

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Colin LaVie

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The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's my honour to stand here again today to welcome everyone back to the session. It's nice to see everybody here on this wonderful day.

I did have the wonderful opportunity this morning to attend the kickoff for Old Home Week, the announcement for Old Week and the Gold Cup and Saucer Parade, joined by the Minister of Agriculture and Land, the Minister of Fisheries and Communities and the Leader of the Third Party. It was a wonderful event to be there and they announced at that time that Old Home Week is seven weeks away.

We had a late spring; summer is here and will fade away fast, so get out and enjoy it.

I want to say hi to my 84-year-old mother, who is watching in Georgetown and I want to say hi to everybody in the gallery, in particular my friend Patricia Bourque who is here, a wonderful, talented Mi'kmaq photographer who started taking pictures professionally when I was working in the Mi'kmaq confederacy for the Kwimu Messenger and she's become an exceptional photographer and I'm very proud that one of her amazing photographs is in the Premier's Office hanging there. It makes me proud everyday to see how far she's come, and look at how far she will go in the future.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I would like to welcome everybody back to today's proceedings here in the Legislature and of course, to everybody who joins us today in the gallery. This morning I, too, had the pleasure of being on the road. I was with

the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning and Environment, Water and Climate Change

I was at the environmental awards that were held in Spring Park School this morning and amongst the winners were Jo-Ann Esseghaier Grade 4 class from Spring Park School done amazing work and I'll be speaking a little bit about that in a minute.

Also, two residents of my own district, District 17, Marion Copleston and Tony Reddin were among the winners of the Environmental Awards, so I want to send out a special congratulation to them.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Certainly, I'd like to welcome everyone, a large crowd into our public gallery today and a good friend of mine, Cheryl MacLean is back in the House today. It's always a pleasure to see Cheryl, as well as Patricia Bourque who I've come to know quite well over the past number of years, It's great to have you all in.

To all Islanders that are viewing in from home today, I would like to welcome them into proceedings. As the Premier said, I also had the privilege to be over at Red Shores today to get a glimpse of Old Home Week and what it will like at the livestock shows, at the entertainment stages and for harness racing as well. I did hear that seven week period be announced today, so I'm certainly hoping for your looking at some way that we can shut the House down on Gold Cup and Saucer day, that we can at least go and view the parade. But you know, if you can't, we'll all be here and doing our work here as well.

Also just in closing, I'd like to say hello to Karen Lavers who is out in District 9 these days knocking on doors, talking to her neighbours, being well received and I wish her all the well in the coming days as she moves forward to do her part for public service on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just say hello to Matthew Murphy, from the District 19. Matthew has been also appointed to the RCMP's committee on the National Youth Advisory Group and congratulations Matthew on that.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

Ms. Bernard: Welcome back everyone and welcome to the people in the gallery. Welcome to Gerard Deveau and too, I'd just like to say hello to Rebecca Procter, I met you a couple weeks ago. She's a good friend of my niece Kathleen Manns. A special welcome, I know a couple people have already recognized her, but my cousin Patricia Bourque who is here with us today in the gallery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I'll call on the hon. Member of Charlottetown-West Royalty.

Mr. McNeilly: Yes, I'd like to just say hi to everyone watching in District 14, Charlottetown-West Royalty and it was a great pleasure to be here yesterday and today and welcome everybody from the gallery.

Just wanted to say hello to Patricia Bourque too, as well, I know we do some work together with the Island Storm. She's a great photographer for that team and gives back with her photography so I'd like to acknowledge her for that. Say hello to the Island storm players out there.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning, Environment, Water and Climate Change.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just wanted to welcome everyone here to the gallery, especially Cheryl MacLean, great to see the media here again today, nice to see you, especially Joey Blacquièrè.

I wanted to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that all the people watching from District 18 Rustico-Emerald, we're having an ice cream and

conversation tonight, town hall out at the New Glasgow Fire Hall starting at 7:00 pm. If anyone here wants to drop by, feel free as well, we should have lots of ice cream.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

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

It's a pleasure to rise again today in the gallery and say hello to everyone back in the District of Evangeline-Miscouche. I'd also like to welcome Mr. Deveau to the gallery, he spent quite a bit of time in Miscouche in his younger years and it's nice to see you here today.

Anyways, thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

Celebrate Indigenous Cultures

Ms. Bernard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Friday June 21st is National Indigenous People's Day. This is a day for all Canadian's to recognize, appreciate and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, languages, spirituality and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit's and Métis people.

Yesterday, the Premier and the hon. Leader of the Third Party stood to speak on the report of the inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and the horror surrounding this collection of personal stories.

In spite of this, there is much to celebrate in terms of resiliency and creativity in our Indigenous cultures on PEI. One such example is my talented cousin, Patricia Bourque. She is a Mi'kmaq artist who resides in Charlottetown and whose work hangs in many offices across the country, including Senator Brian Francis' office, as well as our own Premier's Office. Her work

can also be found in the National Geographic magazine, among others.

Patricia has a new art show opening at The Guild. Her first show entitled, “My Two Worlds” explored her unique experience growing up as a Mi’kmaq person adopted into an Acadian family and the collision of these two realities. Her upcoming show is entitled Beyond the Regalia. It is a series of photographic portraits of Mi’kmaq women from her traditional territory of Mi’kma’ki. Her goal is to bring honour back to these women.

Patricia had this to say about it: When I see our women I see beauty, dignity, strength and sacredness. It is my hope that visitors to the show will make the connections; that they will cease to make assumptions about these women, and see beyond the images created by the media and the justice system. My hope is that viewers get to know us, see who we really are or were. I want these images to start conversations, to make people feel, think, understand and perhaps walk away with new perceptions, new beliefs about First Nations and about themselves.

Her show opens Wednesday, July 10th, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at The Guild and runs for six weeks. I hope many of you, if not all of you, will join me there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Single-use Plastic Ban

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

Plastics are amazing. They can be molded, extruded, cast and blown into seemingly limitless shapes, and films and foams, or even drawn into fibers for textiles. We use them to build car parts and components of our homes, in appliances, fixtures and furniture – they are literally everywhere we look.

Plastics are mostly made from oil. But only about 4% of fossil fuels we use end up as plastics – almost all of the rest used for transportation, energy and heating. In that

respect, using oil to make plastic is actually one of the more durable ways that we utilize this incredibly versatile substance.

You could think of fossil fuel deposits as a finite but incredibly precious endowment created over eons on this planet. It’s like a geological bank account locked away inside the Earth that took millions of years to accumulate, and that we have been drawing down for our use at an alarming rate.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, we have been digging it up and setting fire to it. Without coal, oil and gas, we wouldn’t have been able to power the industrial revolution. These hydrocarbons are some of the most complex natural polymers in the world, and it is that complexity that makes them suitable to manufacture plastics.

A central problem with plastics, though, is in how we have chosen to use them. Because it is possible to produce plastics so cheaply, many are specifically designed and made to be disposed of after a single use and that’s a shame. Indeed, it’s plain stupid as they end up choking up our landfills, or worse, our rivers and oceans. So it has been encouraging to see legislation come forward in this House and, indeed, around the world, which recognizes the unsustainability of this habit that we have developed.

This morning, along with the minister for the environment, I attended the PEI Environmental Awards Ceremony where Jo-Ann Esseghaier’s Grade 4 class at Spring Park Elementary School was honoured for the work that they have done in reducing single-use plastics in their school.

Once again, I was reminded of the leadership role that our youth are playing in cleaning up the messes that my generation has created for them, and showing us new ways to live well on this Earth without trashing the planet.

Congratulations to them and many thanks to them all for their efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Panmure Island Lighthouse

Mr. Deagle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to speak to the importance of the well-known landmark in my District of Montague-Kilmuir, the Panmure Island Lighthouse.

In the past couple of years, the lighthouse has undergone major restoration efforts by people throughout the area. Whether it was putting a new coat of paint on the siding or fixing railings that had fallen into disrepair, it's clear that this landmark is held in high regard to local residents.

Not only that, but it's also a popular area for thousands of tourists each year to visit. Many tourists choose to buy a souvenir at the gift shop inside the building or want to take pictures of the picturesque shoreline view.

Even as a decommissioned lighthouse, it now serves a new purpose to anyone looking for somewhere to go on a drive this summer. Just steps from the lighthouse there is a great beach that spans the length of the causeway, which has undergone a lot of work over the last two decades to protect against the impacts of climate change.

Prince Edward Island has the unique ability to revive and sustain its historic landmarks thanks to the dedication of its people. I would like to thank all the volunteers that put in endless hours each year to keep this lighthouse open. I encourage anyone looking to take an evening drive or anyone in the area to visit the Panmure Island Lighthouse this summer. The view is definitely worth it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive for bringing this forward. It is indeed to have good policy in government.

I can confirm that the staff in the department are in the process of drafting the policy – is

informed by Nova Scotia model to recognize that we will land on and we will work with our province. There is still work to be done and we need to look whether this draft will address the issues that have been taken raised.

We expect to be in the position to speak on the progress in the weeks to come.

Thank you.

Questions by Members

Speaker: For our first question, I will call on the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I firstly want to thank the minister for his prompt response when it comes to providing outside legal services in his department and using the Nova Scotia situation as a model. So I really appreciate the fact that once again you came back so promptly with that.

Thank you.

The throne speech had a compelling vision about improving engagement between government politicians and the public. However, as with many things in the throne speech, there were few details about how the Premier's actual plans would be in this regard. So I would like to dig down a little bit and see what the government is actually planning to do.

Since the election, the bulk of the dialogue between the parties has happened through the House leaders. This has worked really well for the purposes, at least of organizing the business of this House, but as government stated in the throne speech we need to expand beyond this if we are to maintain an effective relationship between all members of this House.

Improvements to relationship within parties

A question to the Premier: What next steps will you be proposing for improving the working relationship between the parties?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Thank the leader opposite for the question.

I think what we would like to do is to build upon what we have been working on right now with the House leaders. I would like to – as was outlined in the throne speech, which the Leader of the Opposition took some time yesterday to suggest that I shouldn't have done, but I would like to see our standing committees work very amicably and very collaboratively on an equal footing to make sure that the discussions and decisions that take place within this Legislature are fair and equal.

So I would like for that to continue, and I would like for the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Third Party, and I to talk regularly as well, because I think it's important that we do that to make sure we are doing the best things for Prince Edward Island here.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The throne speech committed to a long-term vision for and I quote: “the fuller engagement and involvement of people and communities and the commitment to listen and respond as we work together on the issues that affect Islanders.”

Greater public engagement within government

A question to the Premier: What changes does your government intend to implement in order to achieve this vision of greater public engagement?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well as it has been articulated here many times, we are about four or five or six weeks into this, so we are working to try to build some of these plans and to expand upon some of the goals and visions that we have talked about.

I have been very adamant that it's not something that we just do alone. I think consultation, real consultation means talking, listening, and hearing. So I think if we are really going to be here to represent the people of Prince Edward Island, we have to better consult our communities, we have to better consult Islanders, we have to utilize the services in here much better.

So I think what I would like to see us do is to sort of change the way we attack some of this issues and change the way we operated in the past. I am open to seeing how that works, I'm open to suggestions to make it better, and at the end of the day our goal here is to provide good government for the people of Prince Edward Island and we're all responsible to do that in here.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Each time I try and encourage the Premier to give us details on making this vision a reality, we end up not actually with any particular, hard concrete ideas so I'll try again.

The first step in dealing with this is to identify the current problems and challenges, for example, when government sets up the adversarial public meetings that we're all so familiar with. When government does not give people all the information that they need to properly deliberate on an issue. When government solicits input from the public without any transparency about how that information is used to make decisions. Or when government disrespects the very process that they created and here I'm thinking about the debacle a couple years ago when it came to the school reviews and the schools in our rural areas.

Past practices within government

A question to the Premier: What are the past practices that you feel need to be either ended or reformed?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I have been very outspoken about many of those issues the Leader of the Opposition has just brought up and I have been very serious about trying to change the way we do business in here.

For the very first time in a long time, our ministers give briefings to the opposition. They invite them over and actually say here, this is what we are going to do. We've actually collaborated on the throne speech for the first time, all three parties talking about it. We are working towards a budgetary address with priorities from all three parties. So that is what we're trying to do here.

Also, I do – I am adamantly opposed to the former approach where you walk in to a community and say we are taking something from you. I would rather have a different discussion and try to work with communities. So yes, the Leader of the Opposition is right, we have to change, we have to learn from the past, and there are lots of examples from the past that we can look to learn from.

I'm here to learn, I'm here to listen and I'm here to do things. So yes, let us change the conversation. I think we've begun to do that, but I really hope in my heart that we're really just getting started.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Involving people in decision-making is for me a really key component in how we improve our democratic institutions. However, so far all we've had is a commitment to listen and respond, and again the Premier's answer provided us with really no details on how you plan to do that, which sounds really more to me like doing more of the same ineffective engagement that government has unfortunately become known for in the past.

Again, a question to the Premier: Do you intend to introduce new forms of more participatory and deliberative democracy or just do more of the same?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well I would suggest that the recommendations that I made in the Speech From the Throne, which seemed to have offended the leader next door, would be an exact example of what I would like to do.

Have you ever seen in this Legislature, in its history, where all three parties would have equal representation at the standing committee level? Have you ever seen in the history of this Legislature where the governing party gave up full control of these committees? No, you have not.

So that demonstrates what I'm serious about, absolutely, and I'm very genuine in that. We have to continue to move forward building upon that. I think we can look, and maybe you can suggest that we're not doing anything, maybe you can suggest that we're looking to continue doing the same. I think the actions so far would demonstrate otherwise, and I'm looking forward to continuing to show Prince Edward Islanders and this Legislature that we're actually serious about making significant changes.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I should be clear that at no point have I said you're not doing anything. I was just asking what changes we're going to make, and it's not regarding the deliberations between the parties. I am talking about public engagement – public engagement, not deliberations between the parties.

