our eye on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Years ago we had a surplus of teachers looking for work, but with the limited opportunities available in PEI many have seemed to have left or found new career opportunities. This means as vacancies open up, we have a limited pool of applicants to pull from.

Question to the minister of education: Do you share my concerns that if our substitute teaching pool is dwindling, it could mean that we may be up against a teacher shortage in the upcoming years?

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

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

Yes, I do have a concern that we do have qualified substitute teachers there and when we need them, as I indicated. The irony of this is that when I first took over this position, which wasn't even six months ago, we were talking about having retired teachers coming back and substitutes not having enough opportunity.

Over the last 12 months, we have committed to hiring 151 new frontline staff for the education system in this province. That is something that I can say that we are proud of, but that also has an impact, of course, on the substitute teaching list because that's where they come from. So it is something that we will continue to keep our eye on, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We see what we are up against with healthcare professionals in trying to recruit from off-Island. Let's not make the same mistake with our teaching staff. If we are experiencing a shortage now with substitutes, we need to see the forest through the trees and try and fix this problem before we see consequences.

Stats on current pool of substitutes

Question to the minister of education: Will you table the stats on the current pool of substitutes including the number of available substitutes in the province, whether they are certified or not, and if they are actively substituting with the Public Schools Branch?

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

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

Yes, I can endeavour to bring that information back, as I indicated. In my best recollection as of March break, we had 410 substitutes that were certified and on that list, and I believe there is another 25 or so retired teachers that would substitute. Again, the certification is required.

I will indicate that I have met on a couple of occasions now with Dean MacDonald at UPEI to discuss ways in which we can work together and they do have a good sized class that will be graduating this year, and that's something that they will have every year. So, there is a balance and we do need to ensure that we, as I indicated, keep our eye on that balance and keep it in balance and keep it in balance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We know on that side of the House you only think in four-year increments, but on this side of the House we believe in a long-term solution.

Succession planning for retired teachers

Question to the minister of education: Does the Public Schools Branch have a workforce plan including succession planning for those teachers who will be retiring in the upcoming years?

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

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

This is something that I can say we could likely use some more work on. I'm not here to direct the Public Schools Branch as to its hiring processes and its succession planning, but it is something that we do maintain contact with them on and as the Public Schools Branch moves through its evolution, it's something that I'm sure they will be looking to turn their focus to.

As I indicated, we're very fortunate to now be in this position where we are gearing up with young, new teachers and providing opportunities through great budget enhancements in the education system, and 17 million new dollars this year means a great deal to the students in the classroom and also to those teachers that are looking for work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Teachers and support staff are the key resource in our education system. There seems to be a trend where new teachers are leaving the system with five years of entering the workforce as a substitute because they can't find full-time employment as a teacher. Once they leave and find alternate employment, the likelihood of returning to teaching is slim.

Certified teachers leaving system

Question to the minister of education: What are you going to do about this trend of having newly certified teachers leaving the profession within as little as five years?

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

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

This, again, is an interesting issue and one that would take more than 40 seconds to fully canvass, but let me say this and try not to be cheeky in doing so.

That is that over the last number of years, we have been in a position where there have been more teachers entering the profession than there have been teaching positions available and through a great population growth strategy, that is now turning around.

As I indicated, we've managed to put ourselves in a position – we're investing in 151 new frontline teaching positions within this province over the 12 months since this time last year. With the great education that our teachers have, we shouldn't be surprised that that has happened in the past – that they have gone on to do other things, but right now, we have great work for them here in Island schools and we hope to put them to their best use.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque, your final question.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Teachers are expressing concern with the amount of stress and pressure they're under.

Class composition, class size, instructional time, and behavioral issues are all things that are weighing on teachers' shoulders.

Supports to teachers

Question to the minister of education: What supports are you providing teachers who are experiencing compassion fatigue?

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

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

This is an issue of which I'm acutely aware and one I've spoken on on a number of different occasions. I am very happy and proud to be on my feet to address this question, particularly as I indicated when we have had the opportunity to reinvest in Island teachers who are great and professional in all respects.

With 151 new frontline teaching positions being added over this 12 month window, we expect that a lot of the issues will be addressed – at least in part. That's to recognize there's always more work that could be done, but with our focus on education we are here and we are committed to helping our professional teaching staff and our students in the classrooms.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

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

Small Businesses

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Prince Edward Island's small businesses are responsible for the incredible momentum in our province's economy right now. They've made us Canada's best – or close to it – in a number of economic indicators; including retail sales, new home construction, and export growth. These businesses are also attracting Islanders home from away, who are seeing even greater opportunity to live and work in PEI.

When our small businesses succeed and grow; the entire province benefits. But to grow these businesses, we must invest. In our third consecutive balanced budget, we've included a new grant to assist businesses as they expand.

Small businesses on PEI will soon qualify for a small business investment grant that will provide 15% towards business investments up to \$25,000. At full value, this could save \$3,750 on their investment. This gives entrepreneurs more money to invest in their businesses and more incentive to grow.

The details on the grant and the application process will be added to our website and applications will open on May 7th. This will be advertised in local and social media, as well as the eligibility criteria. Investments in capital like new equipment, technology, and building expansions are examples of the types of investments that would be considered.

This is just one of the items in our Budget that will assist thousands of small businesses across the province. Others include; a tax cut that will save small business up to \$2,500 a year, the elimination of the provincial portion of HST on electricity and certain forms of home heating and an increase in the basic personal amount for all Islanders.

All of these measures, combined with our existing support for small businesses will help put them in a better position to succeed, grow and add jobs.

And, we've been adding jobs: 2,200 since last March. We've also had four consecutive international export and tourism industry growth. Simply put: our economy is on a tear, and we intend to keep that momentum going for years to come.

Thanks to our dedicated business community and entrepreneurial spirit, there are more jobs than ever before and Island products are being recognized around the world for their quality.

I believe our new tax cut will help our ambitious, hard working, small business owners continue to do big things.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's always a pleasure to hear the government make announcements that are going to help small business. This small business invest grant, indeed, on its surface, looks like it should help; 15% up to \$25,000, \$3,750 would be a significant help to small business, I hope.

I would like to see this government continue to push some of their other programs, as well, like the Community Economic Development Business program that allows investors to get an equity tax credit up to 35%. To me, that's a really substantial incentive to invest in Island companies. I'd really like to hear you promote that a lot more, minister.

You say the economy is on a tear. Yes, the economy is doing well, but sometimes you make me want to tear my hair out when I hear that because, I'll tell you –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) more jobs (Indistinct)

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) what's left (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: – what's happening is you're not giving Islanders a full picture and you keep spinning what you're trying to say. I wish you could be upfront with Islanders and just talk about things the way they are.

Yes, thank goodness, you listened to the opposition. It was in our last platform. You finally took the HST off of electricity, but not all the electricity. The first block.

Let's not exaggerate things. Let's be upfront with Islanders. Let's tell them the way it is. The first block is where the HST is off. That's great.

Mr. R. Brown: (Indistinct) the big block (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: Now, the other thing is, you're saying, yes, we cut taxes by 0.5%. I think it's \$2,500 a year. That's great. That's good.

But when you talk to the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce, I know they presented to our caucus. I know they presented to you. They have the numbers to show that you could cut significantly more than that without impacting government revenues. I just question why you didn't do that.

You're talking about small changes that are going to have a minimal impact, when you could make much bigger changes.

The other thing, I just wanted to talk about here, is I wanted to talk about sole proprietors, and really those micro-businesses and how important they are and how much room there is for growth on the Island. I know you have heard me talk about this before.

When I heard that you had this announcement today, I thought: here it is. Finally, here's going to be some sort of investment tax credit grant for sole proprietors and small businesses. I hope they can access this one because that would be a really good thing, especially for rural parts of Prince Edward Island. People who are repatriating; they're coming back to Prince Edward Island. They're living out in the rural areas and they're able to work for companies off-Island and bring in money.

On final point is, please please, invest in infrastructure, roads and hi-speed Internet so that we have robust business across this Island.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, am – or was, excited to hear that there was an announcement coming on the investment grant. Again, finally the details are here –

Mr. Trivers: Don't tear your hair out.

Ms. Bell: – as I mentioned yesterday, and probably more than once, sometimes when we're on a tear we can get a little bit ahead of ourselves. Right now, on the website it says: applications will be open, with a blank, sometime in May – I'm glad to hear on the

seventh – with further details announced soon.

It's very difficult for people to get excited about a new program that they may be able to benefit from when they don't actually know what that program is.

I am looking forward to seeing the details. There are a couple of great hints in here. Particularly, around now that we have some indication that we're narrowing into capital asset costs.

As my hon. member, colleague mentioned, as we begin to narrow conditions and put more and more conditions on, that means less and less are able to be eligible to access that support.

I remain hopeful, that as details are announced, they are ones that we can see people benefitting from. I am also cautious having learned that on a tear sometimes means we actually weren't ready.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Investing in Community Partners/NGOs

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a fact that Prince Edward Island's small size is an advantage that connects Islanders enabling us to work closely together to help one another succeed.

A great example is the vital collaboration between our provincial government and the many community partners across Prince Edward Island. Put simply, this is an amazing partnership improving the lives of Islanders every day.

Our government is very proud to support these community organizations in their important work to help people overcome barriers, gain self confidence and become employment ready.

