

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Colin LaVie

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

First Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly

Thursday, 13 June 2019

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MINISTRIES AND POSITIONS

Agriculture and Land; Justice and Public Safety; Attorney General	Bloyce Thompson
Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture	Matthew MacKay
Education and Lifelong Learning; Environment, Water and Climate Change..	Bradley G. Trivers
Finance; Deputy Premier; (Responsible for Status of Women).....	Darlene Compton
Fisheries and Communities	Jamie Fox
Health and Wellness	James Aylward
Premier (President of the Executive Council; Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister Responsible for Indigenous Relations; Minister Responsible for Acadian and Francophone Affairs)	Dennis King
Social Development and Housing	Ernie Hudson
Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy	Steven Myers
Government House Leader	Sidney MacEwen
Government Whip	Cory Deagle

OPPOSITION (G)

Leader of the Opposition	Dr. Peter Bevan-Baker
Opposition House Leader	Hannah Bell
Opposition Whip	Lynne Lund

THIRD PARTY (L)

Leader of the Third Party	Robert Mitchell
Third Party House Leader	Sonny Gallant
Third Party Whip	Robert Henderson

OCCUPANTS OF THE CHAIR

Speaker	Colin LaVie
Deputy Speaker	Hal Perry

DISTRICTS AND MEMBERS

D # 1 – Souris-Elmira	Colin LaVie (PC)
D # 2 – Georgetown-Pownal.....	Steven Myers (PC)
D # 3 – Montague-Kilmuir	Cory Deagle (PC)
D # 4 – Belfast-Murray River	Darlene Compton (PC)
D # 5 – Mermaid-Stratford	Michele Beaton (G)
D # 6 – Stratford-Keppoch.....	James Aylward (PC)
D # 7 – Morell-Donagh.....	Sidney MacEwen (PC)
D # 8 – Stanhope-Marshfield.....	Bloyce Thompson (PC)
D # 9 – Charlottetown-Hillsborough Park	TBD
D # 10 – Charlottetown-Winsloe	Robert Mitchell (L)
D # 11 – Charlottetown-Belvedere	Hannah Bell (G)
D # 12 – Charlottetown-Victoria Park	Karla Bernard (G)
D # 13 – Charlottetown-Brighton	Ole Hammarlund (G)
D # 14 – Charlottetown-West Royalty.....	Gord McNeilly (L)
D # 15 – Brackley-Hunter River.....	Dennis King (PC)
D # 16 – Cornwall-Meadowbank.....	Heath MacDonald (L)
D # 17 – New Haven-Rocky Point	Peter Bevan-Baker (G)
D # 18 – Rustico-Emerald.....	Bradley G. Trivers (PC)
D # 19 – Borden-Kinkora	Jamie Fox (PC)
D # 20 – Kensington-Malpeque	Matthew MacKay (PC)
D # 21 – Summerside-Wilmot	Lynne Lund (G)
D # 22 – Summerside-South Drive.....	Steve Howard (G)
D # 23 – Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke	Trish Altass (G)
D # 24 – Evangeline-Miscouche.....	Sonny Gallant (L)
D # 25 – O’Leary-Inverness	Robert Henderson (L)
D # 26 – Alberton-Bloomfield.....	Ernie Hudson (PC)
D # 27 – Tignish-Palmer Road	Hal Perry (L)

G-Green Party; L-Liberal Party; PC-Progressive Conservative Party

Members and Districts

Altass, Trish (G).....	Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke
Aylward, James (PC)	Stratford-Keppoch
Beaton, Michele (G).....	Mermaid-Stratford
Bell, Hannah (G).....	Charlottetown-Belvedere
Bernard, Karla (G)	Charlottetown-Victoria Park
Bevan-Baker, Peter (G).....	New Haven-Rocky Point
Compton, Darlene (PC)	Belfast-Murray River
Deagle, Cory (PC).....	Montague-Kilmuir
Fox, Jamie (PC)	Borden-Kinkora
Gallant, Sonny (L)	Evangeline-Miscouche
Hammarlund, Ole (G).....	Charlottetown-Brighton
Henderson, Robert (L)	O’Leary-Inverness
Howard, Steve (G)	Summerside-South Drive
Hudson, Ernie (PC).....	Alberton-Bloomfield
King, Dennis (PC).....	Brackley-Hunter River
LaVie, Colin (PC).....	Souris-Elmira
Lund, Lynne (G)	Summerside-Wilmot
MacDonald, Heath (L).....	Cornwall-Meadowbank
MacEwen, Sidney (PC).....	Morell-Donagh
MacKay, Matthew (PC).....	Kensington-Malpeque
McNeilly, Gord (L).....	Charlottetown-West Royalty
Mitchell, Robert (L).....	Charlottetown-Winsloe
Myers, Steven (PC).....	Georgetown-Pownal
Perry, Hal (L).....	Tignish-Palmer Road
Thompson, Bloyce (PC).....	Charlottetown-Hillsborough Park
Trivers, Bradley G. (PC).....	Rustico-Emerald

G-Green Party; L-Liberal Party; PC-Progressive Conservative Party

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Clerk (Joseph A. Jeffrey): Welcome everybody. Please be seated.

Welcome to this first order of business for the 66th General Assembly. I am going to read the following letter.

Government House
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
June 6th, 2019

Joseph A. Jeffrey
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
197 Richmond Street
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Dear Mr. Jeffrey,

I am directed by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to indicate through you to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly that Her Honour is constrained from opening the first session of the 66th General Assembly of this Province until such time as Honourable Members have elected one from among their numbers as Speaker of the House.