There are all kinds of tools and methods that have been developed to involve citizens in the decision-making, something that was promised in your throne speech – everything from crowd sourcing, to participatory, to budgeting, citizen juries, deliberative polling, open sourced government, citizen's assemblies, and many, many more.

Introduction of new participation tools

So could the Premier please give us some specifics about what new participation tools his government expects to introduce.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the conversations we've been having at the Cabinet table have been about how we change and better engage.

You know what, the one thing I would give credit to, I think the Leader of the Opposition and his party, have been leaders in the political process when it comes to outlining interactions with Islanders through many of those methods and I think we have to learn from that and I would like to bring some of those into the government level in terms of how all Cabinet ministers, how all departments interact with Islanders and how we change that discussion.

I have been saying from the very beginning: this is the business of the people.

I think too many times in the past we've distanced people from the decision-making process and I think that is why many people are disengaged in the political process. I'd be very interested if one of the standing committees could make some recommendations on how we better do this. I would love that type of input and I'd like to see where this could go.

Speaker: Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I ask my question, I would like to assure everyone that I'm not listening to CBC – this aid really helps me to hear every word spoken on either side of the floor.

My question to the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture: this government is entering into a contract to improve the speed and availability of Islanders for good Internet connections for all Islanders, particularly in rural areas.

The proposed contractors are Xplornet and Bell Aliant. Bell Aliant was a contractor that in the past promised and was paid to deliver high-speed Internet to all, but failed to do so.

Delivery of promises in Internet contract

I would like to ask the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture: What steps he is taking to ensure the promises in this new contract are in fact delivered.

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

Ms. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, member. Actually this was probably the first briefing I did get when I took over as minister.

About 24 hours into the job I sat down, reviewed the last RFP, which I will give credit where credit is due, government had actually been in the right line of sight with this.

I've met with the colleagues through the department. It's still not enough though.

We've reached out to the opposition party, as yourself, we've sat down, I've had some proposed ideas that I'd like to run by everybody and if you have any ideas yourself I'd certainly like to hear from you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Mr. Speaker, we did sit down and speak together and I appreciate the openness which is a new way government is being made, but I still have some questions – it seems like the minister was describing the solution as a: made in PEI solution. Can the minister explain to the public why the many local PEI Internet firms have been excluded?

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

Ms. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you member for the question.

Certainly, nobody is excluded. I've sat down with every Internet provider in Prince Edward Island, the last one this morning, we've listened to all their concerns, their proposals, some of them are in the works right now about putting proposals forward.

Some providers definitely are excited with the new form of government we're providing. I think there is an opportunity for

them all on Prince Edward Island. We are looking at each individual community – we don't want to build on top of other builders. So we're just in the process stage of waiting for proposals to come in.

Within the next two weeks you're going to see more proposals come to light.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Delivery of promises in Internet contract (further)

Mr. Hammarlund: Mr. Speaker, that sounds wonderful, but I'd like to go back to my first question, what steps you are taking to make sure that the promises are going to be fulfilled by for instance, Bell Aliant, who didn't fulfill the promises last time.

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

Ms. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One thing we're doing is making sure that whoever does it, it doesn't matter if they're big providers or they're small providers; that the expectations are lived up to. Everybody will follow by the same rules. We're offering low interest loans, as well as 50-cent dollar grants to help some of these providers out.

In the next two weeks we're providing a map to all of the providers to show how it looks on PEI and for them to provide an opportunity of input of how they'd like to see it as well.

So we are really looking forward to it, I think it's good. One thing we are going to do that I've mentioned to all the providers is that all contracts signed by me are going to be disclosed, everyone is going to be public.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you for your response.

That was my next question, if you will table the full details of the contracts.

I appreciate your efforts thank you very much.

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

Ms. MacKay: Certainly, everything like I say, will be disclosed. That was a number one priority when I went in as minister.

We've seen what happened with us in opposition and some of the road blocks so all providers have been told that whatever we sign through our department will be public and disclosed.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* was created to protect our most precious resource, our land from excessive, corporate and non-resident control. Many Islanders are now concerned that the spirit of the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* is not being upheld and that we may be losing control of our land.

Upholding spirit of Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.

A question to the Minister of Agriculture and Land: Is your government committed to upholding the spirit of the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.*?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. member, thank you for that question. The spirit will be upheld. We are going to consult with our people working with the federation and the NFU, to come up with the land use issue to solve all the concerns out there and we plan to uphold with the spirit of the law.

Thank you.

Speaker: Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Executive council approves large numbers of land transactions every

year, but a common name appears on many of these applications: Island Holdings Ltd.

Ownership of Island Holdings Ltd.

Question to the minister: Could you inform the house who owns this corporation and where they are based?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Island Holdings Ltd. is Cavendish Farms – is the company and they are under their land holdings and they are located in St. John, is their head office.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Island Holdings, as a large wealthy out-of-province corporation, is exactly the sort of land holder that the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* is meant to protect us from.

You mentioned that the corporation is under their allowable limit.

Allowable limit of aggregated land

By how much is this corporation under their allowable limit of aggregated land?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, hon. member thank you for that question as well.

I can't give the exact numbers but – and I'm not sure if I'm allowed to give the exact numbers but they are – it's one of the first things that came across our desk as new government and through Cabinet we made sure that when that came across that we were following all the regulations and they were. So, happy to announce that everything has been in the spirit of the law since we've taken government.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: On May. 21st this new Executive Council approved applications by Island Holdings Ltd. to acquire control of almost 1,100 acres of land in various areas of the province.

Upholding spirit of Lands Protection Act, P.E.I. (further)

Question to the minister: Do you think these land acquisitions that your government approved were within the spirit of the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.*?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, hon. member, yes they were.

We did the due diligence of – we actually called in IRAC to give us a full detailed report on everything that we were approving that day and everything was in the spirit of the regulations.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Mr. Speaker, Islanders want to know who owns the land of Prince Edward Island.

Land ownership

Question to the Minister: How can a member of the public find out who owns land on PEI particularly that's owned of non-residents or corporations?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, hon. member, it's important to our government as well that the land is maintained in Islanders' hands as much as we can. We want the land, the resource land identified eventually as resource land; we want to protect that land for the farmers for our next generation.

We will continue to do that and as the months ahead of us, I believe, our mandate is going to be to protect that and uphold the legislation.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

List of corporate and non-resident land owners

Ms. Beaton: As the minister has just pointed out, it currently is very difficult for the public to actually find out how much land and we understand that you want to uphold the spirit of the act, but could the minister table in this House a list of corporate and non-resident owners, including the aggregate land holdings of each?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, hon. member, I better check with my department whether that is a matter that can be brought forth but I'll have that answer for you tomorrow.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture.

During the last provincial election, the PC party promised to introduce an annual \$1 million fund to be equally divided between Prince, Queens and Kings Counties to support community-based training and programming by individual and non-for-profit groups.

Tourism funding to support not-for-profit groups

Could the minister advise the House as to when this program will be introduced?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you member.

I don't think that falls under my department but I'll do my best to answer it.

We currently fund non-profit based organization \$1 million that go throughout the province. If you include service delivery organizations such as QCRS Inclusions East, it's in the vicinity of \$10 million.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Designing fair supports for non-profit groups

Just one supplementary question to the same minister: In designing this program will the minister commit to treating Islanders fairly right across the three geographical areas?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and member.

Most definitely, that's why the program was designed. We want to make sure from tip to tip everybody is treated fairly and we're going to do our very best to do that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Robert Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is for the Premier.

Premier, the PC platform building on the strong economic and fiscal management of the previous Liberal government made many promises during the campaign. One such promise was related to the establishment of a working group on bridge and ferry tolls.

In 2016, the previous Liberal government in conjunction with Hope Air and Health PEI established a program to provide bridge toll assistance to low-income Islanders needing to attend to off-Island medical appointments.

Bridge and toll fee assistance for Islanders travelling off-Island

Premier: Will this program be maintained until this working group completes its work?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

There are two parts to that question that I'll do my best to answer both.

One of things that alarmed me more than anything in my journey to this office was knocking on doors to realize that the bridge toll was one of the most regular issues that I heard at the doors and Islander's frustration with paying for a bridge when one of the same value was being built in Montreal and there's no toll on it.

So we did commit to work with Senator Percy Downe, who has done a lot of work on that regard, and I've actually asked my staff to set up a meeting with Senator Downe hopefully by the end of this week so we can find out a little bit more of what he's working on and how we can help.

But I also want to commend the former government, the former minister as well. The Hope Air project is actually delivering fantastic results for Prince Edward Island. It's where we take a little bit of our money and it's matched with the national charity and that's providing access as the minister said and knows for Islanders to get transportation off Island for medical service when they need it and yes we will commit to keeping that in place. I don't know what will happen when it comes to the bridge toll, I hope something can, but until such time we will make sure that program is maintained.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Premier it is good that I hear there are discussions going on, there are conversations, there's work being done but that's going to take some time. So, previous work that the government was working on before the election, was looking at extending bridge toll assistance to all Islanders, not just low income Islanders, all Islanders that need to leave our province to go to off Island medical attention in any other province.

Expanding assistance to all Islanders for off-Island medical travel

Premier: Will your government commit to following through on this work and providing assistance to all Islanders that need to leave our wonderful province to attend to medical needs in other areas and commit to doing that, while this conversation is going as well?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, we are working with the Minister of Health and Wellness and throughout his department to get up to speed and review some of the discussions that were on going.

I can't stand here today and commit to that just yet because we haven't fully costed that out to the extent that we feel comfortable with but yes, it is important that we make sure that more and more of these services are offered to Islanders.

The health care delivery system as you very well know hon. member that includes us getting services in other parts of the region and in other parts of the country. We have to be mindful of that and we have to help Islanders to the extent that we can to make sure that those services can be gained. So we're working towards it but I have to stop short right now to say that we will continue it. I hope I can announce here at some point but today I can't do that.

Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, second supplementary.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Premier, in the spirit of your parties election commitments on tolls and consideration be given to those tolls, would you please ask your Minister of Health to review the programs and with a review of expanding coverage for all Islanders, that work will begin on that?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Absolutely, and matter of fact, we had a conversation today just about each one of these ministers, as you can fully appreciate,

you were in the position we were in once. There's a lot coming down on each one of us, my briefing book here, I can barely lift. We're trying to deal with a lot of programming.

There are reviews taking place within all of our different departments. If you know anything about my colleague, the Minister of Health and Wellness and I know you do, he's very, very dedicated to his job and he's very, very committed to doing the very best he can for Islander's in this regard. So if you can just stay tuned and stay with us, I really think we can get there, but I think it would be disingenuous to say that it's done today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member of Morrell-Donagh.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have questions for the Minister of Fisheries and Communities today.

Rules for wearing PFDs while fishing lobster

The issue of wearing PFDs while fishing lobster has been in the news and I would like if the minister could clarify the rules in Prince Edward Island for wearing PFDs while fishing lobster.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities

Mr. Fox. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the hon. member for his question. I had been out around the wharf and I've been talking to the industry about the use of PFDs on the water and around the workplace and I've also had briefings with OHS and Workers Compensation Board beyond use of this equipment when engaged in such activities.

I can say something that our department is looking at, when there is a fall or a risk of falling then PFDs are required to be used in the workplace, whether they are on the wharf or on the fishing boat, they are covered under the occupational health and safety or workplace rules.

Speaker: The hon. Member of Morrell-Donagh.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We've had recent tragedy on the waters this spring and I, with hundreds of other people spent a day looking for a young fisher who went overboard and it certainly makes you rethink the way you do things. I've seen many people dawn PFDs since that day and it's been heartwarming to see.

But, on the news recently I heard a member of the government talk about heavy fines and shutting down businesses and that kind of talk about enforcing PFDs and I think an education program is a much smarter way to go about it.

Education program re: PFDs

Me, myself, honestly I thought the rule was you had to have PFDs in your boat but you didn't have to wear them. Some people thought you didn't even necessarily have to have them. So I think the talk of an education program, can the Minister explain or commit to using much more of a softer approach with educating people, versus a top down heavy, you know the talk of shutting down businesses?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I can confirm that, hon. member.

I have spoken to a lot of fisheries and I have spoken to OHS. We have recommended that we need to have a very strong education plan across the province when dealing with workplace scenarios as PFDs apply, and I believe that there needs to be and educational on a very broad front.

The department and I are talking about that and we're talking about a campaign coming out in this fall.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, your second supplementary.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, minister.

As you can be aware, when people hear about it literally for the first time it kind of causes some consternation around the wharf and there's a lot of talk and a lot of feedback.

Future Fishers Program and PFDs

One idea I wonder if the minister would consider – we have a really fantastic program within his department, the Future Fishers Program. What would be the thought around a good idea of any fisher that enrolls in that program – what about giving that person to Transport Canada approved PFDs so that they have them, they wear them, they're in the boat? They set the example right off the bat as a future fisher.

It's not that big of an expense around that. I wonder, would the minister entertain the idea of giving that new entrant into the industry to new PFDs?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

Mr. Fox: Thank you very much.

The hon. member alluded to a program which the department is very proud of and that would be definitely something that we could look at. Personally, I would support that. I have no problem that if you're engaged in that Future Fishers Program, that we could provide PFDs to these future fishers going onto the water.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since becoming an MLA, I have been genuinely impressed by the level of openness and collaboration I've received from most government departments when contacting them with a range of questions. In fact, there has only been one issue I have asked about several times, both via email and phone calls, and received no response.