When more Islanders are able to connect with jobs and become more prosperous our entire economy benefits. Over, just the past two months, I'm happy to say, that the province has increased its support for 21

different community organizations by more than \$2 million.

Ms. Casey: Yay.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Casey: Nice.

Ms. Mundy: One of the groups to receive added support was Queens County Residential Services, which provides community support and residential services to adults with intellectual disabilities. Their Executive Director, Bill Lawlor said the extra funding from government would help them develop a much needed housing services for these individuals.

Another recipient was the East Prince Youth Development Centre in the heart of District 22 Summerside-St. Eleanors, which offers a supportive environment to help its clients address barriers to employment and create a brighter future for themselves and their families. Its Executive Director, Barb Broome said the additional funding from government will help disability support and newcomer clients in Prince County to build skills and help them connect with jobs in their area.

In addition to the funding support for the organizations announced today, the provincial government has renewed annual funding for 11 employment assistance providers to the tune of \$4.4 million.

All Islanders should be able to share in the benefits of a strong economy and responsible spending by our provincial government. Over the past three years, we have made significant investments to help those Islanders who need it most through initiatives, such as the Generic Drug Program, re-establishing home renovation programs, and providing tax relief to all Islanders.

In fact, combined federal and provincial investments to help Island families in poverty-related initiatives now total approximately \$40 million each year.

This support builds on our prior investments in our community groups and to help Islanders create a successful future for themselves, and our communities.

In addition to this \$2 million one-time funding our government provided almost \$13 million to 30 non-governmental community organizations in the fiscal year 2017-2018. Each year we meet with our community partners to discuss and evaluate their needs.

Just this morning, as mentioned earlier, I met with all our community partners where we had broad discussions and a valuable exchange of information and ideas.

Our Island's small size is an advantage because it connects all of us. We make Prince Edward Island mighty when we all work together to achieve big things. This ongoing relationship between the provincial government and our community partners is helping Islanders enter the workforce, access housing and improve their lives each and every day.

I sincerely thank the staff, the teams, the volunteers at all of our community organizations across the province for their dedication to serving and helping others.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the minister for her announcement. It's always great when we support community partners that are really doing the heavy lifting for a number of government departments as well. They work in tandem and I appreciate that. It's important that people are not let slip through the cracks and that's something I talk to the minister about on a regular basis to ensure that any programs that are out there are there for the people that really need it.

We know there are a number of people who struggle working full time and still not being able to meet the needs just to live. So, I encourage the minister to keep that in her focus whenever she's talking to community partners and with any decisions you make. It's great news that those organizations are getting some help. There's always more that can be done and I encourage the minister to continue working on that.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am looking forward to seeing more details on if there's new funding announcements because we have previously heard of the \$1 million being allocated for community partner funding. The announcement was, I believe, at the beginning of April with the funding coming from the 2017-2018 funding surplus and therefore previous budget commitment.

There has also been a little bit of confusion, perhaps, in terms of how and where that money comes from. So, for the clarification would be really appreciated because while we heard that during that funding announcement that those million dollar (Indistinct) including some of the projects you mentioned today, were particularly focusing on people with disabilities and the #MeToo movement responses, which are obviously ones that really are particularly critical at the moment – that they later appeared under the jobs program announcements in the budget highlight documents. If there's an additional million, that's fantastic news.

The concerns remain the same, though. When we find spare money and allocate that money out into those incredibly important spaces in our community organizations, those are project-based funds which means that those funds end and when they end, particularly projects that are around job creation or work that requires someone's position to be filled. When that money ends, so does that position and so does that work that's taking place.

One of the most effective things we can do for our incredibly important, essential NGO partners is to fund them appropriately and sustainably. One-time project funding is like winning the lottery. When you're in an NGO, it allows you to do work that you otherwise could never dream of doing, but when that work has to end, it breaks your heart. So, it would be fantastic that we see over the next few months more clarity about the announcements and what they're for and more clarity about how we can better support our NGOs on a long-term basis to

continue doing the essential work that we need them to do.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Historic Furniture of PEI Book Wins National Award

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

I would like to congratulate James W. Macnutt, Jim, and all those involved in the creation of the magnificent new book: *Historic Furniture of Prince Edward Island*, which has received the Canadian Association of Museums Award of Outstanding Achievement.

The book was written last year by Mr. Macnutt in collaboration with Maurice Roy and Dr. Don Stewart with the support of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation and Roberta MacLean with TechnoMedia assisted in the design and layout of the very attractive book. The book tells the remarkable story of furniture-making in Prince Edward Island. It eloquently describes how skilled Island craftspeople thrived in the 19th and 20th centuries with creativity and traditions reflecting their Scottish, British, and Acadian roots.

The book has been referred to as one of the most comprehensive studies of furniture history in Atlantic Canada. If you pick up the book, you are sure to see pieces that bring back memories, along with a full description of the design and function of the piece. Considering the very high quality of the book, which has been described as a work of art in itself, it's not surprising that it won this prestigious national award.

The book was created through a true collaboration of Islanders who are deeply committed to preserving our rich history and culture for future generations of Islanders. Prince Edward Island continues to invest in our unique culture, which enriches life in our province for Islanders and visitors alike. As part of the government's third consecutive balanced budget for 2018-2019, our first-ever, long-term cultural plan will invest nearly \$1.5 million in this thriving

industry, helping to export the Island's unique culture around the world and create jobs here at home.

Thank you and congratulations to the book's creators on a job well done. I encourage you to pick up a copy of the book, or the works of other Prince Edward Island authors, at Beaconsfield or local bookstores. I should note that Mr. Macnutt has a number of different books, Mr. Speaker, all of which are very attractive.

Ms. Casey: One on this Legislature.

Mr. J. Brown: Yes, one on this Legislature – and they make great coffee table books, and you might even say this would be a great coffee table book on coffee tables as Kramer said on Seinfeld.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I certainly commend the visitors we have here today for the work that they have done on this project.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, minister – great statement and congratulations to Mr. James Macnutt on your prestigious award. If we look right here – where we're sitting – the first day I came into Legislature I was amazed by the craftsmanship and the history that is in this Chamber itself and I've always thought about it, I guess. Every time you come in here you'd take pride and I think all Islanders have a lot of pride in their history and quite often you hear people from away coming and seeing our history and the antique furniture and craftsmanship that was built over the years and people discuss it. It's something you hear about all time, so I think the craftsmanship from years ago will live on and once again, congratulations on your great work.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I thank the minister for the statement and I also want to, again, congratulate Jim Macnutt and I want to apologize for Dr. Don who's sitting there – a prior colleague of mine from my previous life – lovely to see you, Don Stewart and congratulations.

We have a tremendous tradition here of carpentry here on Prince Edward Island. You drive around the province and you see those distinctive Island farmhouses. We have a tremendous tradition here in boat building and there was a lovely article just a couple of weeks ago about what I think is the last wooden boat builder on Prince Edward Island – such an important part of our economy in the mid 19th century – and of course, furniture making.

As the hon. member just said, the desks and the seats on which we sit here carry that lovely weight of history with them and I think are infused with all of the bums that have sat on them over the 170 years. You know what I mean, Mr. Speaker. I'll be careful.

Speaker: Not sure.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: PEI has much to be proud of – oh my gosh, that was totally unplanned.

We have a lot to be proud of here in this province and I was pleasantly surprised when I actually leafed through the book the other day at an Island Nature Trust fundraiser – there was one up for auction and I put some tickets in – unfortunately did not win it, but I did look through the book and it is a work of art. It's a beautiful thing and I would love to get one in the future.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

Ms. Biggar: Mr. Speaker, by Command of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table a response to a question I had

from the Member from Borden-Kinkora to confirm the May 9th location of the public meeting for Newton about the roundabout and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. members, by Command, I beg leave to table a report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Prince Edward Island on the District 11 Charlottetown-Parkdale byelection and I move that the report be received and do lie on the Table.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 1st order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now ask the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to come and chair the Committee of the Whole House.

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

Hon. members, we are on page 33. For those who are watching at home, we are discussing the budget estimates for the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

Permission to bring a stranger on the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Thank you. We'll just allow him to set-up and introduce himself.

Mr. LaVie: Finally got the brains.

Chair: We are on the section at the bottom of page 33 under production development. The section has been read. Are there any further questions to the section, or shall the section carry?

Shall the section carry? Carried.

Field Services

“Appropriations provided for the sustainable management of 75,000 acres of public land and technical assistance to private woodlot owners.” Administration: 32,400. Equipment: 9,600. Materials, Supplies and Services: 127,300. Professional Services: 200. Salaries: 1,763,200. Travel and Training: 173,300. Grants: 750,000.

Total Field Services: 2,856,000.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

The description here says that the province manages 75,000 acres of public lands, I'm wondering how much private land is covered through the support for private woodlots.

George Mason Director: I don't know if we would have a total because every woodlot – a woodlot might be on one year and then not on for another 10 years. That would be a cumulative total. I could tell you, perhaps, what treatments there are in one year. That would be the kind of data I would have.

If we're looking at last year, there would have been 121 management plans. This is what was prepared last year.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah.

George Mason Director: Nine acres of commercial thinning; 29 acres or pre-commercial thinning, 448 acres of plantation management, hectares, excuse me –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Hectares.

George Mason Director: – I need to go metric there, 62,000, almost 63,000 of pruning and 420,000 trees planted.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Are there any supports available for private woodlots that are specifically related to carbon capture?