Further, Her Honour is anxious for the Honourable Members to know that she will proceed immediately to the opening of the session when one such Member is duly elected as Speaker.

I have the Honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

Cindy Cheverie
Private Secretary

Hon. members, pursuant to Rule 9(3) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to advise that the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received two written notices of intention to seek the Speakership of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Notice has been received from the following Members: Mr. Colin LaVie, the Honourable Member for Souris-Elmira; and Mr. Hal Perry, the Honourable Member for Tignish-Palmer Road.

Accordingly, Honourable Members, and pursuant to Section 3 of the *Legislative Assembly Act* and the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, it is now my intention to commence with the secret ballot election of Speaker.

Eligible candidates are as just indicated and a list of all members eligible for election as Speaker has been placed on each Members' desk.

I will ask Members of the Legislative Assembly to come forward to cast their ballots at either voting booths on the table simply by marking an 'X' in the box of your choice. After all members present have had an opportunity to cast their ballot, the House will stand recessed as the Clerk Assistants and I count the ballots. Pursuant to Rule 9(6), "A candidate must receive the majority of votes cast to be elected."

Once the count is complete, we will return to the Chamber and announce which candidate has been elected as Speaker of the House.

I would now ask members to please come forward to the Table, beginning with the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. You will receive a ballot, you can go to either of the voting booths provided, and mark your ballot with an 'X'.

[Voting took place]

Clerk: I believe everyone has had the chance to vote.

All hon. members wishing to vote now have had an opportunity to cast their ballot for Speaker.

We will now retire from the Chamber for the count. The House will stand recessed until we return, at which time I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to ring the bell.

[Recess]

Clerk: Please be seated

Honourable members, the Clerk Assistants and I have counted the ballots and wish to advise that the hon. Colin LaVie, Souris-Elmira, has been elected as Speaker of this House. I now invite the hon. Premier and the

hon. Leader of the Opposition to escort the hon. Member for Souris-Elmira to his chair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier King: Congratulations.

Speaker (Colin LaVie): Thank you.

First of all, I want to thank you all for showing me your support, it's a real honour to sit in the Speaker's chair and represent each and every one of you. I just want to say, we're all new inside this rail and we have different portfolios; everyone is equal inside these rails and some of us are probably going to be nervous. Some of us are nervous. So, just bear with everyone that's in here.

I know it's going to be a little nerve-racking the first few days. I know when I was elected in 2011, I was also nervous for the first few days, the first few weeks – still nervous today.

I just want to thank everyone for showing me your support; I really do appreciate that from the bottom of my heart. I never slept for three weeks now. For that, I want to thank for you for putting me back to sleep.

Hon. members, it is my pleasure today to express my grateful acknowledgement of the honour conferred on me by the House in electing me to be its Speaker.

Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience in parliamentary procedure, I would have hesitated in accepting a position involving such – General Assembly after our Speaker has been elected, I hereby propose to leave the Chair and – I missed a page.

Well, they double-side here, I'm not used to being double-sided.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) environment.

Speaker: – responsibility were it not for the fact that I know I shall be able, at all times, to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance and kindness of every Member of the Assembly.

Again, my thanks to you and I now submit myself to the House.

Premier King: I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that Mr. Hal Perry, hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, be elected Deputy Speaker of this House.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Premier King: All right, I'm new too.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Government House Leader, that a Special Committee on Committee's be appointment, said Committee to prepare and report back with all dispatch, a list of Honourable Members to compose the Standing Committee's ordered pursuant to the Rules of this House and that said Committee on Committee's be composed of the following Members:

Hon. Government House Leader as Chair; hon. Opposition House Leader; hon. Third Party House Leader; hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy and the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. members, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor having declared that she would proceed to open the 1st Session of the 66th General Assembly after a Speaker has been elected, I hereby propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of Her Honour's arrival.

May it please your Honour:

It is my duty to inform you that the Legislative Assembly has been pleased to elect me to the important and time-honoured position of Speaker and I hereby present myself for your Honour's approval.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that she is fully sensible to your zeal for the public service and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the Office to which you have been elected by this Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, she doth now readily approve of its choice, and, allow and confirm you to be its Speaker.

Speaker: Your Honour having been pleased to approve the choice of the Assembly in electing me to be its Speaker, it has now

become my duty, in the name of and on behalf of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all of their ancient and accustomed rights and privileges, most especially; freedom from arrest, freedom of speech in debate, access to your Honour when they think the welfare of the public service demands it, and that the most favourable consideration be put on all of their proceedings.

And, on my own behalf, I beg to request that any wrong of mine not be imputed to the Assembly.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, Her Honour has the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's person and government in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all its proceedings. Her Honour doth most willingly and readily grant and allow them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

And, with respect to yourself, Mr. Speaker, though Her Honour is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, Her Honour will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and actions.

Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry: Good afternoon.

Bonne après-midi.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, and to wish you success as hon. members of this distinguished Assembly.

Au nom de Sa Majesté la Reine, il me fait plaisir de vous saluer et de vous souhaiter plein de succès dans la première session de la 66^e Assemblée générale de notre province.

On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, it gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to you and wish you a successful first session of the 66th General Assembly of our Province.

I wish to advise that my government is prepared to formally commence the first session of the 66th General Assembly,

tomorrow, Friday June 14th, with the reading by myself, of the Speech From The Throne.

Thank you.

Merci, bienvenue.

Speaker: Hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. MacEwen: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that this House adjourn until Friday, June 14, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

It's on here where I can thank everybody, but I thanked you already and I appreciate everything you've done for me, and I'm looking forward to working with each and every one of you over the next number of years.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 14th, at 11:00 a.m.