Use of highway staff/road crews for festivals

Question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Why is it that no one responded to my request for more information about the road crews for music festivals and specifically, the not-for-profit Rock the Boat Festival?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I love the opportunity to get up and talk about this topic.

Across Prince Edward Island, we have road crews that have a responsibility to keep the roads safe. They cut along the ditches. They patch holes. They do numerous things that are required of them in the public right-of-way.

When I first came to office I noticed that there were some requests that had come in where people were looking for them for things that didn't have to do with highway responsibilities and had more to do with concert-type activities. I asked my staff about them and as we're moving through the process trying to get answers, we got to the end result and I decided that wasn't a good use for highway staff.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Rock the Boat is an annual festival in Tyne Valley put on by a non-profit organization operated by volunteers and watershed groups. Since 2014, the organizers have been able to rely on government assistance for setting up and facilitating the festival.

After months of questions to government about support for this year's festival, the organizers received no answers and only learned that government had pulled their support when they were contacted by media.

A question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Do you think this is an appropriate way to treat a hard-working community organization?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That's absolutely untrue. A letter was sent from my department to the organizer. I will table it here later today. They are fully aware of what I have committed to.

What they asked for, they wanted loads of crushed asphalt to be put on the site. They wanted highway crews in there for 10 days. They want us to put up snow fence. They want us to create signs for them. I said the only thing that we would do under my watch would be to lend them the snow fence and we would fix up any of the signs that they had from a previous year through our sign shop in Tignish to make sure they had adequate signage that they needed.

I will table this letter later today.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What I have stated is absolutely true.

You did send a letter, that's true, dated June 12th and that was received the day after the media contacted the organizers of Rock the Boat.

At this late date, the event organizers have no time to explore other funding or employment support options to supplement this loss, and most workers seeking seasonal employment are already committed elsewhere.

A significant amount of preparation work goes into the event grounds, getting them ready, and the amount of pedestrian automobile traffic during the event could pose serious traffic concerns if a sufficient number of trained workers are not present to manage it.

Implications for festivals in communities

Question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Did you consider the implications for festivals in communities if they are unable properly staff road crews for these events on such short notice?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Across Prince Edward Island we have many great summer events.

I know, Mr. Speaker, in your own district you have the Fiddle Festival, which has been going on for 40 or more years. We don't provide them any assistance through highway crews. I know Montague has Montague Days, we don't provide them any assistance through highway crews. In Georgetown they have the Georgetown Days; we don't provide them any assistance through highway crews. In Murray River they have the fisheries festival; we don't provide them any assistance through highway crews.

The Rock the Boat Festival, through my department prior to my time, has received over \$40,000 worth of in-kind services and it's done.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: The pulling support only weeks before a festival is inappropriate and unprofessional in any case. I can somewhat understand this decision in the context of a large, private festival, but Rock the Boat is a not-for-profit event that in past years, has used proceeds from the festival to support local charities, pay off the mortgage on the local rink and install solar panels on the rink, making long-term financial and environmental gains.

A question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Why would you make a decision that hurts a community organization doing valuable work in rural PEI?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Like I said, there are community groups raising money for many things that highways does not contribute highway crews to help do. I think that's probably an appropriate measure for us to not do.

What I said when I talked to CBC about it is if I can't afford to do it for everybody, I

can't afford to do it for anybody. The day of fairness is here. The day of the people is here.

For the record, Rock the Boat received their next year's funding from tourism already in March so they have \$45,000 to spend this year – so they have enough money to hire a crew if they need to.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned, one of the major issues here is the late notice that was given to this festival that they now need to scramble to find a way to make this happen, which is very challenging for this volunteer organization.

Recently, the community has discovered that the ice surface in the Tyne Valley Arena has cracked requiring major repairs estimated at over \$900,000. Rock the Boat is a not-for-profit event that is a critical source of funding for needed infrastructure in the community.

Use of highway staff/road crews for festivals (further)

Question to the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy: Will you reconsider the decision to provide one – just one – road crew to ensure the event is successful and safe for everyone?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I spoke to the staff over in my office about this. We've talked about our responsibility when it has to do with the public right-of-way. We totally accept any responsibility that happens on the road, as we do with Cavendish Beach, as we do with any festival that has a large number of vehicles either entering or exiting the site.

The responsibility for what happens on the 60-foot right-of-way belongs to the department of highways. We will take care of that. Anything that happens on that right-of-way, we will be there to make sure that

we signal or put traffic cones down if that's what necessary to keep the people safe on the public right-of-way. I've committed to that, as well as committing to sending forward some of the products that the chair of the event has asked for, like the snow fence, like the signage and quite frankly, that's more than we've offered to other organizations.

But while I'm at it – and I talked to my department about this this morning – I said: What we have offered to do this year for Rock the Boat Festival, I am now going to offer to any community group here in Prince Edward Island. So if you need signage, we'll print it. If you want to borrow our snow fence and we're not using it, you can.

What I said, and I believed my whole life, is we have to be fair to everyone. We can't do for one and not do for the other. So from here forward, it's going to be fair right across the board regardless of where you live.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to hear that there will be supports for other community organizations. I think in terms of fairness, leaving something like this to the very last minute so an organization does not have sufficient time to make plans to find people to take on these extra tasks and to consider it in terms of their overall budget of the festival, which is very small compared to, say, a large for-profit festival compared to Cavendish, that doesn't seem very fair to me.

This decision is clearly disadvantageous to the cultural sector, yet the Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture has been silent on this issue.

Funding to festivals

A question to the Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture: What did you tell the minister of transportation when you heard this decision?

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously, when we were elected and took over the role as minister one of the first things I seen was the funding to each festival, and I believe there are approximately 60 festivals in PEI, so as you are going through them you are comparing the numbers and so forth.

What I did find, though, was that the 2020 budget from the previous minister was given to Rock the Boat this year other than \$5,000. So they had an additional \$15,000 going into this year.

So when the minister come to me, obviously we are dealing with the Cavendish Beach Festival as well, he had expressed his views and I agree with him. Of course, the festivals are an important piece of tourism, we need to support them.

I will do whatever I can to support them, but cars are getting beat up on the road every day. We are getting calls every day from people hitting potholes. We need the crews on the road to keep the roads – they are in the worst shape they have ever been, and I do support the minister's decision.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke, your final question.

Ms. Altass: Again, the Rock the Boat Festival is asking for one road crew for a few days around the festival, which would make a world of difference for them. If it's going to make such a huge impact on the quality of our roads, I would suggest that there might be something wrong with what we're doing in terms of maintaining our roads that that would such a huge issue.

Clearly, there are disadvantages in terms of rural sustainability in development as well.

Removal of supports to community initiatives

Question to Minister of Fisheries and Communities: Are you supportive of removing supports for this and other community based initiatives?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will take the opportunity to talk about the shape of the roads in Prince Edward Island. The hon. member brings up that maybe we are doing something wrong.

I believe maybe the roads have been drastically underfunded in the last 10 years, and needed major input and that's what I have told my department. When I went in there I said we need to get these roads fixed up. It's important to me because it is important to Islanders.

When I went door to door, I heard from Islanders that said the roads are terrible; I am scared I am going to lose a tire every single day of the week when I try to travel anywhere. It's important to me that I do what's good for Islanders.

I believe that the decisions that we're making in the department today are best suited for the department of transportation. I believe that under my watch we're going to do what's under my responsibility in the department of transportation, and one of those responsibilities is the roads, one of those responsibilities is the road crews.

I'm going to merge those together and make sure that the roads are in proper shape to fulfill my commitment, to fulfill the Premier's commitment to be here for the people before anything else.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning.

2019 Environmental Awards

Mr. Trivers: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I had the pleasure of presenting the 2019 Environmental Awards at Spring Park School. The Environmental Awards celebrate outstanding achievements of groups and individuals who protect, conserve, and restore the environment.

This year in the individual category an award goes to Tony Reddin and Marion Copleston. They have been dedicated to environmental leadership in Prince Edward Island at all levels for more than 35 years. Tony and Marion have organized campaigns with Save our Seas and Shores and the Gulf coalition to protect marine eco systems, from oil drilling among many others. They have brought an increase in critical understanding of the problems of environmental degradation to PEI.

Awards also went to two groups of youngsters. Trinity United Church's 2016 Sunday School Grade 4 to 6 class in the organization category and Spring Park School's Grade 4C French Immersion class in the school category.

Both groups educated those around them to eliminate single use plastic cutlery, bottles, and Styrofoam. At Trinity United, the Sunday school class pledged to stop using plastic water bottles and asked church members to stop using plastic. The result is Styrofoam cups have been replaced with biodegradable cups, jugs of water from the tap and paper cups are now used at public concerts, and take-out dinners are delivered in biodegradable cardboard instead of Styrofoam.

I really hope that spreads to all of those church events across the Island with take-out.

Madame Joanne Watts-Favier, a Grade 4 class, learned about the problems with single use plastic containers and other items and they made a commitment to bring reusable utensils with their lunches.

They visited other classrooms and encouraged all students to bring reusable utensils in their lunch. This project has also resulted in less plastic spoons being given out by the school.

So congratulations to all of this year's award winners for their commitments to improving our environment. Just like climate change, plastic pollution is a problem that requires everyone to do their part.

I also want to thank the members of the Environmental Advisory Council for reviewing the nominations and for the work

that they do at the EAC year round on environmental matters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, wish to congratulate this year's winners of the environmental awards, all of them. It's incredible to see the work that's being done – but particularly the leadership we're seeing in youth is so inspiring.

We see these young people who are becoming leaders, these young people – these students, who are becoming the teachers.

I think it speaks volumes to the benefits of environmental fairs in schools. The more we educate children on environmental issues, the more they can change our communities so congratulations to all.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know these awards recognize our standing contributions to protecting and enhancing our environment and I, too, would like to congratulate all winners and also all the nominees that were presented for this award for their hard work and their commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment.

Thank you.

Speaker: The Hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Committed to Mental Health and Addictions

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

I've always been an advocate for strengthening mental health supports and ensuring Islanders know where they can turn in times of need.

This morning, I had the pleasure of attending a mental health and addictions

summit where we brought together representatives from more than 54 government and community organizations, all with the goal of finding ways to better support Islanders struggling with mental health and addiction.

I listened with great interest as so many partners shared their ideas on how together we can transform attitudes and behaviors around mental health issues and how important it is for us to work in tandem to improve our mental health system across this province.

We need to work collaboratively to leverage our resources, expertise and skills if we hope to truly make a difference in people's lives.

As a government we have been listening and we are taking action to strengthen mental health and addiction supports for Islanders.

Later this summer, I am proud to say that work will get underway on two infrastructure projects to improve mental health supports.

First, we will be expanding Lacey House from a six to a 12 bed facility. Lacey House is a women's shelter in Charlottetown which provides a tremendous amount of support for women in times of great need. I can't go into great much detail on this work because Lacey House is a confidential and secure location for the protection of those who seek help there.

But I can say that the support provided by this facility is outstanding. I know the clients and residents are so thankful for the care that they do receive.

Secondly, we will move forward with a mental health and addictions campus, beginning with building a new facility to provide structured housing and an adult day treatment program.

Never before has PEI offered adult day treatment for those in need of mental health supports.

We have seen a tremendous success through our adolescent success through our adolescent day treatments and we are confident that this new program will fill a void in our mental health continuum of care.

We also know that Hillsborough Hospital is an aged facility, which will be replaced. The wheels are in motion and my desire is to have the work underway within the next three years.

In addition to capital improvements, we also want to insure we have ample community-based supports in place which will build on the existing walk-in clinics, the student well-being teams, behavior support teams and the many other services offered across the province.

We are committed to strengthening mental health and addiction supports. We are committed to taking the time to do it right the first time.

With your indulgence, before I sit down, I want to recognize and thank the hundreds of health care providers and staff working in the area of mental health and addictions across our province, as well as the many community organizations and groups who support the mental well-being of Islanders each and every day.

We are making headway on multiple fronts to promote positive mental health for Islanders and we are doing it in a collaboration with dedicated partners who are determined to make a difference.

Together, we want to provide Islanders and their families with the supports they need that will change their lives for the better.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is welcomed news to hear of the expanding of Lacey House and I also want to acknowledge the great work that is done by this organization and the workers there.

Most people might not know this about me, but I used to be a child and youth worker so I worked for several years in a residential care facility working with children facing a range of mental health needs. I know that this is difficult work – it is work that is of great value, so I just want to acknowledge that.

As well, it is wonderful to hear about this new day treatment program and I do hope that this is something that will be considered to be expanded out when we are looking at different things that we can provide in communities and local communities for people to access.

As well, as we are beginning to expand services around mental health to all of our communities as well as in this new mental health and addictions campus, I do hope that there is a plan to evaluate services as they grow and develop to make sure that they are meeting the goals that were set to be met and that people's needs are continuing to be met around mental health.

Lastly, I just want to point out that mental health really needs to be looked at in the context of the social determinant of health. It is something that is about the way that we live, it is about our environment, it is about our social environment, our physical environment and our access to resources that allow us to live with basic health and dignity.

I just want to make sure that we are always reflecting on that as we develop programs to improve the mental health of Islanders.

Thank you.

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

Mr. McNeilly: Thank you very much.

It's a great pleasure to speak to this. First I want to thank everybody who's involved in mental health, all the workers – everybody that contributes to the wellness of our people struggling with their mental health. People like Dr. Heather Keizer who has done an incredible amount of work in this field and her team, just a guiding light and we are really fortunate to have her on Prince Edward Island.

The news about Lacey House moving from six to 12 beds is incredibly important and it's really, really great to hear that and I applaud you for those changes.

The day treatment program, wonderful campus that you mentioned, is a great thing we're looking at but the Hillsborough

Hospital – I was under the impression that it was already being built. I thought the shovels were in the ground the day after the election and to hear that we're looking at three years to get action with that is very disappointing.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Social Development and Housing.