George Mason Director: Not just at this point in time. We're introducing a program, this year, of course.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Part of the climate change strategy.

Mr. R. Brown: Climate change plan.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay, that's great.

Thank you, Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Chair.

I'm not sure if this is the proper section to ask this now that you're into provincial lands but I'm going to try it.

When you lease land to woodlot owners, you lease land to farmers, also. This would be the section for this?

Mr. R. Brown: I don't think we lease any land to farmers. For agricultural use?

Mr. LaVie: Communities, land.

Mr. R. Brown: Are you thinking of the ALUS program or, that could be under the department of agriculture.

Mr. LaVie: No, I think it would be under your department, communities, land and environment.

If they lease land to farmers, would that be under you fellows?

Chair: Hon. member, could you repeat your question?

Mr. LaVie: You lease land to woodlot owners, right?

Mr. R. Brown: No.

Mr. LaVie: Oh. What's the section?

Chair: Field services.

Mr. R. Brown: This is the woodlot. It's private land. We give grants to private landowners for woodlot management.

Mr. LaVie: You give land?

Mr. R. Brown: No, grants. G-R-A-N-T –

Mr. LaVie: Oh, grants.

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

Mr. LaVie: Oh, okay. This is the wrong section.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Oh, sorry. I had the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River on the list for that section. Sorry, I just looked at my note, there.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Chair.

Maybe, I'm in the wrong section, too.

Chair: Okay.

Ms. Compton: It's regarding woodlot management of Crown land.

George Mason Director: That is the correct section. This is the correct section.

Chair: Correct section, okay great.

Ms. Compton: Perfect.

Very timely that we're on this; I just had a meeting with two young people in my district regarding a woodlot management company that they're starting and they're

wondering about how they access a block of government woodlot land to manage for the province. What is involved in it?

Further to that, how many companies are actually engaged with that process here on PEI?

Mr. R. Brown: We usually don't contract out the management of government forest land, but that's a good question we'll bring up with Kate MacQuarrie. We'll set-up a meeting with yourself and the crew, if that's okay?

Ms. Compton: Yeah, sure.

I know with the biomass up west, I think there is one person that –

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Ms. Compton: – he looks after provincial land for us, now? No?

Mr. R. Brown: He has his own land, minister?

Ms. Compton: He has his own land?

Chair: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy. Do you have an intervention?

Ms. Biggar: The question was whether or not there's an individual that –

Mr. R. Brown: Wood for heat.

Ms. Biggar: – harvests off of our Crown land for biomass? No, he has his own property.

Ms. Compton: Is that individual, is he leasing boilers to the government and selling wood to the government boats, do you know?

Ms. Biggar: The contracts that we have for biomass heat, it's a contract. It's not a lease. They provide all of the capital to set that up. What we pay for is the actual heat that we consume as a result of that.

I can bring you back more details on that.

Ms. Compton: That's, I guess, what my question is: What the process is. In our

district, right now, there's an individual and a group that are interested in possibly doing the same program and plan for eastern section of Prince Edward Island and managing the woodlots that are there – both Crown land and private – so I'm just asking the questions as to, I guess, who to talk to and what the process is. I was wondering what the process was for up – so, if the minister could provide me with –

Mr. R. Brown: Yes. We'll set up a meeting with Kate MacQuarrie in charge of field services.

Ms. Compton: Thank you.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Resource Inventory and Modeling

“Appropriations provided for the collection, analysis and interpretation of forest inventory information and land use trends.” Administration: 5,500. Equipment: 5,000. Materials, Supplies and Services: 5,900. Professional Services: 7,500. Salaries: 415,000. Travel and Training: 11,500.

Total Resource Inventory and Modeling: 450,400.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

Just a very quick question and it's about this division and whether it provides any supports to municipalities for land-use planning related to forestry.

Mr. R. Brown: No, not really, but it's a good suggestion. We'll be bringing that back to the department. It's a good idea.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Fish and Wildlife

“Appropriations provided for the administration and management of various programs designed to conserve, protect and enhance the Province's fish and wildlife resources.” Administration: 26,500.

Equipment: 11,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 158,000. Professional Services: 32,500. Salaries: 699,100. Travel and Training: 50,000. Grants: 262,500.

Total Fish and Wildlife: 1,240,100

Total Forests, Fish and Wildlife: 7,588,700.

The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you.

Minister, have we ever done an analysis on the population of the coyotes, the rabbits, and the birds to see if there's any correlation between the stocks being up or down?

Mr. R. Brown: No, we spend most of our time on the endangered species.

Mr. Fox: What I'm wondering – there is an awful lot more sightings. People are seeing coyotes in urban areas and around the Confederation Trail and stuff like that. But the on the other side, I'm also hearing from different people that they're seeing less and less of grouse or rabbits out around. So, I'm wondering: Do we have too much of a coyote population now? Is it going out of control, or is it –

Mr. R. Brown: Cindy Crane is the biologist. I'll discuss that with her and see how one would go about counting all the different species. It's a good idea.

Mr. Fox: Okay. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I'm just wondering how many species are designated as at-risk in the province.

Unidentified Voice: Excuse me?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: How many species are designated as at risk in PEI?

Mr. R. Brown: I can get back to you with that.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay.

Mr. R. Brown: We have an announcement coming on the species at-risk and the groups there. We met with the various – Island

Nature Trust and the national commission and some other groups and we have an announcement coming that I think you'll like.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yes, I hope so because I think the answer to that is none. I don't think we have any and we have a big, gaping hole in our jurisdictional authority here is when it comes to species at risk, so I think I know what you're hinting at there, minister, and I am looking forward to that announcement.

I'm just wondering – and I think the answer to this is 'no', but is this division doing any work on protecting the right whales, or is that entirely federal?

George Mason Director: We certainly are not.

Mr. R. Brown: We consider that federal.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay. That's great. Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Shall the total carry? Carried.

Thank you for your enthusiasm.

Climate Change Secretariat

“Appropriations provided to administer the climate change strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to address the current state of the Environment, and to administer the Federal/Provincial Low Carbon Economy Fund.” Administration: 8,000. Equipment: 3,000. Materials, Supplies and Services: 45,500. Professional Services: 420,500. Salaries: 540,300. Travel and Training: 17,500. Grants: 6,020,000.

Total Climate Change Secretariat:
7,054,800.

Total Climate Change Secretariat:
7,054,800.

The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Chair.

Minister, have you ever done an analysis lately to see what the large emitters that are

using bunker C or that type of product are actually putting out into the atmosphere?

Mr. R. Brown: Under the federal law, 50,000 tonnes and above. We only have one plant on Prince Edward Island that would classify under that – would be the French fry plant; Cavendish Farms French fry plant.

And I must say, over the years, that Cavendish Farms have stepped up to the plate here in terms of environmental replacement. They started with the bio-digester that took off a tremendous amount of oil. When they brought pressurized gas in for their plant, they're saving over 3 million litres of fuel a year, which is 9,000 tonnes. They are one of the best examples, I think, of a large company doing good things for the environment – and also saves a lot of money.

Mr. Fox: And I'll agree with you, minister, Cavendish Farms has done tremendous things in that, but I'm more wondering about Maritime Electric with the standby generators, their bunker C; Slemon Park up there, they're bunker C fed for all their heating systems. Also, I'll give credit to the department – we're going over to the biomass and stuff like that – that's a good thing, but I'm wondering if Slemon Park, Maritime Electric, these other users of bunker C – why are we not looking at them and encouraging them to get off that type of heating-sourced fuel.

Mr. R. Brown: You're right. Maritime Electric has a big, old plant down there on the waterfront with the two stacks, but very rarely do they use that plant and they do spin the turbines in the winter to keep them warm, but they don't spend that much fuel.

But I can say that Maritime Electric has put an application into IRAC to tear down that plant and that will be a major improvement to the area plus a major improvement to the environment because they are getting rid of their old bunker C and heavy fuel generators.

Mr. Fox: Is there any word on what the Climate Change Secretariat is doing in regards to a possible carbon tax or that coming forward. Are they working with TIE?

Mr. R. Brown: We continue to work with the federal government in terms of their requirements under their law and we're having good negotiations with them. I think that PEI is batting above its average when it comes to climate change.

Mr. Fox: We are.

Mr. R. Brown: Our Islanders have been extremely committed to climate change and over the years, Islanders have contributed a large amount to reduction of greenhouse gasses. We were one of the first places in North America with a wind farm in terms of the North Cape wind test site. We were one of the first provinces with the 30 megawatts in Prince County and then we did another 30 megawatts in Kings County.

Our Island Waste Management Corporation – that's a fee – that's a carbon fee, you could call it. So, Islanders have really stepped up to the plate when it comes to reducing carbon and when I say that – businesses and private citizens as a whole. We were explaining that to the federal minister, how well we're doing already.

Mr. Fox: One more question, Minister, you might be able to help me on this: We've moved our schools and a lot of our hospitals or manors over to the biomass. Are there any other buildings that are still on bunker C or oil that we're looking at moving over?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Just in response to that, I'm sure when I'm on the floor, we'll have an opportunity to go over exactly which buildings, but we have a lot of buildings across the province. Actually, we just finished one, the system at Prince County Hospital.

Prince County Hospital is heated 100% by biomass that is then connected over to the Summerset Manor, which is also heated by biomass. If you just stop and think the amount of oil that that displaces, and I can certainly have the figures, but that's just one example.

We have a lot of the schools in Summerside; the Wedgewood Manor, and the Elm Street

school are connected for biomass. Energy from waste, if you want to look at what we're doing here across the city with that is certainly displacing millions and millions of oil, and our own system and our PAB buildings. I'll certainly have some more details for you, hon. member, when I come on the floor with my energy budget.

Mr. Fox: Okay, thank you.

Mr. R. Brown: The minister and I were in Tignish there a couple of weeks ago –

Ms. Biggar: Oh, yes.

Mr. R. Brown: – about a month ago –

Ms. Biggar: – Tignish (Indistinct)

Mr. R. Brown: – and the technologies there that small biomass plants, they have the whole unit now in a roll-out conduit that will go from building to building, instead of putting big pipes in the ground, as in the City of Charlottetown. It's pretty efficient.

I got to commend the Tignish area for their initiative. They went a long way here in doing it. I guess the MP for the area said it right when he said: Tignish is not afraid to be first. Meaning, it's not afraid to take some chances. It's pretty good what they've done up there. It's a model that other areas should be looking at.

Ms. Biggar: Just to add to that, Madam Chair, that is a great initiative that, through my department we partnered on.

It has the Tignish Elementary School, the sign shop, the seniors' home. Actually, they now have the Co-op on it and they're looking to expand that to another business in the area. There are actually seven businesses joined together on that.

It's a great initiative from the community side that we're very proud partner with. It just shows the initiative that they have up there and the foresight that they have to look at that kind of a project in small community in western PEI. It is, certainly, a showcase for what other small communities could actually do if they put their minds to it, and government is there to partner.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

My first question was: How much is the low carbon economy fund?

Mr. R. Brown: The one we signed; \$24 million federal, \$24 million provincial.

Mr. Trivers: Oh, that's the one you were talking about before.

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

Mr. Trivers: Okay.

How much are you receiving in this Budget?

Mr. R. Brown: Six million this year and it will be administered through the department of energy.

Mr. Trivers: It's not listed in this section.

Ms. Biggar: No, it's not.

Mr. Trivers: Just to be clear: you administer the money here in this section, but it exists in the budget over there, okay.

Yes, I was looking at the grants for this area. UPEI is doing some great work with the Climate Change Secretariat –

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Mr. Trivers: – which I would fully expect; Adam Fenech in the Climate Change Lab and things.

But I was wondering what the shoreline stabilization structure inventory is? My understanding, based on some of the presentations I've been to, is they're basically saying you can try and you can stabilize the structure of the shoreline, but it's an uphill battle and you're going to lose.

They're saying; coastal monitoring, yes, we need to do that. Climate change adaptation, recommendation, we need to do that. I'm curious as to what shoreline stabilization structure inventory is?

George Mason Director: It, kind of, goes back to your first point. Really, it is a study

of the various structures that are used, whether they be wooden structures or concrete or stones to stabilize the shore against erosion, and which ones are the most effective, basically.

Mr. R. Brown: You're right. People will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to shore up their waterfront or their waterfront property, and in a year or two it may all be gone.

The ocean is a big force. It is a big force to be reckoned with.

Mr. Trivers: That's why I like to say, I live on the highest points of the Island.

Mr. R. Brown: You'll be the last to go, will you?

Mr. Trivers: The last to go.

I was also looking at the professional services for this area. Really, there's only two line items. One is for French integrated climate services, and then one is for interpretation services so it's a plan to build an adaption capacity. That's \$5,265. But you have got \$420,000 listed in the summary line.

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

Mr. Trivers: Just curious what I'm missing here.

Mr. R. Brown: You're missing the low-carbon emissions agriculture projects. We will be working with the agriculture community to see how they can reduce the carbon footprint on Prince Edward Island. They account for 24% of our carbon and we have to work with the agriculture community in order to get that down.

Mr. Trivers: I agree, 100%. They are key partners.

One thing that I'm hearing from people – and I'm sure you hear, as well, minister – is they would like to have some more straightforward incentives to put in renewable energy like solar panels. I mean, some companies like Renewable Lifestyles, started it up Solar Island Electric, to take advantage of the community economic

development business model and investments to get the equity tax credit.

As someone with solar panels, myself, I know it's not an easy process. In fact, you have to get your tax credit back over multiple years. Some people have said if they're retired they can't actually invest inside their RRSPs in that model because they're using RRIFs, and they can't do it, but they want to put in solar panels.

I just wanted to know if you have any plans, at all, to incentivize solar panels to help reduce climate change?

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

Ms. Biggar: Again, hon. member, when I bring my budget to the floor, we can have a great discussion about that. It's under my department efficiencyPEI.

Mr. Trivers: What are you planning to do with the low carbon economy fund if you're not going to do things like incentivize solar panels?

Ms. Biggar: The funds from the low carbon economy fund go into efficiencyPEI. As we get our budget approved, then we will be announcing what programs that we will be implementing as a result of the low carbon economy fund.

Mr. Trivers: I just want to get this straight: it's the human resources in the Climate Change Secretariat that administer the low carbon economy fund, which is included in the transportation, infrastructure and energy budget, and is actually administered through efficiencyPEI?

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: Okay, that's making sense. I did have another question.

Another thing I'm hearing from people is they really care about the environment. They really want to get down their carbon footprint. They want to see climate change mitigated and reversed. Reversed would be a tall order, but they've taken great strides to put in high-energy efficient windows and to build their houses in such a way that they're

south facing.

What's happening is they find, on the tax end of things, they're actually kind of punished for that because they're assessed higher values for their homes because of the extra effort they put in to do that. They feel that any of the financial gains that they're receiving from their environmental upgrades they're losing on the tax side.

I know that there's, at least, a couple of other departments involved here with that. Because this is the Climate Change Secretariat, I thought they would be, maybe, some good people to, sort of, lobby the other departments and say, hey, let's synchronize our tax policy with our environmental policy so when people are doing all of these great upgrades, they're not taxed and the benefit is taken away financially.

I can give you some real-life examples, too, if you want them and other departments. These are people, who are moving, a lot of people moving from off-Island or coming back to Prince Edward Island and they're seeing their tax bills go up, five, six, seven times based on their homes in Ontario.

Mr. R. Brown: You bring up a good point. That's why the Climate Change Secretariat was formed, to bring a number of departments together to discuss items that you just brought up there.

That's one of the items I'll put on their agenda to review. I know the City of Charlottetown, when renovations are done to heritage homes and that, they have a five-year tax forgiveness system that allows them more opportunity to put more building into their building.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Forgive me, but I'm still a little confused about the trail of money in and out of departments and if I look back at your funding, and I noticed it was brought up the last time we went through estimates, the gross revenue is up \$6 million and then I see that \$6 million here in grants in this division.

Am I correct? Is that where it's going?

Mr. R. Brown: This \$6 million here is for the electrical rebate. That's where \$6 million is going and then the carbon economy fund is going to the department of energy.

Now –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's just coincidence, then that it's exactly \$6 million here and exactly \$6 million going there?

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay, so this \$6 million I'm looking at here in the grants, that's to pay for the budget promise of (Indistinct) –

Mr. R. Brown: The electrical rebate in the first block, yes.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay.

The low carbon economy fund, is all of that \$6 million going to be devoted entirely to that?

Mr. R. Brown: No.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: The revenue that we see here?

Mr. R. Brown: The low carbon economy fund money under the contract, and there are specific rules around that with the federal government on how that money is to be spent, and that money is to be spent on lowering carbon and we have to put a report in to Ottawa to say how much carbon are we reducing in each component of that.

The department of energy has a number of programs and listed under those programs are carbon counts that the secretariat will be pushing the department of energy that we meet those carbon – I'm carbon. The minister of energy is energy efficiency. I want so much carbon to be taken out because we want to meet our targets. We're committed to meeting our targets and between the secretariat and the department of energy, and other – the department of agriculture and other departments – we will be pushing those departments to make sure that we're meeting our carbon targets because the money is based on carbon so we don't meet our carbon.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you and I appreciate that.

I'm heartened by the fact that we're talking about a cross-departmental approach here, which it has to be, of course. Agriculture will be, indeed, a really important partner in making this work. It was my understanding that certain aspects of agriculture might be exempt from the carbon tax.

Can you give us an update on that?

Mr. R. Brown: Well, the federal government has mandated through their carbon that agriculture will be exempt, and we are following that exemption, meaning marked fuels will be exempt.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Right, as they always have been, but I'm talking about at a provincial level when it comes to implementing the carbon tax whenever, or if ever that happens, that there have been statements made before that agriculture and fisheries would be exempt from that.

Is that still going to be the case or you're not –

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah, that is the statement that has been made and that is the statement we're committed to.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: If I do the math on this, and these 50/50 dollars – there's \$24 million coming in over the next four years from the feds, so presumably that's \$24 million of provincial funds to match that, so will the entire cost of the low carbon economy fund be \$48 million?

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: That's going to be the entire cost over the four years?

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

And there is another \$10 million available.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Of federal funds?

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

We're very fortunate to be a small jurisdiction because when these programs come available, there's usually a base

funding of \$25 million and then there's a per capita grant which works very well to our advantage. There is another \$10 million there that we're looking at seeing where we can further partnership with the federal government in order to meet our targets even faster.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: We're up to almost \$60 million now sitting in a fund specifically to deal with climate change and creating a low carbon economy, or furthering the low carbon economy, and we've done some fantastic work here and I want to give credit for that.