Capital Upgrades to Social Housing

Mr. Hudson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Seniors are at the heart of our communities. Their skill set, knowledge and lived experiences have helped shape the province that we know and all love. It is our duty as a society to ensure our Island seniors can be self-reliant and live independently in the communities of their choice for as long as they can.

The province of Prince Edward Island has 1,113 senior's housing units across 32 Island communities. These units provide safe, accessible and affordable housing for our Island seniors. Renovations of \$800,000 this year will mean enhanced quality of life for seniors in Souris, Charlottetown and Montague.

This investment is part of a five-year plan to enhance government-owned social housing for seniors. Tenders closed last week and work should start shortly.

We know PEI's population is aging at a high rate and we must respond to this demographic shift. As outlined in the Speech From the Throne, our government will provide programs and investments to allow older Islanders to continue to live independent, supported lives in their own surroundings. We will also provide more specialized housing supports for our seniors to ensure they are secure in their own communities.

Through the Housing Action Plan, we are working with community organizations and with private developers to add to our affordable housing stock. We will continue to place priority on affordable housing for all Islanders during our mandate.

Islanders want to see their friends and neighbours succeed. They want us to make sure that we are thinking of both the present pressures, as well as the future challenges. We will do this by working together focused on the people of our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, the important questions to ask when we hear about investing in housing at this point particularly with public owned and seniors housing, is while there are 1,113 spaces available, every one of those spaces is filled.

What we need to talk about is how many people are on the waiting list for housing.

Seniors every day need more supports than are available only in their community, they also need housing which is not only affordable, but accessible and meets their unique needs as our population ages.

Our public housing, the majority of which was built more than 20 years ago, the last time when public funding was available to make investments in this kind of significant infrastructure is aging and requires massive infrastructure updates. Many of the seniors housing spaces available in the province are neither accessible, or suitable, for long-term accommodations. Neither are they being retrofitted with even basic things like air conditioners, let alone energy efficiency and the kind of additions and upgrades that we need to make sure that they can last much longer than the next five years, let alone 20.

There are limitations on what the federal funding can be used for, though there is an affordable innovation housing plan which we can and apparently are accessing, but the revenue sources from rent being as they are geared to income and the income of seniors is very low, is not sufficient to make the kind of investments that we need.

So some more creative supports and investments, not only in the kind of renovations that are required, but also in expanding the capacity of that housing

sector is critical, else we will continue to have hundreds and hundreds of seniors waiting for affordable and appropriate housing and remaining in need.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Housing will be an ongoing topic for the next, at least three years, before we can catch up, not just to the aging demographic, but the demographic and the population growth of Prince Edward Island, which is necessarily needed. It's almost an oxymoron: it's a good problem to have, but it's something that takes time.

Under our previous government we had a plan in place and I certainly hope that the new government continues on with that. We had PEI Housing Corp, 20 transitional units in Charlottetown, PEI Housing Corp, 20 seniors units in Charlottetown, PEI Housing Corp 32 seniors units in Summerside under construction. These are the types of things – And then there were 10 in Souris that were getting ready to be preapproved.

Working with communities and municipalities, government, and, I can tell you, you can't do this alone. Working with private developers is of utmost important and like I said, it's going to be upwards of three years before we can catch up.

We're going to need 1,400 private developments this year just to maintain. That's private developments, that's nothing that we're doing in relevance to what the government can do themselves.

But the one thing that really – sometimes I think we tend to forget is, we get caught stagnant in the development of these and we don't look at the diverse needs of the seniors anymore. We do not look at age, we don't look at abilities, beliefs, Indigenous backgrounds, health, family, sexual or gender.

We post too much on income, and we post too much on the normal structure of a two bedroom or a one bedroom.

We have to diversify when we build these new facilities. We have to ensure that we're meeting the needs of the changing demographics of people as they get older and what they desire.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

Mr. Myers: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the email or the letter I spoke of in Question Period and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Myers: I have another one.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the request letter that came in and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a question to the Department of Social Development and Housing regarding reports to the minister and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a question to the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning regarding the IRAC review of *Rental of Residential Property Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Speaker: Sorry, members. I got one to table myself.

Honourable Members, by Command, I beg leave to table the joint follow-up of recommendations of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, a report of the Auditor General of Prince Edward Island and I move that report be received and do lie on the Table.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Bill No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act*, read a first time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will just give a brief explanation on the bill.

So again, *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act*, the purpose of this administrative amendment is to consolidate two pieces of legislation: *The Drug Cost*

Assistance Act and The Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act.

The *Drug Cost Assistance Act* establishes the Drug Cost Assistance Plan under which the various provincial drug programs are created. Enacted in 2012, *The Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act* requires the minister to establish:

A – an interchangeable drug list, and

B – a formulary for the provincial drug programs.

Health Canada subsequently established a federal interchangeable drug list, which is more comprehensive and is used by pharmacists across the country, including here on PEI.

Consolidating these two pieces of legislation under the *Drug Cost Assistance Act* will eliminate the provincial interchangeable drug list. The provisions requiring the establishment of the formulary will be transferred to the *Drug Cost Assistance Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Bill No. 7, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act*, read a first time.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So this is just a bit of a housekeeping bill, to propose an amendment to the *Highway Traffic Act* that will change the maximum vehicle length of a B-train double trailer combination from 25 metres to 27.5.

This is the standard that is contained in the national MOU on vehicle weights and dimensions as recommended by the taskforce on vehicle weights and dimensions.

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

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Communities, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Bill No. 8, *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act*, read a first time.

Speaker: Overview, minister.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill amends the *Victims of Crime Act* to provide the courts with discretion whether or not to impose a victim surcharge when a person is convicted of an offence. This change was initiated in response to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Boudreault, which held that mandatory federal victim surcharges were contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that Order No. 1 be now called.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 1, Adjourn debate on the Draft Address.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Ms. Lund: May I have the podium?

Speaker: Podium?

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, I was speaking of how important good targets are for addressing climate change.

I'm aware that there are some who believe the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 is an ambitious target, but I fail to consider it as such when we know that any target later means setting a target for an unlivable planet. Far from ambitious, it's the bare minimum we can do without reasonably expecting to decimate the biosphere on which we are entirely rely on for our survival.

Carbon neutrality by 2050 is what we must do. People who know far more on this topic than we do have been unequivocal on this point. As for those scientists who have been sounding the alarm bells for years, their greatest challenge has been getting policy makers like us to act with a sense of urgency they are telling us is critical.

By opting to not deal with this at an adequate level, we are guaranteeing the problem will get worse. As I've said, I'm pleased that the Premier spoke of addressing climate change in the throne speech. If that commitment is to be anything other than lip service, we cannot set a target and timeline that spells failure according to all the evidence.

Less than a week ago, Pope Francis declared a global climate emergency and warned that a failure to act boldly would be a brutal act of injustice towards future generations. He went on to say that our children and grandchildren should not have to pay the cost of our generation's irresponsibility.

Yesterday I spoke of the need to expressly take future generations into account, because without using that lens, economic policy will more often than not lead us to deplete a resource faster than it can regenerate. It's a real failure of our economic system and we know that, so we must account for it.

With even the most basic understanding of economics, we have likely all encountered those circular flow charts of money and goods with the economy depicted as this self-contained system that's always in equilibrium. Businesses pay household

wages and households use those wages to buy goods and services from businesses. According to these types of diagrams, apparently all factors of production come from households. Of course, we know that's not true.

The economy is not a closed-loop system. It's not self contained. It requires inputs of material and energy from the environment, and it produces waste outputs in the form of pollution and garbage. The implication of this insight is that the economy cannot grow indefinitely. The concept of growth forever is not founded in reality.

This is a critical flaw in economic theory. We overlook that the economy actually fits within our planet's ecology. In this empty word's view there is no 'when to stop' that we see in microeconomics. The environment isn't accounted for as scarce, and we can continue to expand into it forever like outer space, it's just not true.

Living in a province as small as ours should make it particularly easy for us to challenge the idea of 'growth forever'. Our resources are finite. What we want is improved quality of life, and that's entirely achievable. Speaking of finite resources, I appreciate the intention behind educating MLAs on the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* and I think there is so much value and the commitment to offer comprehensive educational aids to MLAs.

I also think we need to educate elected officials and decision-makers on the importance urgency of climate change. I would love to see a similar briefing opportunity in the same timeline. Included in such a briefing, an overview of what happens when we hit 2° of warming, because I am not getting a sense that we have a shared understanding of what we'd be advocating for by keeping our current targets as we are.

2065 is the year we are currently aiming to reach carbon neutrality in – 15 years after the point where the whole world needs to achieve neutrality. We have already allowed greenhouse gas emissions to reach the point where we've forever change the chemistry of the atmosphere. Political leaders could have addressed this sooner. But we didn't.

We must now ensure we hold global average temperature increase to not more than 1.5° above preindustrial levels. Why? Because we don't know where we hit a tipping point. The point where we hit positive feedback loops, where we reach runaway, self accelerating climate change. What we do know is that that risk goes up substantially after 1.5°.

Committing our children to that path is unthinkable. I don't mean several generations of children into the future. I mean the children who are here now. We have one chance and time is not on our side. This is the moment where real political leadership steps up, where the best and the brightest get to work and the nay-sayers get out of the way.

Our new government needs to set ambitious targets that are in line with the best science and push others to share our bold vision. I love seeing climate mentioned so prominently in the speech, now let's make sure those words translate into decisive action because words alone won't make for a safer future for our children.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

Ms. Bernard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to rise and respond to the Speech From the Throne. It is an ambitious document and I appreciate that there are priorities included from all three parties.

I was happy to hear use of language such as 'poverty elimination', 'championing our cultural and heritage', 'looking at scope of practice and health care', 'commitment to address climate change' – and my hope is that we will do so aggressively – 'health care, dignity and respect for our aging Islanders'.

I am encouraged to hear our government will use science-based evidence to informed decisions. I look forward to this. I was disappointed not to see more action on a universal lunch program this year, although understand from hearing some of the reasons for that from the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning and hope that there is

follow-through on that commitment, to take the steps needed so that this program is thoughtfully planned and rolled out soon.

I was also disappointed to see no mention on staffing ratios of students to councillors in the Public Schools Branch, which is currently 400 students to one councillor, by the way.

There is no mention of supporting the community sector. They do crucial work and we continually take that for granted. We would be hard-pressed to fill their shoes if we were to lose any of them and if we do not start funding, supporting and understanding their work, this is what is going to happen.

I was thrilled with the commitment of this government to deepening reconciliations with the Mi'kmaq and First Nations. We have so much to learn from the people who first inhabited this special province. We have to much work to do here with the Lennox Island and Abegweit First Nations Communities, and we must do so together, respectfully, curiously, vulnerably and with love. I look forward to the continuation of playing an active role in this.

Infrastructure for mental health is more great news. I am happy to hear this for staff and clients, and patients especially. Having worked in mental health and addictions, I was happy to hear the Minister of Health and Wellness make that news today.

This is great for our community. A safe, healthy and clean environment from which to both provide and receive timely mental health supports is crucial to ensure health and safety. My hope is that a project such as this will be well-planned, thought out and properly executed with input from all involved. We must make sure what we are building now is going to serve its purpose and function well now and in the years to come.

If you have worked in the school system, you are all too familiar with working in a building that is not functional and where you question its health. Some of our schools are aging out and our school personnel deal with these daily challenges and stresses of making it work.

Elliot River, for example, is a school where I worked. It was built in 1973 and has had very little repairs since that time. Many of the repairs and updates that have been completed have been self-funded through school fundraising activities, such as coupon books. Elliott River has been on the list for improvements for many years.

During this past winter alone, we had to deal with issues including, no heat in parts of the school, power surges, water leakage etc. There is no space for children with medical needs and there is more coming into our school next year.

Administrative offices are on display in the front entry and the children who should have privacy and safety for their well-being do not currently have that. This is just one example, from one school.

Another point of concern is where we're going to find the mental health professorial to fill the positions in this new infrastructure. If our government is going to commit to better, more timely mental health care services, which are crucial of course, certainly there has been some thought that has gone into this and there is a concrete plan.

A new building is lovely and all, but if we do not have the staff to properly staff these services, what is the point. We need not look too far for an example, when the student well-being teams were put in place, there was a lot of movement from hospitals, justice and community agencies. Now there are limited professionals in these community agencies to refer families to for extra support, and as a result, suffering families wait for months for supports and services they desperately need. This is an even deeper concern to myself, and home and school associations, as we consider that student well-being teams are slated to move into their new families of schools, including TOSH, Kensington, Kinkora, the Charlottetown Rural Family, as well as in all French Language School Boards by September.

Where are we going to find the professionals to staff these? We cannot continue to stretch school resources in this way, as they cannot sustain it and we cannot have people who are not properly trained to fill these

positions. It is not ethical and it is certainly not safe or healthy for our students.

Reading the word children in this document so many times, is so encouraging and uplifting to me. I'm thrilled with the commitment to an independent child advocate. What I'm extremely disappointed in is the commitment to a universal, four-year-old, half day preschool program.

As a society we are so good at taking the child out of childhood and if we implement this programming for four-year-olds, we are doing just that. The job of a four-year-old is to run, play outside, jump, play, climb, roll and figure things out on their own by asking questions, by being impulsive and curious. Those activities are awakening parts of their brains and making critical, developmental connections that would not otherwise be made.

A few of us in the office of the opposition have been meeting frequently with different early childhood educators and not once have we heard that this is a good idea. In fact, they are panicked on how they are going to provide this service as they simply do not have the staff and are fearful of losing the staff they do have. What we are hearing from them are a few top priorities.

One, provide the full scope of training staff need in order to upgrade and move to the next level and to provide this locally.

Two, to increase salaries so that early childhood educators have a livable wage and there is better retention in these positions. Children need consistency and when staff are in and out a revolving door, it is detrimental to children in trying to form trusting bonds.

Three, improve requirements to care for our special needs children.

At the moment all that is required to care for our special needs children is one training course offered by government. It makes me angry to think that these children, in particular, are not being offered the best possible care, through specially trained staff who are up to date on latest, best practices and strategies. Imagine the improvement in the quality of life for these families, if they were also offered some tips and strategies to

help and were offered support and comfort, knowing that when they drop their child off in the morning, they are being provided and nurtured with the best of care. That they are safe, that they are happy, isn't that what we all want? Isn't that what we all want as parents, as caregivers, as people who care about our future? Why don't we focus on fixing what we have before we go straining the system even more?

Back in 2010 when kindergarten first entered the school system, it was intended as a year to prepare students for Grade 1. It is intended to be play-based, an introduction to literacy, an introduction to numbers, learning how to write their name, how to make friends, how to be a good friend, how to use scissors, getting them hooked on learning and excited to do so et cetera.

This is not, however, the reality of students or educators. As a result of the Grade 3 assessments we place increasing literacy pressures and fine motor pressures on children and it is not fair. As we are not doing well as a province in these assessments, we continue to place expectations in a trickledown effect. So in the Grade 3 assessments we are not doing well. We, as educators, are trained to support our students, in the literacy at that level.

When they don't do well then, we push it down to Grade 2 and we start banking our school goals around what we can do in Grade 2 to prepare our students for a Grade 3 assessment. When that doesn't go okay, we push these literacy pressures down to Grade 1 and what we should be doing in Grade 1 to meet these expectations in Grade 3.

That's not going well, now we've pushed these expectations into Kindergarten. If you look at a report card in Kindergarten it does not reflect what teachers are having to expect. In Grade 3 in these assessments, when all we do is prepare them with anchor charts on the wall and prepare them with examples, and they're all over the classrooms in visuals because that's what we as educators are trained to do because we understand brain development.

When it is time for these assessments, all those things are ripped off the wall, they are

not allowed to ask questions and we are not allowed to help them.

I've had many conversations with our amazing kindergarten teachers and although the report card does not reflect this, the expectations are that they be reading at a certain level, that was previously the expectation for the end of Grade 1 and that they be able to write three full sentences, which was also an expectation at the end of Grade 1 and I know that because I taught Grade 1.

Back in October, I received a call from my son's amazing Kindergarten teacher, concerned that he didn't know all his letters yet, the first of October. This is no fault of our amazing teachers; this is the fault of the system, the pressures that these developmentally inappropriate assessments place on our teachers and our children. What we are asking of them is beyond where they are in terms of brain development. So it should not be shocking that no matter how hard we push literacy skills in the primary years, our Grade 3's are not doing well in Grade 3 assessments, they shouldn't be. As we consider all these things, one question comes to mind, why does this government want to implement this program for four-year-olds? What is the goal? To improve literacy scores for our eight-year-olds? That simply does not make sense.

We have such great potential to be world leaders in education and I believe for us, that starts with early years and moves into the primary years. To start, provide livable salaries and local training to our early childhood educators, change requirements for those working with children with special needs, please! That is where the problems are, if we can fix that, we can truly add more positions into child care, because without the staff there are no more spaces. We need to improve and build on our early childhood child care, and both improve and offer more after-school care for our 5-12-year-olds.

We need investment after early years, as developmental leads don't stop and are exponentially higher for kids at risk. We need good quality programs so that we are able to help keep our children safe, engaged and healthy. We must support parents in seeking the kind of child care that works best for their family. Whether it be an in-

home care provider or a centre. We need to make the early years the best they can be so that our children have the absolute best chance at a healthy, happy life and that they are set up to reach their full potential, whatever that may look like to them. Then, and only then, will we show that our children really are a priority.

The throne speech is a beautiful document, inside it contains a lot of beautiful words, such as collaboration, disagree respectfully, doing politics differently –

An Hon. Member: Sounds familiar.

Ms. Bernard: Does sound familiar – poverty illumination, children, reconciliation, caring, respecting and listening. This throne speech is just a bunch of paper stapled together. If during this mandate we not do all the aforementioned words and we not only attempt to bring this throne speech to life, but as we build on it together, we make it better so that it serves Islander's to its full potential.

I look forward to doing my part in this and working hard for residents of District 12 Charlottetown-Victoria Park who have given me the honour of working for them, and all Islanders. I am humbled to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Before we go to the next speaker I'd like to give the hon. Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning the recognition of guests.

Recognition of Guests II

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just wanted to recognize that the PEI Home and School Federation vice-president, Heather Mullen has joined us in the gallery. It's great to have you here.

We've had a chance to meet once already, I look forward to meeting again. In fact, we actually got to meet together with the education critic. It was kind of neat the way it happened and that's the sort of collaboration we need amongst all stakeholders. So I look forward to meeting again, welcome.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is the role of government to make tough decisions for the greater good and that starts with having frank and difficult conversations that address the real problems being faced here in PEI.

That doesn't mean that government is to blame, but it does bare responsibility to act. If we aren't able to talk about a housing crisis, food insecurity, poverty, inequality or the real challenges working Islanders have just making end meet, then we can't talk about solutions to these real problems.

We all heard the stories from our constituents during the recent campaign at the door and are probably hearing them now – from desperate people contacting us at the office or on social media. These aren't statistics. They are real stories of real experiences from real people.

Statistics have no emotional impact. We can hear that one in five people in PEI live in food insecurity, but what does that actually mean?

For me it means that every day when I leave the office for my home and I walk down the street, I am painfully aware that one in five of the people I walk past may not know where their next meal is coming from. It means that you just can't tell who is struggling, because so many are.

It means that speaking about and taking action on poverty is critical, because it is so hard to reconcile living in the bounty of the Food Island with the reality of such a broad and desperate need as the basic necessity of a good and healthy meal.

This government's commitment to the shared priority of implementation of a universal school food program, as my colleague referenced, is a critical and positive step towards addressing food insecurity for our most vulnerable, our children.

The pilot program began last year, has demonstrated initial feasibility and impact and I am truly hopeful that that an inclusive program will reach all Island schools in the next two years. Ensuring our children get a healthy solid meal at least once a day is an investment definitely worth making.

Islanders in need of social assistants are some of our most vulnerable and the current food rates are 30% less than the minimum recommended by the government of Canada – meaning that government policy is actually keeping social assistants clients in a chronically food insecure situation.

I am deeply disappointed that there is no commitment from this government in the throne speech to address the terrible gap in social assistance rates for food and rent, but I remain hopeful that our request to recognize and bridge this gap in rates will be met in the upcoming budget.

We must remember that the Island food banks serve thousands of clients a month. With 65% of food bank users being regular working Islanders. This is everyday poverty, where there is more month than money and there is no help in sight.

This is the kind of poverty that we need to recognize and work to eliminate – as well as the poverty of those on social assistants or of our seniors, or the disabled.

The need is broad and pervasive here in PEI. It's a hard reality, but one we must be honest about.

Like climate change, poverty and the housing crisis are not somebody else's problem. The impact of the housing crisis, in particular, is affecting all Islanders. From first time home buyers who are priced out of the market, those who want to downsize or relocate to PEI but can't find anything suitable that they can afford. Those who are being rent evicted for Airbnb's, young adults who and newcomers who are leaving for other provinces because they just can't find anywhere they can afford to live.

When the biggest bill you have to pay every month is your cost of housing, you have less and less for the other necessities of life and eventually the economy will

show it. Recent statistics indicate that the majority of working Canadians with steady jobs and even double incomes are only \$200 away from financial crisis at any given time, which mean those are only \$200 away from poverty and homelessness. This is not somebody else's problem.

With a near zero vacancy rate in PEI, many homeowners may think that the housing crisis is also not their problem, but the zero vacancy rate means there is no capacity at any point in the market.

There are not enough new family homes. Not enough duplexes and not enough rural properties.

The market will not stabilize itself. There is no financial incentive for developers to build housing that will not give them an immediate and viable return on their investment.

The provincial government does not need to build and own housing to address the capacity issues on a broad scale. After all we need 2,000 units today to get to a healthy vacancy rate across the entire housing spectrum. The government does need to be an active, creative and willing partner to enable private developers and non-profit organizations to access CMHC funding through things like, the provision of land and the waver of property taxes, assistance with infrastructure costs, roads, sewer and water development costs and seed funding for planning, permits, inspections and application fees.

The market will also not step in to developed capacity in specific areas of housing need. Like that for people with disabilities, those recovering from addictions as we heard from the Minister of Health and Wellness earlier today, those fleeing domestic violence and abuse and the chronically homeless.

Housing has no profit margin but is critical nonetheless.

Often Islanders only discover the inadequacies of these supports when they are directly impacted by it, otherwise it is out of sight, but when a loved one, friend or family member is in need, we find how little is available.

This is also not somebody else's problem, this is ours.

Government needs to be an active partner now. We do not have the luxury or the need to discuss, consult and study any further.

The community knows what it needs and is ready to go with projects that are shovel ready as long as the partnership is in place and the doors are open to listen to the experts waiting just outside it.

It is government's role to prioritize and facilitate solutions and to clearly articulate bold action and timelines.

Investments should recognize that affordable housing does not mean only social housing, but encompasses the entire housing spectrum and the entire population.

All Islanders deserve and need to have a safe, affordable place to live where their cost of housing does not take more than 30% of their income.

Not all Islanders want to be homeowners; tenants should be afforded the same rights and respects as homeowners which means updating the *Rental of Residential Property Act* and the associated role of IRAC as a priority.

It is critical that government address the impact of short term rentals and do so with urgency.

We must accept that this unregulated market is adversely affecting the rental market across the province and especially in Charlottetown and Summerside and take responsibility and action with a clear legislative outcome.

We can continue to provide economic opportunities for those who wish to participate in this short-term rental market without destroying our neighborhood communities and a long-term market to do so.

I recognize that government cannot do everything and if severing a priority, then nothing is a priority.

But when we are faced with a crisis, be it climate, poverty or housing that is impacting

all Islanders, our economy and the very structure of our communities, we must choose wisely and with a holistic lens.

Through my role as House Leader in this new and exciting time of collaboration and negotiation, I am encouraged that this government has the best interests of Islanders at heart – but I am also mindful of the role of the official opposition in the House and outside it.

The opposition also represents the best interests of Islanders and the priorities they have tasked us with will be evident through this sitting and beyond as we champion the elimination of poverty, addressing the housing crisis and take action on climate change, along with supporting principles of good governance.

I am grateful beyond measure to have the opportunity to represent Charlottetown-Belvedere as a voice for social justice and inclusion. As a feminist, as an entrepreneur and as a single parent of an exceptional child who reminds me every single day, why this work matters.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive, speaking to the motion.

Mr. Howard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This throne speech says it puts Islander's at the heart of our decisions. Islanders need suitable places to live, affordable housing options, even rental options in general are limited. This seems an issue created by the drive to grow our population and economy without the foresight to also grow our housing stock and ensure that industries like short-term rentals are not allowed to consume our rental market.

We need to ensure our people have a place to live before we convert this much housing stock into short-term rentals. One in 50 of all housing in Charlottetown is listed on Airbnb.

Seniors have also told me loud and clear that there are not enough seniors housing options either. I look forward to ensuring that these housing priorities are pursued in a way that

meets everyone's needs. This throne speech says the new economy is being driven by people and ideas.

The new economy is also being driven by automation and artificial intelligence. Self-driving cars, self-checkouts smart phone assistance, medical diagnosis apps, legal precedent look-up apps, robotic cleaners and so much more. In the future, where all of these technologies have matured, which they are doing rapidly, we need to be prepared in many ways. The most important way we can prepare is by ensuring this transition to tech performing the many jobs people are working at today. It's a just one, where the benefit of the automation of so much in our society is shared by all.

In a world where only the CEO of a large business acquires more wealth and a workforce we used to depend on is sent home, replaced by automation, we will encounter some very troubling scenarios. We must find a way that will both allow our economies to modernize and at the same time, ensure that the systems we use to distribute our collective wealth are fair. The benefits of these automations are enormous but the pitfalls are also equally large, so we must prepare and navigate into the future wisely.

A basic income guarantee is one tool to explore, even the CEO's of large corporations like Microsoft and Facebook say we need to be looking towards something like a basic income. They know what is coming and are prepared to change and pay their share. The alternative to not changing is so unpalatable that large sums of their vast wealth would be a price they are willing to pay to avoid it.

A democratic institution where a policy is formed by collaboration, by the best ideas presented as this government promises to do, is one I can support. However, I feel I must point out that through the luck of the draw we ended up with a government that is closely reflected about the collected will of the people. We should work to ensure this kind of result is the norm, not a fluke.

Our first past the post system, more often than not, generates a skewed result with a false majority. A false majority is an unearned majority, a situation where one

party has a majority of the legislative votes, therefore 100% of the power. Despite failing to earn the support of a majority of Island voters, these false, unearned majorities create a far less, collaborative environment, where the parties tend to work against each other, in almost every way. Leaders of parties with an unearned majority enjoy their absolute power and they become detached from the reality of the rest of PEI, so they tend to make bad decisions without adequate consultation.

Long term policy suffers in this environment and creates huge swings from one direction to the opposite potentially every four years. When the government is a truer representation of the reflected will of the people, we can agree on what policy is of shared importance and create longer term solutions that get us to where we need to be without free of the progress being completely undermined by partisan politics in the next election cycle. I was pleased to read the Speech From the Throne and hear this Premier speak of the desire for these kinds of updates to our democratic institutions and I look forward to seeing what ideas come forward. I personally still support a proportional system.