Now, this is before we even start any discussion on carbon pricing and taxation and any money or revenues that might come from that, and I know the date for the implementation of carbon taxation has been put back a couple of times. September, I believe, of this year is the latest that we've heard from the federal government.

Do you have any update as to whether that's a solid date, a firm date, by which this province is going to have to have its carbon tax plan in place?

Mr. R. Brown: That is the current date that we're working towards and that's why our carbon plan will be coming to the Legislature here to be reviewed – well, it will be reviewed because we'll be tabling it in here and I assume there will be a number of questions on it and we're presenting that plan to the federal government.

We believe, as an Island, we've been doing extremely well in reducing our carbon. Just the energy accord itself saved 90,000 tons of carbon, and that's before there was any mandate from Ottawa to reduce carbon.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: So, given that the fall session of Parliament, or of the Legislature is not going to happen until at least October, you're saying that there will be carbon tax legislation coming forward for debate this sitting here in the Legislature?

Mr. R. Brown: It's up to the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: But, if we're to have debate in the House on carbon pricing taxation – call it what you like – that would

have to happen. Am I not correct in saying that that would have to happen during this sitting if it's going to be implemented in September of this year?

Mr. R. Brown: The federal government, through its budget implementation bill, which is before Ottawa now; 200 pages of it, the budget implementation bill that's currently in Ottawa is the carbon pricing taxation model – that if we don't do it, they will do it.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah, and I would much rather that the province construct a carbon pricing mechanism that suits our needs here rather than have one imposed from Ottawa.

So, I hope that we have an opportunity to debate what that might look like and I'm sensing from you that we may not actually have that opportunity in this sitting, and maybe I'm wrong. I hope I am.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: Blame Trudeau.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I think there was an intervention, am I –

Mr. R. Brown: No, finance will answer it.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Great.

Chair: Thanks.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: It's exactly what you've said, Leader of the Third Party, in regards to what we're trying to do because we feel that we're strong enough right now to have something that's made in PEI for PEI, that's going to pay attention to what we've already done and that's where we're at right now with Ottawa.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I'll have to keep pressing on this because – are we going to get an opportunity to debate that in this sitting?

Mr. MacDonald: Again, when we're in that – we're in the presence right now with Ottawa so it will depend on how far we get, depending on our discussions with them and what we're trying to achieve.

We feel we have something a little more special here than most other provinces, including British Columbia, so we'll continue to have those discussions and plot out a plan relative that's going to respect what we've already done on Prince Edward Island and how far we've come, as you said, because I think we are ahead of the game.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thanks.

I agree, and I thank you for making out the fact that I didn't mention that.

If these discussions that are ongoing currently with the federal government do not conclude to a point where you can bring forward legislation in this sitting, does that mean that we will not be discussing it before it is implemented on September 1st?

Mr. MacDonald: Those dates, similar to the cannabis, may change so there's still some – still issues relevant to that. So, I think we have time. But again, we're going to continue to push the envelope in regard to this and if those discussions can curtail within this sitting, so be it, but if they're not, we're not going to make ourselves vulnerable to public discussions with Ottawa relative to the Legislature because we feel that we're going in the right direction right now with them and we feel that we can have something a little more special for Prince Edward Island.

Chair: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Chair.

The Minister of Finance is welcome to weigh in on this conversation as well.

For basically a year, we were told over and over again that: No, federal government told us. The federal government told us we have to put the carbon tax in. We've got to do this. That was always the message when – actually, the Member from Rustico-Emerald asked a lot of great questions about revenue neutral and those types of things and getting credit for what work was already done, was kind of the mantra that I know in opposition that we really were pushing.

Just in the last month or two, it seems the speaking points or the mantra from

government has gone really quiet, to now saying: Yeah, we're fighting a little bit for PEI. Not yelling it, but quietly. So, what's changed? Is that just the new minister changed in concept now or what's going on? Because before it was always, when we offered those ideas saying we should be fighting it was always: No, no. They told us, they told us we have to do what they say.

Because, if indeed we are pushing back, that's great.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: I think if you just recently look at what we've done with the budget already, what we've done with wind power, what we've done with the Accord the hon. minister spoke about, there's all kinds of benefits for us to be looking out for PEI and not comparing ourselves to any other province. There are benefits for us to go to Ottawa and have those discussions in relevance to what we have on PEI and what we've done and to see where we're situated. I think if that's what you're asking me, yes. I'm not going to say we're pushing publicly, but I can tell you we're having deep discussions.

Mr. MacEwen: That would have been a fantastic answer last year when we were asking: are we going to get credit for what was – that was one of the questions that were asked. I know you're right, it wasn't last year, thank you for confirming that that the speaking points have changed.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. MacEwen: Sorry, what was that?

Chair: Hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, you have the floor.

Mr. MacEwen: I thought someone had an intervention over there.

What do you call the working group? There was a member from each of the departments that were on this working group trying to identify the carbon tax and how to put that money back in to programs? What did you call that working group? It's a member from each department.

Mr. R. Brown: The Premier has initiated the Climate Change Secretariat which has transportation and other departments on it to say: Okay, this is a cross-departmental item; it's not going to be in one department. As you can see the department of energy has it, the department of transportation is in there. There are various other departments, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It's to bring those people together in the departments to ensure that we're going to meet our carbon targets. As a group they will say this is the plan and they will push each other to make sure that the carbon targets are met. Because it is about reducing carbon, it's not about pricing, and we feel that PEI has done a tremendous job in reducing carbon. We're one of the lowest in Canada at 12 tonnes.

Mr. MacEwen: I couldn't agree more.

Mr. R. Brown: Hundred per cent stepped up to the plate here time and time again.

Mr. MacEwen: Give me a glimpse into kind of the strategy with this Climate Change Secretariat and the members from each of the departments. They were no doubt figuring out how much carbon emissions that they had to reduce by and then trying to come with programs to spend the money that the carbon tax would come in.

Are they doing that while there's another group coming up with: this is what we've done so far? Are they also identifying: you know what, this is what we've done so far so we – federal government – can we get credit for this so that we don't have to increase the size of our carbon tax? Was that group doing it all or was there kind of like two (Indistinct) –

Because last year I think when we were asking the minister about this group, the identifying what we had done already didn't seem to be, it was identifying programs that they could spend the money on in order to reduce carbon emissions.

Mr. R. Brown: The secretariat is in charge of the carbon plan and Ottawa has mandated a carbon plan being introduced by each and we have established our carbon plan and our carbon reduction targets. I can say that we

are going to be adamant in meeting our targets. We've always met our targets.

On the other side of the coin there is the carbon pricing that Ottawa has put in place and there is the department, as its officials, because it's Finance Canada. So they're working together, the Climate Change Secretariat and Department of Finance. We're giving Finance and saying look: here's what we've done in finances.

Mr. MacEwen: Is it possible that we could come out of this where the federal government says: Do you know what? You guys have done your fair share, we don't need to add that, please continue on with your good programs that you have in place now. Is there a chance for that? Are your numbers showing that we have already our targets and we don't need – I guess we're making a case that we don't need to add a price on carbon because of what we're doing as a province?

Mr. R. Brown: We had a carbon target for 2020 and we're meeting that carbon target and one of the big reasons we met it because working with Cavendish Farms and various groups. The energy accord has been a tremendous asset and benefit to reducing carbon.

Like I say again, Islanders have stepped up to the plate here. We've invested lots of money in carbon reduction. You just take the \$140 million cable to New Brunswick – that's instead of us, as mentioned earlier, burning bunker C on the waterfront and spewing out carbon out of the two stacks down there, we've doubled our capacity to New Brunswick, we are a partner in the nuclear power plant, and we work with the New Brunswick utility in terms of wind balancing and that.

We have one of the highest wind regimes in, I'd say, the world. We're up there with Denmark in the amount of energy we are taking from our wind. Those wind farms are extremely expensive to build and Islanders have invested and I'd say well over \$250 million, close to \$300 million in reducing carbon already. Cables: \$140 million, wind farms are \$60 million a pop.

Chair: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Chair.

I couldn't agree more with all that stuff. \$250-\$300 million of our own money – I guess that's why I'm asking. Is the ask to go in and say: This is what we already done. We don't need this. We're doing a good job here. You say we've met our goals. Why do we need a price on carbon?

Mr. R. Brown: We met the 2010 target, now there's another target for 2030.

Mr. MacEwen: Okay. You said 2020.

Mr. R. Brown: Yes, we met 2020 and now we're going to 2030.

There has been new targets issued out of climate change – out of the Paris Accord – and then the premiers from across the country got together and did the Pan Canadian, which is committed to a 30% reduction from 2005 levels in 2030. So, we're putting a plan together to meet those targets. The work that has been done to-date is going to go a long way in meeting those targets because we've done a tremendous job in energy.

When I say that, I must say all of us in this Legislature did it. I remember former minister Mike Currie when he built the first big wind farm – 30 megawatts – a lot of people thought he was not all there.

Mr. MacEwen: I get – when you say 'we', I know you're talking about PEI, you're not talking about – I know you're talking about all of PEI because it was a commitment and I understand that. This is sounding pretty positive. There are negotiations going on.

Who's on the negotiation team? Is it still kind of a wait and see, wait and see? Are they kind of changing their mind on it a bit – say: Yes, actually you guys have a unique situation down there. You guys could be a champion with what you've already done.

I want to have an answer for when someone says: Is my gas going up six cents?

Mr. R. Brown: We've put a fantastic plant carbon reduction plan together that will be introduced in this Legislature. I was hoping to have it ready, but there's just some fine tuning being done on it and the carbon plan

is about reducing carbon. The plan that is put together will reduce carbon out.

Just right now, if people consider that – you talk – we're 1.8 million tonnes of carbon a year that goes into the air – that's a lot of carbon, but it's very small compared to other provinces and other jurisdictions, but you can look at it this way: the fixed link weighs 800,000 tonnes of concrete is in that, so we put out over two fixed links a year in carbon. But we have a plan to reducing that and per capita our plan is very well-established and very well put together and it's been a cross-departmental initiative that will make carbon reductions.

Mr. MacEwen: The Leader of the Third Party mentioned legislation. This isn't actual legislation that's going to come to the floor. It's just an announcement, right?

Mr. R. Brown: It's our plan and our plan will include a target.

Mr. MacEwen: But there's no legislation as part of it.

Mr. R. Brown: No.

Mr. MacEwen: That's just going to be an announcement someday that you say. I was confident, but I wasn't sure.

So to the Leader of the Third Party's point, we're leaving it up to the Climate Change Secretariat group that's been meeting for probably a year and a half, monthly is what I was told – probably more so lately – and this negotiation team to talk about possible ideas. Is that negotiation team or the Climate Change Secretariat, have they reached out to private industry? Have they –

Mr. R. Brown: Reached out to private sector?

Mr. MacEwen: Yes, I guess you're right. I hear the minister of transportation talking about the public consultations from last year too.

Mr. R. Brown: And we had one on the mitigation plan. First of all, we've got to meet the targets of carbon reduction. How do we meet the carbon reduction targets? We've identified a number of areas: energy

being one, agriculture being another, and changing attitudes.

Mr. MacEwen: Yes. I'm trying to balance my mind. I get that you're in a negotiation with the federal government proposing your plan and then you let us back here in PEI know about it and I guess the sensitivities around doing that privately, versus releasing what your plan is now – letting people have a – well, I was going to say a second look, but probably a first look for some, but I know we had had public consultations with the energy strategy and the climate change.

Did you guys weigh that back and forth? Should we put it out there to see what Islanders think, or no, we should keep this internal and negotiate with the feds? To be honest, I don't know where I lie on that either. I'm just trying to get a sense of the process because it has been really quiet on this and I'm assuming there's lots of work going on behind the scenes, so can you enlighten us around that thought? Is that a Cabinet strategy, or is that your department; is that the Climate Change Secretariat?

Premier MacLauchlan: I'll take that one.

Mr. R. Brown: Sure, Premier.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: I wouldn't call it a negotiation with the feds with a capital 'n'. This is a matter for Prince Edward Island and for Prince Edward Islanders so we brought forward the energy strategy last spring.

There's a climate change action plan that will be coming forward to this House very soon – in this sitting – come to the question of the Leader of the Third Party. The premise of the first of September, I think, is not correct. It's September 30th is the earliest date that the federal government is looking to get now an indication of what provinces are doing and our view on this is through the work that's been done on the energy strategy and then the climate change work, which has also been the subject of a lot of talking with a lot of people in Prince Edward Island, to put together a series of actions and investments that will be the best for Prince Edward Islanders.

We've said that because there have been some suggestions here that somehow there's been a kind of some changing of course. We've said from the time we were in Paris that this would be a 'made in' and 'made for' PEI solution. I think that's the first thing that we all have to keep in mind. The second is that we've got other provinces that are moving and, in some cases, wobbling on this. So when you're the smallest province, you don't want to be the first mover, but the way this is coming forward, it's more about what's going to be workable and effective and achieve, as the minister has said, carbon reduction targets here on Prince Edward Island, than it is to negotiate in terms of somebody else telling us: Oh, okay you can do that. That's where it stands today.

Chair: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Premier, I appreciate that explanation.

I guess I have it in my mind about when the electoral commission went out on the maps and one of the first suggestions to those meetings was: put out a couple maps. Let people talk about it and I think it proved pretty good – the new map that we have seemed to go over fairly well. That's where I'm wondering with this – where the decision's made. No, we'll keep that strategy internal until we announce it. Has there been any conversation around if we talk to people about it now in PEI with the idea that potentially it could be changed, potentially not be. Would people embrace it more? Would people get on board? The minister said: attitudes have to change. You're right. I don't want Islanders to hurt in the pocketbook for it, but I'm not screaming that it's going to be detrimental to everybody's pocketbook. I understand that we've got to have a strategy to move forward on this, but have we talked about putting it out there so that people understand it when the time comes that the feds and the province come to an agreement on it?

Mr. R. Brown: There were the energy strategy consultations; we had the carbon, or the climate change consultations. We're meeting with the climate change people at UPEI. They had consultations.

One thing we've learned from all our

consultations is Islanders are committed. They want to contribute to the reduction of carbon. Islanders have been, in the past, contributing to carbon reduction and they're embracing it and we are one of the lowest emitters because of it.

That's what we're saying. We are saying, we have done a tremendous job to this date. As a province Islanders have made a substantial investment in carbon reduction.

Mr. MacEwen: I know, you and your predecessors said: We don't want to go in banging down the doors, refusing. We're not going to cooperate with the federal government. We're not going to do any of that stuff.

I get that's the strategy. I know other provinces have said: No, absolutely not. We're taking you to court. All those things. I get that that's not the strategy you're doing.

But, I think, the plan would go over well with Islanders if they know that you're pushing what they've done. If they know that this is your plan, or this is what we're talking about, or this is how we plan to get there.

I don't know what –

Mr. R. Brown: One of the biggest things of the national plan is electrification of our system here.

We started in 2008 with our first climate change plan in 2008. We were a leader. PEI was a leader in climate change. Our first plan, in 2008, said electrification is a major reduction of carbon in the air.

One of the things that came out of that plan was the energy accord with Maritime Electric and New Brunswick that moved 30 million litres a year over to renewable energy resources.

That couldn't have been done if we did not have the wind farms, the new cables that are in place now, major investments were made. We are ahead of the game when it comes here.

When you look at the carbon –

Mr. MacEwen: Music to my ears.

Mr. R. Brown: I know.

When we did the energy accord and committed to the renewal of the nuclear power plant, which provides a lot of energy to Prince Edward Island, carbon free. We provided for the shutdown of Dalhousie, which was an oil-burner plant –

Mr. MacEwen: We almost had another CT, but we didn't.

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah. Ontario started –

Mr. MacEwen: Almost.

Mr. R. Brown: – taking its oil-fired and coal-fired plants off in 2011. We were beginning in – we had a plan already in place. We had a commitment to doing it in 2010. The energy accord moved people from oil to electricity and the incentive of reducing the price, at that time, was one of the leading factors of doing that.

Our argument is, and it's not an argument; the facts and the proof are there that Islanders have stepped up to the plate, here.

Mr. MacEwen: I won't continue this on. I appreciate the good conversation around this because I'm learning a lot. I think the ground is, hopefully, shifting a bit. Although, I know, Premier, you did say this was, kind of, the plan from day one.

As an opposition, we have to look out for taxpayers and we feel that we're getting nickel and dimed a lot so, no doubt, if there's a carbon tax comes in, some people will be upset. The opposition, perhaps, will be upset.

I think, if you show that you're going to bat for Islanders a little bit – not screaming and saying, we're going to sue you or we're not doing it – but if you show that (Indistinct) we're sticking up for you and, maybe, it could have been worse. I think people would buy in more. I think you have the opposition buy in more. Because, I'll be annoyed if – the easy one is to talk about gas, or the easy ones to talk about oil, kind of thing; the easy ones is to say we're going to create a whole bunch of programs that only people that make \$70,000 can afford to do. That's the talk about there.

Can we have that commitment that a little bit more of an update or openness about how is it going? Because when I'm out in the community, people just go: When is gas going up 12 cents a litre? I don't mean to exasperate it, but that's the talk.

I think if there was ownership of it, if we had good stuff, I think it would go over well.

Mr. Trivers: Hear, hear!

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: I appreciate how the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid has said this and put it in that broader scope.

We're pretty confident that we'll have, in this House, before Mothers Day, the climate change action plan. On the basis of that, we'll be in a firmer position to engage here on those larger questions you're asking.

Let me acknowledge, that the larger piece that the Member from Morell-Mermaid is raising is how Islanders can do their part. How they can take some ownership in this, and, indeed, achieve our carbon reduction targets. It's in that context that we'll be in better shape to see what the elements are.

I totally accept that this is something that we need to have here and get out there. That the provision, coming back to the estimates, that the provision that's here and the rather significant numbers on the low carbon economy fund, will turn out to be significant in achieving those targets.

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

Ms. Biggar: Just to add to that, Madam Chair.

One of the reasons we implemented the reduction of the residential rate on electricity is to move Islanders more towards a different kind of heating option. We took it off, also, on propane. We took it off on wood pellets, and on firewood. It's to encourage people to move away from oil, first of all. Those are things we have already implemented and announced.