The Premier also mentioned the standing ovation he received in Ottawa and while he said, admirably, that it was not he, but PEI that was being applauded, more specifically, the proportional and collaborative result of our election, in the manner in which it was conducted, and it was the part of PEI that was being applauded. I believe it is essential that this new Legislature takes action to move this issue forward. I hope to find allies for this work from all three parties currently represented in this House.

I think it's important we consider the full context of the referendum, the 'yes' campaign achieved a strong result, despite the fact there were biases in the referendum legislation that were forced through by the previous government. That legislation was voted against by members from both parties that now sit as government and official opposition.

The referendum period was extremely short and there was an unfortunately high degree of fear monger and misinformation involved in the process. It was not PEI's finest

example of deliberate democracy and action. The previous government did not properly consult with the community experts on electoral reform that we have here on PEI to design the MMP system that was put before voters in the referendum.

There was a lot of uncertainty in the design and clarity could have made the difference. Reforming our legislative assembly rules is not enough. We still need to reform the ways MLA's are elected, the way that we arrive here. Islanders are happy with the result of this past election; I hear everywhere I go about the excitement that collaborative and representative government generates for Islanders.

We should work to make sure this is the norm, not the exception. Under first-past-the-post rules, this is the exception. If Islanders want to see more of this kind of representation, we need to put in place an electoral system that delivers it. There are many options out there that can serve PEI well.

Climate change is listed as one of the shared priorities between the opposition and government. Climate change underpins every other decision we make here in this Assembly because of how susceptible PEI is to the effects of climate change.

With their shared acknowledgement of the need for action and the government's focus on Islanders being at the heart of our decisions here, it should be an easy step for government to take to ensure to make this Legislature act swiftly within this sitting to enact policies that engage Islanders to take up the cause, and be part of the solutions we need.

Islanders can buy electric cars, install solar panels, build efficient homes, plant trees, drive less, make local food choices, invest in community storage infrastructure, it keeps the lights on when the transmission lines go down, and so much more.

We need every hand on deck to rise to the challenge set before us because it is a monumental yet achievable goal to transition PEI into a beacon of leadership for the rest of the world to follow. We've been leaders in wind power for a long time and we can continue to develop more wind

power projects. We need more than this, though – much, much more.

In my time as a renewable energy entrepreneur here, I have travelled PEI talking to thousands of Islanders for the last 15 years. The overwhelming consensus from them is that they are ready to help make the shift; they've just been waiting for the government leadership to engage them.

We can and should look to more large scale wind farms but we've been neglecting the smaller scale distribution energy opportunities that exist here. The province need not necessarily partner up with large corporations or the federal government, although those partners should also be sought.

Islanders themselves are willing and eager partners, home owners and small businesses are poised and ready to act. If this government would like to make a real difference in the lives of Islanders, we should be aggressively pursuing a clean energy transition that will not only reduce our ecological impact but also create a bustling new job intensive industry and stabilize our energy supply. A transition to put clean energy on PEI can start today with policies that get the willing to act and there are a great many willing.

PEI is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in most places; we are an Island that is losing ground to erosion, which is being field by climate change. We just had CBC reporting that we can anticipate increasing erosion as storms get stronger, we can't afford to let that happen. PEI does not have any oil or gas production; we do have plenty of wind and sun, though.

Wind we are harnessing and the sun, because it has been neglected for so long, there exists a huge opportunity to go solar in a big way here on PEI. The grid can only handle so much wind. NB Power helps us with the issue of intermittent supply and without them we would not be able to even have as much wind as we do already, much less expand our wind regime.

If one day, NB Power decides it's done offering this benefit for free, PEI will be at the mercy of off-Island decision makers. Solar, on the other hand, represents a very

small portion of the electric mix here. Thus far, 0.1% of our energy mix, when last I checked.

The grid, without any upgrades whatsoever, can facilitate at least 10% solar capacity, likely much more. This represents a huge opportunity for PEI to create jobs, address climate change, show leadership, keep dollars on PEI and become more locally resilient. The current tensions in the Persian Gulf insensate why local resilience are of such importance in today's geopolitical landscape. Homes can represent another emerging opportunity to rapidly change the way we get and use energy.

Home battery storage is becoming a rapidly emerging reality. Lithium battery tech and other battery technologies are coming down rapidly in price, and by the time PEI has made the shift to a wind and solar saturated grid, storage prices will have reduced significantly and be ready for implementation.

If we want to have a reasonable path towards 100% clean energy supply, we will need storage.

Interestingly, a study from UPEI has shown us that the amount of storage required is greatly lessened when solar is in the mix with wind here on PEI. In the data, the proper mix reduces our needs to 50 gigawatt hours of storage as opposed to (Indistinct) wind generation. This fact alone should be enough to have PEI striving for this type of mix of different renewable to facilitate the clean energy transition with minimal storage investment requirements.

If we are serious about transitioning to a carbon free energy supply on PEI, we need to get to work. We have 10 years or so to get things under control. We have specific targets the IPCC show us we need to hit. If we delay even by one year, we will be wasting 10% of our timeline.

Indeed if we are to be the leaders, we need to begin the sprint to the finish line.

As transportation becomes more and more electrified, it will also become more efficient. As electric cars are far more efficient than internal combustion engines even when the power for the electric cars

comes from fossil fuel sources, like big centralized diesel generators transmitting power over long distances.

There exists opportunity here for PEI to take the leadership role, as well as emerging technologies like vehicle (Indistinct) to grid to seek small scale partners to test the emerging technology. PEI could become a clean tech startup stream.

Summerside already has what it is termed a living lab environment where they actively leverage the fact that they are small enough to be easy to work with and large enough to give real world testing of innovation. With the support of the province, Summerside can be a launch pad for technologies that spread across PEI, and then PEI can be a launch pad for the rest of Canada and indeed the world.

This is the path PEI wants and deserves, we are leaders.

Just the other day, a partnership between NB Power, Nova Scotia Power, and the federal government announced that, and I quote: "In Shediac, 500 homes will be selected to test technologies such as smart meters. time-varying rates. smart thermostats. solar rooftops and in-home battery storage."

The utility will also focus on potential cyber security issues posed by these connected devices.

In Amherst, the focus will be on commercial applications, including solar panels with battery storage on commercial buildings to help manage customer demand and reliability needs, and smart electric vehicle charging trials for optimal charging. The construction of two solar farms will also help power homes and businesses in the region.

NB Power and NS Power will also work with customers to manage energy consumption and test new electricity pricing options. Results and lessons learned from each utility will be shared across the two provinces.

Where is PEI in this discussion? There are 150 well-paying high-tech jobs being created as a result of this initiative, and it's expected to show the utilities and provinces

how they can stabilize and reduce power rates. There are also 2800 tonnes of CO2 emissions reductions expected from this federal investment into the area.

PEI is being left behind where once we were leaders. It is time for us to take back the leadership mantle and demonstrate that the transition can be something that both stimulates our economy, and at the same time, works to preserve the climate of the world we leave to future generations. Islanders are ready. We must engage them.

Our children are referenced in this speech as having their youth define their futures because so many neural connections can be formed. While those rapidly forming neural connections are important for certain, I feel we need to also acknowledge here that the existential threat of climate change will have even more of an effect on that future.

More and more youth are decrying the lack of meaningful action that governments all over the world are taking. So often we hear that we will reduce emissions by 2050 or 2030 by X amount, and then after a term of dreadful inaction or even counterproductive decisions, a new government comes along and promises similar targets sometime in the future.

While these targets are somewhat meaningful, they become meaningless without the actions we take today reflecting the commitment. The children know this. We all know this. The acknowledgement of the enormity of the issue at hand and the slow pace in which we are acting in response, is creating a feeling of angst in our younger generations, extenuated and reinforced by the rapid pace of their neural network formation.

Climate change is an existential threat, initially to the world's most vulnerable, and in the not-too-distant future to the lives of our children and their children. They know it. They see our ineffective rhetoric and shallow actions, and they are left wondering how we can be so passive.

I came to politics to try and make a difference on this front. I started a business trying to shift us away from politically unstable, environmentally damaging, finite and expensive energy sources. I made some

small headway in that role, but things need to move faster.

I have managed to make my own house energy self-sufficient, and the benefits to my family of having of having so many less bills are huge. I can plan the rest of my life knowing what my heat, lights, and even transportation will cost me. And I know that all the power that I use, I offset with clean power generation.

I want that for all Islanders, and I'm here now in this House, the House of the people of Prince Edward Island, to make it happen.

As I quickly work to step away from my business life, I will be pressing this government to take the actions we need to move into a world where we have a just transition towards a clean energy economy that works to the benefit of us all – this generation and those that follow.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I am honoured to have been selected by Charlottetown-Brighton residents to represent them and hope that some of my following comments represent their values as well.

First, I want to recognize that we are gathered on traditional Mi'kmaq territory. This is a new and welcome introduction to most presentations here on PEI, but I want to further real progress for Indigenous people.

I really welcome that we now have a First Nations Senator as well, and hope that we see more First Nations people in the Legislature here, and maybe even one day as a Lieutenant Governor.

The throne speech acknowledged our Mi'kmaq, Acadian, Irish, Scottish, English, German, Lebanese, and Dutch roots. I would like to also welcome Chinese, Taiwanese, Syrians, Thai, Sudanese, Congolese, and Brazilians, and probably more that I met in my district when I went around knocking on doors.

I welcome them all into our community, and know that they will make wonderful contributions to our society in the future.

The throne speech promises a land bank to help transfer farmland from one generation to the next. While this is welcomed, I think we also need to make effort to protect farmland from suburban development. After all, the loss of good farmland to houses is a permanent loss, whereas corporate ownership could possibly be reversed.

I suggest we need planning, zoning, and taxation that favours denser development on non-farmland. Our rural landscape on PEI should also be recognized as one of our Island's major assets, not to be compromised with strict development, large-scale agriculture, (Indistinct) bypasses and roundabouts.

Our incredibly beautiful farm landscape is why people come here and why they stay. Let us preserve our landscape.

There is much talk in the throne speech about investment in growth, but too little talk about investment in sustainable buildings and reducing carbon emissions in transportation. Most government capital expenditures, such as school, hospitals, roads, and museums require large initial capital investments, as well as continual yearly cost to operate and maintain.

Sustainable buildings, on the other hand, they do require extra investment for the extra insulation, the triple glazing, and the solar collectors, but unlike other projects there is an annual return in saved fuel costs and saved power costs. This is the one area where upfront investment is desirable, not only because the cost could be paid for with the annual savings, but as an extra bonus we're doing our bit to slow climate change as well as creating new jobs. There really is no excuse for not doing it now.

For this reason, I propose that the government make all new government-funded buildings meet net-zero requirements and encourage the private sector to do the same.

I want to draw the attention of the House to one of our past government's successes. The Culinary Institute of Holland College – this

was a huge and ambitious effort, starting out with sizable and attractive building, a large skilled faculty and continually updating the facilities with items like the world's smartest kitchen. The results have been incredible.

As you all know, PEI has now become a world culinary destination and our steady increasing number of visitors is due much to the fact that many graduates are now populating PEI with unique eating places.

Our next phase, such as developing premade foods for our exceptional resources, is only beginning. In the future, I hope to see most of our produce, being potatoes or shellfish, being sent off as prepared, ready-to-eat meals which have an added benefit of reducing food waste and, of course, in growing the local economy.

Bear with me spending so much time on the culinary institute. This is because I'm imagining a similar effort in establishing a sustainable construction program. The program could be jointly governed by UPEI and Holland College. Graduates would specialize in sustainable construction methods from carpentry and insulation to testing and monitoring.

New construction as well as converting all our existing homes would be addressed while researching and developing the best methods for PEI. The goal would be to make most new and existing buildings truly sustainable in 20 years while creating thousands of new jobs in the process and making a real dent in carbon emissions.

When I came to PEI 45 years ago to design and build the Ark, I was completely surprised how this project became a tourist site. One year, and it was the second-most popular site on PEI.

Really unique projects have universal appeal, be either new or old. You think of the world, and you think of the buildings like the pyramids or the Taj Mahal or more recent emphasis on the Eiffel Tower, the CN tower or the Bilbao Guggenheim Museum in Spain – all attracting tourists and putting the cities where they are located on the map.

We're pretty lucky on PEI to have a large stock of heritage farms dotting our countryside, beautiful Victorian houses populating our cities and emphasis like our Province House and Indian River Church, but not so many newer buildings, although the Confederation Centre and many UPEI buildings qualify.

In housing, there are few start projects. The best one, in my opinion, is the Harbourside one, where well designed housing combines with commercial activities such as shopping and a marina to create a truly exciting area, arguably the city's most popular spot on any summer evening.

New houses can be equally exciting if planned well from the start. The best model for getting such exciting housing is a national design competition as was used when the landing park was created. Probably other – the best-known housing project in Canada that was also due to a competition was the Habitat in Montreal that was built in 1967 and still a tourist attraction there.

Permit me to propose a national design competition for innovative PEI housing, be it rural or urban. The proposed projects should be totally sustainable in the tradition of the Ark while exploring innovative living arrangements such as co-housing and affordable ownership and should be attractive as well.

Increasing our local prosperity has been the goal of every government. However, most governments seem to forget that supporting local businesses is key. In fact, 44% of every dollar spent here leaves the local economy – I believe the number is like a billion dollars a year in trade deficit.

Fortunately, an Atlantic organization called the Centre for Local Prosperity is poised to change that. They show that by shifting just 10 to 20% of institutional purchases towards the local economy, thousands of local jobs can be created. As an example, a bowl of blueberries and cream is a healthy alternative to imported orange juice and we know that money spent on those local products will stay right here on PEI.