As I said: when we get to my budget under energy efficiency, we have a number of

programs that we will be rolling out – new programs and, in addition to that, some enhanced programs – that will benefit Islanders and give them options on how they can invest in ways to help them, but also to help reduce our carbon emissions.

It's all tied together with my department, with efficiency, with what Islanders can do and with what climate change.

Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Chair.

I appreciate, minister and Premier, you are understanding what I'm trying to get at, here because I don't want to be out there screaming that: I can't believe you're putting up gas 12 cents, versus here's actually what you can do to help yourself, rather than government having to come and put it on this. I appreciate you guys understand that and I appreciate you understanding my opinion, that a little bit more openness on this could go a long way.

Openness, but, you know, just communication on it, so thank you.

Mr. Trivers: Hear, hear!

Chair: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you.

Minister, a minute ago, you mentioned about being part of the Point Lepreau project over there. What's the status on that?

My understanding, the partners have gone to the federal government to – on the over-expenditures of that, over-budgeting, where does that stand at?

Chair: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, is this something that you'll be discussing in your budget?

Ms. Biggar: It will be and we will be happy to have that information when I come to the floor.

Chair: Are you okay with that?

Mr. Fox: Great. That would be great.

Chair: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: I mentioned though, minister, you talked about the plan to reduce carbon coming forward, what you stated. Who will it target?

Mr. R. Brown: What's that?

Mr. Fox: Who will the plan target?

Mr. R. Brown: The plan will be a challenge to all Islanders to reduce carbon. It's an Island-wide project and we all have to participate in reducing carbon. It will be a plan. The minister of energy will be coming to the floor and showing her plan in reducing carbon.

The carbon action plan will show further reductions in carbons in other areas. But it's each and every Islander has to participate in reducing carbon.

Mr. Fox: You're saying each and every Islander, so are you talking about each and every Islander and every business and every user of a fossil fuel?

Mr. R. Brown: Our challenge is to reduce to meet the target of the Pan-Canada agreement. We think, with the plan we're putting forward, will reduce – we'll meet those targets.

Mr. Fox: You're avoiding the question.

Will this target, or will this plan, involve every Islander, every business, every industry, every user of a fossil fuel in the Province of Prince Edward Island?

Mr. R. Brown: We've indicated that one of the projects or one of the things of a successful approach to reducing carbon is moving from oil to electricity. The minister of energy will be presenting her plan on that, and its electrification.

If we can take 30,000 litres of fuel out of a system, which is 90,000 tonnes of carbon out, that takes us a long way there. At the same time, I know it's hard to believe to some people, but we can reduce carbon and

save money at the same time. Heat pumps have shown us that.

People across Prince Edward Island have converted to heat pumps, and you get a 50% reduction in your heat costs right away. It's a phenomenal technology. Who would ever think a windmill turning in West Cape sending energy down to a home to turn a little fan would push the air through and to take the energy out of that air and put it back into the house? It's phenomenal technology.

We're ahead of the curve in it. Islanders were ahead of the curve in it. It's just things that Islanders have embraced, and if you went to the home show, the last home show, at least – there were five companies there promoting heat pumps, and that's every Islander. If a person changes their house – oh, that's an Islander.

Mr. Fox: I'm still not satisfied with the answer, and I'll come back to that in a second.

What about on what you just said about electricity and technology is a wonderful thing and getting people off oil onto electricity? What about the people that can't get off oil? What are we going to do for those people?

Mr. R. Brown: I'd say the minister of energy will be bringing forth a phenomenal program to assist people.

Mr. Fox: I want to go back again.

Why won't you say whether this strategy plan coming forward, this carbon reduction plan, is it going to touch everybody? Is it only going to be the people living in houses? Or is it going to touch everybody? Doesn't matter if you're a farmer, you're a fisher, you're growing potatoes or you're whatever?

Every industry in PEI – is it going to touch everybody?

Mr. R. Brown: When the minister of energy gets to the floor, you'll see the projects that she's putting forward.

Mr. Fox: Okay, so –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. Fox: This target reduction plan, how does that take into consideration what is being done already by the province and where we stand on carbon emission outputs?

Chair: Did we just have a full discussion on that?

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. Fox: We did?

Chair: Yeah.

Mr. Fox: Okay, I can go back and read Hansard.

That's fine for now.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

Minister, I appreciated the example you gave of the weight of the fixed link as compared to how much carbon we put into – I've never heard that before and I think it's useful for people to have a concrete – literally in this case, a concrete example of what that is because we talk in millions of tonnes, billions of tonnes, and you can't get a sense of that. That's a lot of carbon from a tiny little place like PEI so you extrapolate that out to the country, the whole nation, and you get a sense of the scope of the problem here.

I'm interested to talk about – this whole discussion has been essentially, although it's sort of happening beneath the radar, on the notion of carbon pricing and how this province is going to come to terms with that and I think it's important that we know that putting a price on carbon is a mechanism to change behaviour. It's about changing behaviour. We want to be able to have warm showers. We want to be able to have cold beer, and we can do that in a dirty way or we can do it in a clean way. A well-constructed, well-implemented policy of carbon pricing will allow us to do that.

We don't have to sacrifice our standard of living. In fact, we can perhaps improve our standard of living and do it in a sensible and responsible way.

However, the point made by Borden-Kinkora about: What do we do for those Islanders who are not able to invest in the technologies which will allow them to not have to pay more? In fact, maybe they will save money if we put carbon pricing in when people make the right choices, or the choices to cleaner energies, they will actually end up saving monies. It's not going to cost them a thing.

If we do carbon pricing in a way that the money is returned to Islanders, then, actually, you could be better off if you make certain choices. But, there is a certain segment of society, because they would not have the capital funds available to them, to make that choice. What are we going to do for that segment of our community?

Mr. R. Brown: The Climate Change Secretariat in the department of energy has put together a plan and the minister will be on the floor with the plan of energy, and our work with Maritime Electric, and the City of Summerside.

All we have to do is look at the City of Summerside and take the phenomenal examples they have done. They have a wind farm up there, an eight-meg wind farm, 12 meg, and at nighttime they were spinning their wind – they were dumping electricity. They were literally dumping it because nobody wanted to buy it at 2:00 a.m. in the morning. The town came along and said: Well, what can we do with that energy we're dumping at night and getting nothing for it? The town – they have a phenomenal group of people up in Summerside, I'd say, when it comes to their energy.

They have 350 homes now on ceramic brick heat. They heat the bricks at night. That heat then is used the next day and again, at nighttime when they would have been dumping energy, that energy now is going in. They're charging their residents a lower rate. There are all kinds of things we can do in terms of that, and Summerside – a big solar panel farm they have up there, they have electric rechargers right there.

One of the things we're looking at in our department is that any new home should have the capacity – not the full wiring system, but the wiring to do electric charger in their home and maybe put the smart metre

on at the same time right now. Instead of doing a big conversion right across, start right now. Start small, and that's what Summerside did and they're a leader when it comes.

We have the wind farm up west that is checking out storage batteries. There's a lot of potential there. We have a lot of smart people on Prince Edward Island doing a lot of innovative things.

Do you want to continue?

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

Ms. Biggar: As the minister mentioned, there are a lot of initiatives that have been implemented. We are working and have put together a good plan that will benefit a cross section of Islanders from incomes right across PEI.

I just can't announce those today, but we have announced several. One of them is the new home construction. We did announce that, where you can get up to \$5,000 if you're building a new home. We are very cognizant of ways that we can help reduce energy, but also help Islanders. We will have a whole gamut of programs from low income right across the spectrum that will benefit Islanders as part of our low carbon economy fund program.

That's all I can tell you today.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

I appreciate that much so, minister, and I think everybody else on this side of the House, anyway, looks forward to seeing what this strategy is and I have great faith in the secretariat. Todd Dupuis, is it, who is –

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Yeah.

Wonderful guy and I really look forward to seeing the details of this plan.

I'm wondering whether, without giving anything away, minister, the trend in some parts of the world these days when it comes

to wind energy, and that's our big resource here of course, is to move that offshore and the technology there, like all things when it comes to renewable energy, has improved immensely in the recent past.

I'm wondering whether anybody has come forward or if there are any plans to develop offshore wind here by Prince Edward Island.

Ms. Biggar: We'll let the Premier take that (Indistinct)

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Chair, in a meeting I had with federal minister Catherine McKenna in early November, there was a whole room full of her people there, I said we have offshore wind, we just have land under it. They scratched that down. They said: Yeah, that's Prince Edward Island.

But, it's true. Rhode Island is spending clean fortunes. The UK is – and people think it's the answer. We don't have to do all that fancy engineering to deal with being out in the water because we are in the water.

Chair: We are in the water.

Mr. R. Brown: We are in the water.

Premier MacLauchlan: And they know that.

Ms. Biggar: I'll just add to that.

We do have that wind regime on the Island. A lot of companies have to go offshore because they can't get the wind regime on land.

Part of our energy strategy, also, as you may recall, is to build another wind farm by 2020. We have started those plans, as well.

There will be some more developments on that, as well, on that front.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thanks, Chair.

I appreciate, Premier, what you just said, and, to a certain extent that's true, but even offshore here, we have the wind regime, of course, mapped for the Island and that's a

huge advantage to us, but offshore the wind if, approximately, depending on where you go, 25% higher than it is onshore, which means you actually get 50% more power. It's not linear. It's whatever the math is on that.