I propose that this government actively participate in changing our procurement

methods to encourage more purchasers of local foods and other products.

Of course, I agree with the importance of our cultural industries but suggest that actual action is lacking. In a few areas, we have a community of talented filmmakers here but our province has one of the lowest film support programs leading to films, presumably set on PEI, to actually being filmed in Toronto. I think this should change. Not only do films produced here create local jobs but as a secondary bonus, such films help promote our Island in general.

Health care is our biggest expenditure and, of course, we need to treat those who need it with compassion and care. However, we also need to work on keeping our citizens healthier. This will take education and effort of all levels of society so that everyone will realize the importance of healthy eating habits and sufficient exercise.

We cannot legislate good habits but we can encourage them and teach them and the reward will be not only lower future health care costs, but also happier Islanders.

A complete network of walking and biking paths is a big part of good health. We are lucky that we already have our Rails to Trails network spanning the Island, but we to expand that network to connect city streets and destinations like beaches and opportunities for refreshments along the way. Such a network will have a positive impact on tourism as well.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of a throne speech is a lack of real action on reducing carbon emissions.

During the election campaign, I was one of many waving signs at the road intersections. I was astonished at how many of the cars had only one occupant. I estimate that only one in 10 cars had more than one in the car. Clearly we need better utilization of the cars already driving on our roads and we all already have the technology to do it.

So, I propose that we should look at some kind of car sharing that's happening already informally. I know people at my summer house that share the one hour drive to town and money changes hands because the

person that is the passenger, obviously experiencing a huge saving and they want to share that with the driver.

I think the government should step in and help develop I call it an Uber for PEI – obviously we don't want a multinational company to take care of our own transportation and take half the money. We can do it ourselves.

I also am really disappointed that the planned electric buses for Charlottetown got cancelled and hope that they can be reinstated with some help from government and that the government in some way or another will develop subsidies for electric cars. While we need more Islanders to use electric cars, we also need to attract more visitors to PEI who are driving electric cars or if they fly in to rent electric cars here.

It's a good thing that we now will have six proposed level three charging stations. It seems like a drop in the bucket considering we get a million tourists on top of all the cars we have here. Maybe we shouldn't just be spending \$50,000 per charging station for those six, but more broadly expense subsidy for the far cheaper level one and two charger so we can find them in every tourist accommodation we have on the Island. So that people that come here in their electric cars can use the far cheaper and far more convenient method of charging the car while they sleep.

We have a rich past history on PEI in alternative energy and have a lot to show for it such as many impressive windmills, a district heating system, effective waste management and now a ban on plastic bags.

If we step up our efforts even more, we can again make PEI a destination for people looking for a place where real action is taken to fight climate change. Let's start now.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to start by giving credit where credit is due as a long-time advocate in areas of social and economic inequalities and

injustice, a clear stated commitment to poverty elimination is a breath of fresh air.

The language of poverty reduction that has permeated discourse on this Island inherently implies that some amount of poverty is acceptable in our society. This inevitably limits discussion to conversations of defining and then monitoring who is deserving versus the non-deserving poor, rather than recognizing that being able to live with basic health and dignity is a fundamental human right and that we will all be better off as a society if we eliminate poverty completely.

I will make a statement that you will hear me make many times in this House: Poverty makes people sick.

The Canadian medical association has stated that poor housing, lack of access to healthy food, and early childhood programs all affect health. Not being able to meet one's basic needs not only has physical health implications but the stress of not knowing if you will be able to provide the essentials for yourself and your family has a significant impact on mental health. For example, when you were not able to afford healthy food, there are certainly direct health implications.

Those who must access food banks or try to go without food for any period of time, end up investing a lot of energy and worry into where their next meal will come from. It has been highlighted that future generations will judge us harshly if we do not take action now on climate change, and I couldn't agree with this more.

I would argue that continuing to allow people to suffer needlessly in poverty will similarly be judged by future generations. The economic and social impacts of poverty cannot be understated. This is why it was so disappointing to hear no mention of working toward a basic income guarantee for PEI that would provide everyone with enough to meet their basic needs no matter what.

I want to be clear in stating that the secure income pilot program proposed in the throne speech is not the same as a basic income guarantee. This would be a means-

tested program available only to those deemed unable to work. This does not account for individuals who may temporarily need to leave the labour market or for whom suitable employment for their skills and abilities is not currently available. It does not account for variations in the labour market, and will do nothing to support workers whose jobs are changing due to new technologies and as a result being partially or fully automated.

Essentially, this would be a modification of current social assistance models that are currently far below what is needed to allow Islanders to meet their basic needs and live with health and dignity – and too many Islanders would still continue to fall through the cracks.

The added layers of bureaucracy needed to police the poor are deemed necessary to prevent something that has not actually been proven in pilot projects of basic income, such as the Mincome pilot conducted in Daffin Manitoba in the 1970s – the idea that a (Indistinct) would be a broad disincentive to work.

What the Mincome pilot did show was an overall decline in hospitalization and improvement in overall health conditions. Hospital visits dropped 8.5% during the pilot with fewer incidents of work-related injuries and fewer emergency room visits from accidents and injuries. Additionally there was also a reduction in rates of psychiatric hospitalizations and in the number of mental illness-related consultations with health professionals. Moving forward, we must shift to include a focus on prevention of illness and promotion of well-being.

The Speech From the Throne discussed more health services being delivered at a community level. This is wonderful to hear and I look forward to hearing more about what these services will be and when they will be implemented.

In addition to providing services at a community level, one of the most effective ways to promote mental health and well-being is for individuals to feel included and involved in their local communities. This means encouraging and supporting active involvement in a range of activities.

One way to help individuals become active and engaged with others is through social prescriptions. Social prescriptions that link patients to non-medical community supports or programs have been shown to be effective for promoting and preventing mental and physical health issues. Social prescription pilots in the UK have shown that positive health changes can be measured after just 18 to 24 months.

In addition to improving well-being, the long-term cost benefits of these types of community based initiatives would be significant.

It is my hope that exploring innovative approaches that promote and support well-being such as social prescriptions will be a focus of the new government, and the Department of Health and Wellness in particular.

The commitment to create a state-of-the-art mental health campus is a welcomed one. There is little doubt that the health and safety of patients and staff is compromised by the aged Hillsborough Hospital facility. Of course, modern theory and treatment approaches require a suitable facility.

Concurrently, we must make sure staffing numbers will be sufficient to meet needs, this will mean quickly and effectively recruiting and retaining new doctors and nursing staff, a need which we all know exists throughout our health care system.

I am encouraged to see that the physician and nursing communities will be engaged in creating new recruitment strategies. Individuals working in the field will undoubtedly have the best sense of what will be most effective to encourage others to practice here.

I do find myself wondering what exactly is meant by physician and nursing communities. I hope in this process our government will engage a variety of levels of communities within the nursing and physician complement, so engaging with the nurses union as well as administration and the college of physicians to name just a few.

Scope of practice of professionals such as nurse practitioners and pharmacists has also been supported by the current government and that is wonderful to see. It is necessary.

But what does this look like in practice? This I also look forward to discovering.

Doctor remuneration and models that will support timely and appropriate care for Islanders, a positive work environment for physicians, and that encourage collaboration between health care professionals should also be explored. Meeting the health care needs of all Islanders is no small task and there is much work yet to be done.

However, with a focus on innovative solutions that are engaged with the needs of local communities and professionals, I know we can be leaders in providing timely and effective care and promoting well-being for individuals, communities, and families.

Thank you.

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

Mr. McNeilly: It's a real honour to stand in the house and offer my thoughts on the Speech From the Throne.

I've had the good fortune of being a part of two election campaigns, one in 2015 and one in 2019. As a result, I have heard from residents in my community about their priorities, their hopes, their concerns, and their challenges – much like everyone in here, and that is my driving force of being here.

To my mind, politics is all about listening, and I am so honoured that the people in my area have shared so much with me. Hearing from the people I Salaries: major concern, inspiring youth has one of my focuses. You all know what it was like when you would go door to door and you would talk to the parents and the kids would be around and they would want to listen. That was one of my major goals.

Building on their hopes, can we engage our youth of tomorrow? That's what we're here for.

I do believe people are constructive. They give you nice answers, they're very respectful, and we can learn a lot from how they listen and how we move forward. People want relationships with their politicians. They want to know that they can turn to you. People want to be heard and connected with.

In my community, every Islander is unique, and every Island community shares a vision of our province's strength and I want to share with you some perspectives of my district, what the sense was as I'm talking to the people of District 14, what I got at the doors.

They're happy. Much like any other district in Prince Edward Island, they are very busy. They are raising families and they're looking after parents. They are stuck between generations of raising and taking care of. We have to be there for them.

When you think about the area that I represent, I look at an area that has very much given a lot to the province, the western side of Charlottetown. We see thousands and thousands of cars travel through the area on a daily basis – up Beach Grove Road and North River and connecting in from Cornwall. There are not really any complaints; we want to be there for people, we want you to travel the roads, we want to see you.

But what we do need in our area – and I do believe we can do this – is more trail systems. My colleague from Charlottetown-Brighton touched on trails, and I do believe they need to connect and we need to do a better job of improving wellness and connecting our Island communities, and what he talked about was very important because trail systems that connect are trail systems that are used. People can get out with their families. They expand the green space. Most people want trails, and I have a good – I look forward to working with the other side on a trail system that would connect the western area of Charlottetown, because we invite a lot of people into our areas with cars and we have difficulty travelling across a very busy highway. I'll be bringing that up more and more as we get going. Bike paths are important as well. Active transportation will be a driving force for the future.

As I mentioned recently as last night, I talked about wellness and I would just like to tell you a quick story about – motivational story about wellness and I talked to this gentleman today. His name is Bob and he is 78-years-old and the one thing he does religiously is he attends his aqua class with 60 other people three times a week. That's what he does for his wellness. Recently he wasn't able to load his scooter into his car because he had an ankle injury and he was waiting on a procedure to get it fixed. So what Bob did is he drove his scooter in from Melody Lane – if anybody knows where Melody Lane is in Charlottetown, it's in Winsloe or touching on the Winsloe area. He drove his scooter in, it took him 45 minutes to get to the Bell Aliant Centre for his aqua class, and the one thing he was worried about was, was he going to have enough juice to get home?

Okay that – and we did. We plugged his scooter in, and away he went. He made it home, but he was to call me when he got home to make sure he was there. It took him 45 minutes each way, and that senior, that person, was not going to miss that class, and that is what wellness is. We have a tough time getting out and going on the best of days. Imagine having to take your scooter in and making it a three-hour event. That to me is how we promote wellness. That to me is how we build society.

Our young people are another area we have to focus on in terms of wellness, and we look at our schools, and we look at trying to build activity in our schools, and I do believe we have good opportunities there. I look to a story of a phys-ed teacher in the Premier's district, in Hunter River at the school there, and Mike LeClair does a great job of organizing a wellness festival every year. What he does is he brings us in to do some exercises with the kids. The whole school is trained within the span of an hour and a half, and he brings it in as a reward for the kids as part of their wellness festival. Mike LeClair organizes that and at the end of the session, we'll often ask the kids – now here's one task that the kids have and that is to go home and motivate their parents to be active.

Putting the trust in the leadership of elementary school students is how we're going to get it done. They are the leaders of

the future. They can do it now, and they can help us. So make sure, if you're watching this, go home and talk to your children. Get out for a walk and be active today. Again, 0.1% of our health budget goes towards wellness. We need to change that.

In the speech you talked about proactive and efficient health care, but there is no mention of a way to be proactive. It's the words that are there. I would like to work with this House to define what 'proactive' means.

Social inclusion – to my mind, wellness is individual contributions to the wellness and the general community, and those in terms – I would like to offer a few ideas around the idea of social inclusion. If you take someone at a wedding dance – maybe you are at a wedding dance sometime and everybody is on the dance floor. You don't look to see the colour of those faces or if they can walk. As long as they can move together as one, everyone is included.

We don't always do that necessarily in our society. We have to start to do a better job of that. I want to promote a multicultural society where visible minorities are included and not just welcomed, but included and part of things. It's a human right.

Our speed of growth of our newcomers lately has been amazing, and it's been amazing to watch, and it is a positive for our Island community. We have to do a little bit extra as Islanders to include everyone no matter where they are from. They are on our Island and we are now one.

Housing – as we know, housing is a major issue. For too long our approach was too slow and perhaps was bogged down in paperwork. That began to change recently, but it's an area that will require strength and imagination of many groups; government, non-profit groups, private sectors, and individuals. We can't point fingers. We have to do it together.

Along the way, it's going to require planning. My fear is that we are building because of a crisis. We need to build smartly. We need to build communities that will last 100 years and then some. So let's get together and not forget to plan our approach out for the next little while. The

Liberal plan was a good one, and I want to keep building on that.

I want to just touch on women's issues for a second. In PEI, the women's health strategy – we looked at a \$5 million investment into that and I'm excited about that, and I look forward to seeing where that money is going. I can't wait to see about the plan around that. Sexual assault for survivors, third option programs to better support sexual assault survivors – very important and I will be excited to hear more about that.

Anybody watching – I know I'm the women's critic for our party, but I'm also part of a group called Man Up, and I was the co-founder of Man Up which is a community group that promotes non-violent behaviour towards women and it's very, very important that we get together as men and get together and do some things differently, support women, and make sure that it's the norm to show younger people and boys how to act in our society. If you need any more information, you can always contact me.

Our senior population have built this province. When I spoke to people at the doors, it was with ultimate respect that whatever they did – and I always wanted to know what they did – but they built this province for us and it's up to us to take care of it and leave it for future generations.

In the Speech From the Throne there was no reference of the \$3.3 million investment in long-term care and I hope to see that in the budget in the upcoming few days.