There is still advantage in moving them offshore strictly from an energy output point of view, but also avoid the NIMBY problem; people who do not want these for, sometimes perfectly legitimate reasons, in their communities. So, moving them offshore, if it's technically feasible. If we can build a fixed link on the strata that we have here, we should be able to build windmills off-shore, but you're saying you're not pursuing that, or is any private investor come forward?

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

Ms. Biggar: At this time, hon. member, we haven't explored that because of the cost, economies of scale that we have to build into when we're doing wind farms. You have to build in the cost of what that's going to cost you to build.

It's Islanders that are paying for the wind farms, down the road, because they are assets that belong to the wind corp. At this time, we have not looked at, I should say. I shouldn't say we haven't look at. Obviously we know what the technology is required, but when you weigh that off of what it would be to invest in something offshore.

We are looking to invest in other technologies, certainly, that we can help with our wind energy. One of the best things that we can ever hope to develop here, in the near future, and it's coming, is that wind storage capacity, which will change the way that we can do things. That technology is being developed more efficiently every day. We are working towards that, in combination with other things that we are doing right across the Island, whether it's wind, whether it's biomass, whether it's our efficiency PEI programs that are going to save Islanders millions of dollars.

It's a combination of things that we will be doing. But, taking the cost of what it would require to put windmills in the Strait would more than be exorbitantly compared to what

we can do on land, and still get the wind regime that we need, in order to have, efficient wind production here on PEI.

I'm sure we can get you the wind stats of what's available across the Island, but doing them offshore, at this time, is not economically feasible. We can do it in other ways. That's where we are, right now.

Chair: The hon. Premier, did you have a comment?

Premier MacLauchlan: It was just to ask, Chair – this is a great discussion –

Ms. Biggar: Get back (Indistinct)

Premier MacLauchlan: – but I'm wondering if we could come back to the –

Chair: Thank you –

Premier MacLauchlan: – section.

Chair: – I was getting there.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay, in that case I'll just say thank you for mentioning this storage is the missing link here to deal with the intermittency, whether it's solar or wind or any other renewable resource. That is moving on leaps and bounds. Estimates are, within the next decades that will be largely solved, in terms, of its effectiveness and also its affordability.

Ms. Biggar: And we want to be ready (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Absolutely.

Chair: Thank you.

Shall the section carry? Carried.

Shall the total carry? Carried.

Environmental Administration

“Appropriations provided for the management and administration of the Environment Division.” Administration: 72,400. Equipment: 2,400. Materials, Supplies and Services: 11,400. Professional

Services: 28,800. Salaries: 326,400. Travel and Training: 28,700. Grants: 130,400.

Total Environment Division: 600,500.

The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you.

Minister, I sent you a couple of questions back a little while ago about car dumps and I'm curious why we don't monitor when there's a car dump. We monitor the oil – if they're going to go crush the car, then they have to have all the fluids removed, but we have car dumps across the Island that cars are sitting there and we're not monitoring how much oils and fluids from the vehicle or press stone is actually leaking in the ground the whole time the car is sitting there in the car dump.

Why aren't we monitoring that, or putting regulations in place to stop or to limit or prevent any of those petroleum products going down into the groundwater?

Mr. R. Brown: I did take your comments under advisement. I did talk to some of the car people. I've instructed my staff to – and you bring up a good point.

When a car goes to A & S Scrap Metals, or the other metal company, all of the fluids have to be drained before it's crushed because – and there are strict rules around that and those rules are being applied to. But, there are a number of car sites out there. I'm going to Kensington, there's a big one out there.

I've instructed my staff to come up with a plan of going around and reviewing that. Because, you're right there is a lot of oil, sitting there, on the ground, and we have to make sure that it stays where it is. If it's not going to stay, if it's being leaking out of the car, we'll want to the car yard, I guess you can call it, to remove them.

We're moving towards getting derelict cars off the Island quicker. If it's going to be sitting for 25-30 years, and they think these guys run around and book 20, 30, 40 years from now, somebody is going to buy the car for \$100,000. We've got to protect the environment first and foremost.

Mr. Fox: Right.

I'll thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Mr. R. Brown: No, great point.

Mr. Fox: I think it's a good move in the right direction by the department.

Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

I just want to ask a specific question about a situation in my district.

Minister, you may or may not be aware of this, but in the Strathgartney Provincial Park, I got a contacted by a constituent the other day. Actually, I don't know if he lives in my district, but he was walking Strathgartney park, which is in my district, and on one of the trails down by the, the creekside trail, I think it is, he came across some empty oil barrels, but most worryingly for him, there was a very large flatbed trailer, the sort that you would haul a digger or something like that on.

His concern is, like many parts on PEI, that would have, at one time, private land it's now – he is concerned that that has not been cleaned up in the years that it has been a park. I'm wondering if you have any plans to do that. You may not know about it. Can I –

Mr. R. Brown: Is that provincial land?

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's provincial land. It's within, it's in Strathgartney park.

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Can I send you information on that, minister?

Mr. R. Brown: Sure, yeah. We'll get her cleaned up.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I think it's important that it is, especially after the comment you just made.

Great.

Mr. R. Brown: No, thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

A couple of questions related to what the Member from Borden-Kinkora and the Leader of the Third Party were asking.

The first one is, as the Member from Tignish-Palmer Road asking questions today, I do have a few areas in my district where people dump garbage and old washing machines, TVs, all this kind of stuff. It's really not necessary, as the minister pointed out. You can go drop these off free of charge.

Is there any money in the budget for putting up signs at some of these locations where, I think, historically people probably dumped there so they think they still can? Is that something that might be in the budget, to put up these signs?

And, maybe even go a step further, and maybe this is too much appeasement, but maybe even just putting a dumpster and parking it there. And so then they can just dump it, and you can haul the dumpster away. I don't know.

Mr. R. Brown: I think we heard a good announcement today from the minister of transportation that she is going to extend the Saturday hours at the dump sites across Prince Edward Island to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Trivers: 4 p.m.?

Ms. Biggar: Until 2:00 p.m.

Chair: Thank –

Mr. R. Brown: We tried.

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Chair: Thank you, minister.

Mr. R. Brown: Okay, thank you.

Chair: You're okay?

Mr. Trivers: Yeah, my next question –

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. R. Brown: Okay, good.

Thank you.

Mr. Trivers: Along the lines of the people who are stockpiling cars in their yard, I definitely agree people should have the right to use their property as seen fit, but I do get a lot of complaints about unsightly properties.

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Mr. Trivers: I think that's administered by your department here.

I was wondering where is the line drawn. I have some properties in my district where there are hundreds of cars stockpiled. This is not a couple of old cars in the yard, right?

Mr. R. Brown: Yeah, hon. member, I agree with you. I agree 100% with you.

If we're going to be a tourism destination for Prince Edward Island, we got to protect our landscapes. Gilbert Clements did it in the 1970s when he banned signs all across Prince Edward Island. He was almost lynched for it, but he stuck to his guns and with that policy, is one of the major reasons we have a major tourism industry here on Prince Edward Island.

Action has to be taken in this area to make sure that unsightly properties are not unsightly anymore. I've instructed my staff to start getting to work on it.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you and I'll pursue that again.

Mr. R. Brown: Now, don't be coming back three days later and saying: You're being too hard on this fellow.

Mr. Trivers: No. I'll pursue that again. I'll let you be the bad guy.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Minister, just following up on the last questions here from Rustico-Emerald on the unsightly properties; I know I've had a couple of calls in my district and I went through the channels, and I guess it's quite the channel to get to the end result.

From what I'm being told, sometimes it takes a year or a year and a half to get rectified. I'm just curious why it takes so long to get sorted out.

Mr. R. Brown: You being a former councillor, you know how hard unsightly properties are.

We take the complaints. We go investigate the complaints. We tell the resident that we do have a complaint. The resident usually says: Okay, I'm going to clean it up. There's a timeframe there and we continue to try to work with the residents on getting their unsightly properties cleaned up.

Again, I've instructed the staff that we've got to shorten those timeframes; one or two warnings and then we've got to look at cleaning it up as a province and bill it against the property owner. It's a successful program in the City of Charlottetown.

Again, another program that was shied upon or – work with the residents, but at certain points in time you have to go in and you have to do it. Usually when you're ready to go in and they know they're going to get a bill on their property bill, a lean against their property, they clean it up pretty quick.

Mr. MacKay: One concern I've got with the length of time, and I'll use one example; there was an old building, basically that hasn't been used in years, and the wind got a hold of the metal roof and started ripping the metal off. Well, it was in a residential area where there were kids playing and neighbours and so forth, so it was almost a safety concern, I guess right? The neighbours were concerned if the wind caught it, a piece of metal was going to fly off the roof, which actually did take place.

Something like that, is there any way we can speed the process up to get that rectified sooner?

Mr. R. Brown: Well, I'll take it from the Legislature today, and the comments made

today in the Legislature, that we're committed – all of us are committed to unsightly properties and making sure they're cleaned up. We'll speed up the process – and it's a good thing to do because if we're going to be a major tourism attraction, we want to keep our view scapes that way.

Mr. MacKay: That's great.

Thank you, minister.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Ms. Biggar: Call the hour.

Chair: Hon. members, the hour has been called.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration of the grant of supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, this House adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 26th, at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Enjoy your evening.

The Legislature adjourned until Thursday, April 26th, at 2:00 p.m.