Concluding, the Speech From the Throne was a good starting document and I look forward to working with you.

Those are my priorities that will allow me to do such and my community's priorities as well.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It does give me – I'm all right with the podium there. I'll try to make it short – at least get until five anyway.

It's an opportunity to speak to the throne speech here, and I did want to take the opportunity and kind of put a little bit of an O'Leary-Inverness bent on to the throne speech.

I will say, as the hon. Premier had mentioned, putting Islanders first at the heart of our decisions is very honourable. I think there wouldn't be a person in this Legislature that doesn't try to make decisions with putting Islanders and our communities at the heart of every decision that we make, and we all try to do our best. There are no easy solutions.

I always found – I have been in this Legislature now for 12 years – there is no easy decision on any issue that you bring forward. There is always a 'yes' and a 'no,' and there is always different points of view in all of that. It's about trying to come up with a solution of what you think is the best interest of all Islanders.

It's always interesting in an election campaign; you never know what the makeup of this Legislature is going to look like. I always sort of said, I sit on that side of the House for most of my career. I could just as easily been on this side of the House, and now I am on this side of the House. But I always tried to treat everybody with respect, when I answered the questions to the best of your abilities, and I think everybody needs to always take that into account when you are in this.

But the the people of Prince Edward Island have given us a Legislature that looks like it does currently, I have to be playing a different role than I would have played in the past. I'm planted as the Member for O'Leary-Inverness and the party whip for the third party, so I think that challenge that Islanders have put in front of us means that we have to play our roles as serious as we can, do the best we can.

But I would say, I would like to have a little fun with it too, in that regard. Although we're very subdued in here these times maybe that will change and come to a better

collaboration and mix of what a Legislature is really like.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. Henderson: Yeah, I (Indistinct) mind a little bit there. See?

So anyway, we'll figure that out I'm sure as the Legislature and members of the Legislature here.

In that throne speech for the 66th General Assembly, it mentions Prince Edward Island is a special place. Indeed it is, it's a special place. I have lived here all my life. I have lived in the riding that I represent all my life, and it is a special riding in its own way. Every riding I know has their own sense of specialties, but from my perspective, I represent a very interesting community and an interesting riding.

Lennox Island: our Indigenous peoples, the reserve is in my riding. I represent that. These are my friends. They are my neighbours. I have never considered anybody to be Indigenous or not Indigenous or Catholic or Protestant – any of that stuff. They are always people. They are friends, our neighbours, and our community.

Lennox Island, the band office is there. It has a museum, it's really grown. It's got a new day care, hopefully it will be an early year's centre when it goes through that process; established – fire halls and a health centre, and it is actually one of the fastest growing communities in Prince Edward Island but certainly the fastest growing community in my riding of O'Leary-Inverness.

I can go to Bideford and see the Parsonage Museum. They are doing some exciting work with the minister of tourism, and his department and trying to develop – I think it's a trail of Lucy Maud Montgomery.

Lucy Maud Montgomery was a teacher in the Bideford area. It was one of her schools she taught at and wrote a number of her books and novels there. That Parsonage Museum has done really well as a tourism site. In fact, actually I think their annual meeting was last night. So that's located there.

You also have the Shellfish Association and the Bideford Shellfish Hatchery that's actually run by the Lennox Island band. Once again, doing great novel work in expanding what that old federal institution used to be as far as a research centre for shellfish and Holland College was there for a while. And it's doing great work in creating – I have seen a number of pictures on FaceBook of some of the new spat and things like that that they are rearing there to be incorporated into the shellfish industry.

The community that I live in, in Freeland – in Freeland where there's the Hardy's Channel wharf, very thriving and successful fishing port. The Conway Sandhills – I had a chance to kayak over there on Father's Day and dig a few clams. Kept within my limit there, so I wasn't – just doing it for a recreational perspective.

But, anyway, we also have a new business in our community started in, I think, just before Christmas. We have Mia and Mike, and I'm not sure their actual last names but they are people from Vietnam. They have moved into our community, and have taken over the general store and gas station there.

I tell you, what a luxury that is to have gas – gas bar, gas location in my community to fill up and do not have to drive so far to even get gasoline. So I'm saving greenhouse gasses just by doing that.

Anyway, Annand Clams has expanded to just – now employs, when you drive by there, there is probably about 60 workers there processing lobsters, processing bar clams, and fish cakes. There is a whole number of other products that they process there. That's by two local entrepreneurs that got together and are developing that into something.

I have peat moss plants in my district. Many people do not even know that we have a mine here in Prince Edward Island, but we harvest peat moss, both at Northern Peat and at the Gulf Peat Moss Plant in Foxley River and that employs a large number of people, and that is going to be a challenge as we moved forward. We've got issues around that they are starting to come to the end of the peat that they currently have access to, and they'd like to expand that to open up a new bog. Already there are lots of issues

that have come up with trying to make that decision to grow that.

So there is probably 40 or 50 employees that are going to be impacted by this decision. I am hoping the government will look at that decision pretty hard and see what they can do to help that particular company out and see that grow. In fact, I'm almost guessing that the minister of social services probably worked there at one time or is very familiar with that place.

You know, it's an interesting spot.

West Point is another thriving community. I have to admit the minister of economic development and tourism was really great, really appreciative of your efforts to contact me and come out and meet and take a look at Cedar Dunes Park and the West Point Lighthouse and some of the coastal erosion impacts that were impacted by that location. I am pleased to see in the throne speech there is some talk about climate change and coastal erosion. This is something that is going to impact us all here in Prince Edward Island.

So in light of that meeting, the minister made the decision to provide at least some short-term relief, and clean up some of the mess from some of the erosion that occurred. I think there is a number of trees and stumps that probably came from Bouctouche, New Brunswick and arrived on the shore of Cedar Dunes Park.

We got that cleaned up and then we've kind of replenished the dune there with – and recycled and saved climate change impacts by moving a sand sediment that was in the harbour for dredging and took that and put that back out on the point and created a new dune there. I would say that that is going to be a short-term solution. I know the minister probably agrees with me on that.

So the idea is to look at what's a longer term solution, and I hope it is about putting some shoreline protection similar to what is already in place in front of the lighthouse, because that is a very iconic structure here in Prince Edward Island. It is probably – it is the largest lighthouse in Prince Edward Island and it's the only one that's in black and white.

It is also the only lighthouse I believe, maybe the second one now in Canada, that you can actually stay in the lighthouse. So it was the first at one time but I think there are a few other lighthouses that now have become inns and whatnot. I think that's very important.

You go to West Point again, you have a company up there called HF Stewart, and HF Stewart are a manufacturing company that make equipment. They are mostly famous for those inline in the vans of tractor-trailers for getting potatoes and loose product off the back of the trailer. They make a lot of them.

I was in there the other day, and I think they have got orders of work now right through until September, and hopefully by the end of September, they will get them right through next year. They are keeping very busy at that. They are also manufacturing a lot of farm equipment, farm equipment parts. That is something that we need to make sure that we are working with these businesses.

When a government or a party promises that they're going to lower the business tax rate, I am expecting that they will come through with that. From my perspective, there is not a thing that I'm impeding upon in my riding of O'Leary-Inverness to say that you shouldn't take that business tax down, and help that company out and expand even more and create even more work.

I can go into the West Cape wind farm, and I know that some of the members of the Green Party talked about renewable energy, the largest wind farm in Prince Edward Island is located in my district. There are 55 windmills there generating energy. Not a lot of it necessarily is for Prince Edward Island, I think the City of Summerside has a purchase agreement with them, but most of that is exported off-Island and I'm sure they would be open to a good discussion on possibly purchasing wind from and energy from that particular location.

Howards Cove Wharf, once again is the South side port as well as West Point, they are large ports and harbours, and once again, very prosperous and doing good in the harvest of lobsters in the fall season.

Then we come to the community of O'Leary, and it's a special place as well. I went to school there, and worked there various occupations throughout my career. One of the last announcements that I made as minister of agriculture was for the expansion and modernization of the ADL butter factory, the only place on Prince Edward Island that manufactures butter and I think it was last upgraded in 1959, I believe. Now it's modernized, that was phase one. There will be a phase two I hope and I hope the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture takes a look at that particular project too. Once again it will create some work, but not only that, it will take a business that's in O'Leary and keep it there for the foreseeable future, by those types of investments.

I really commend Bobby Morrissey and the department of ACOA and the department of innovation for their investments into that particular project and I'm told already, the work is just about completed and that's from an announcement that was made, just around the middle of April and construction for the boilers are already installed and operational, and some of the tanks and expansions are supposed to be put in place very shortly.

Another project that's in O'Leary that I'm very proud of and the hon. member of Charlottetown-West Royalty talked a little bit about, it's an organization called Community Inclusions. Community Inclusions is a West Prince organization that focuses on helping people with intellectual disabilities and they've made numerous amount of expansions, I think recently they've just expanded into Tignish with a new residential home in that location and in O'Leary they've a number of apartments. All those apartments are full and they are now challenged again with an increase in individuals that have learning disabilities and intellectual challenges, and they are soon going to be looking for more housing. I certainly encourage the government and the minister to have good conversations with them and take a look at their operations. They're a great model there and they are doing great work.

But, when you look at their annual report, we invested previously, as the government invested previously about \$100,000 into

help them out, to keep meeting the needs of Islander's in that area.

Their bottom line, although in the black, was a pretty fine margin. So I certainly would urge the government to keep a close eye on that particular file and see what we can do to make sure we can make them sustainable and viable moving forward in a funding program that allows that to happen for them, and still provide the dignity and supports those Islanders require.

Obviously, we've got the O'Leary rink, which is a fairly well known entity. We are the area known as Hockeyville PEI, we claimed that title, not as a claim, but we've actually won the Kraft Hockeyville Canada award back in 2017. That project is on hold at the moment too, waiting approval for infrastructure.

So I'd encourage the minister responsible for infrastructure to try to get that project off the ground and get it going because, once again, the ice goes back in the rink, usually probably about October and right now there's no construction commenced. I'd encourage the minister to try to expedite that particular project as best as we can.

We also have Chance's Family Centre and that's in O'Leary and it's doing wonderful work, it has 60 children that are receiving services there. It employees about 25 workers and has made a significant difference in those individuals.

When I look at the throne speech it talks about the early year centers and improving Kindergarten service to four-year-olds, for half day. I'd certainly like the government to take a look at that. I really want to get a better sense of that. Are we talking about expanding our schools, trying to allow that to happen and incorporating four-year-olds into our school system? I'd have concerns about that. If it's something that's going to allow those children to stay in place and provide the early years centers the supports, then I would think that would be a very good thing. I hope the throne speech is a little vague when it comes to those types of issues.

I think it's really about trying to make sure that we're making life better for all people in Prince Edward Island and like the minister

of transportation said, he wants to be fair and I'm really taking his word for that and I know he's sincere about that, but I want to hold him to account to that, those statements.

Certainly, the throne speech talks a little bit about – the Premier mentioned about talking and listening to Islanders and I certainly support that view but I think it's really important that we provide enough specifics and emphasize the issue of doing. It's one thing to say you're going to do these things, it's great to talk about collaboration and it's great to talk about all these wonderful things in a document, but if it doesn't have the capacity to do the doing part and give some timelines and how much money you're going to put to that, and that's what I look forward to seeing in the budget.

The throne speech has a good component of the frame work of a document. I've seen a number of throne speeches and they're documents and for what they are, they're words. I don't see that this one is any different than I've ever read, but it's about setting the table for where you go forward afterwards. So when it comes to issues like housing, I've certainly seen issues and I know in O'Leary we had an announcement about two housing projects that were going to happen in O'Leary. Today not a thing has happened, I checked with one of the developers about what is going on, no contract signed, nothing. So once again, I urge the hon. minister to take a look at that, let's get these projects going, let's get housing going into our communities, let's not just stall and create greater difficulties, greater bureaucracies in why these things aren't happening. So that's something I want to certainly see.

I think the other component I noticed most about the throne speech was actually what wasn't in it. There isn't a lot in it when it comes to our primary industries. We talked about farming, we talked about fishing, tourism, yes there's one line that says "...Our farming and fishing families and our tourism operators are central to growing our provincial economy. We will work with these industries to innovate and prosper in our changing global economy..."

Not a lot of statement for the three major industries in this province that create the

economic wealth and activity in the jobs that I'd like to see. There's no mention in anything about this about a livestock strategy, don't see anything there. The Premier talked about consultation with the other parties about what was going to be in the throne speech, that was one of the issues that we brought up, we'd like to see a livestock strategy put in this province, nowhere in this one that I can find in this document.

There's no plan in here about soil health, a great thing we talked about the importance of our soil and the Green Party has mentioned a number of things about it's not a resource that's very renewable, so we need to have that. No mention about what's going to happen with issues around irrigation, we need to get some solutions around that. Would have liked to have seen a little bit of a discussion around that.

There doesn't seem to be much about tourism, what can we do about improving some of the tourism infrastructure.

I know the hon. Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture was out in West Point and he did make some improvements there but we'd like to see a long term vision on dealing with a number of our cultural facilities, as well as some of our tourism operations, our parks. I've been minister of tourism and I certainly know that there's always infrastructure that needs to be improved upon that.

Not a thing about oysters, not a thing about shellfish. That industry is growing at a fairly rapid rate but our public fishery is under some real challenges right now. So I think we need to make sure there is going to be some discussion on how we're going to improve that particular resource, grow that resource, create a marketing strategy around that resource and these are all things that the government said it was going to do in the platform that they put forward in the upcoming election.

Anyway, on land protection, it was interesting that the minister talked a little bit about working with the NFU about the spirit of the law, but I'd like to also make sure that they have some consultation with the Federation of Agriculture. I think that's a good organization and I know as previous

minister of agriculture, you'll always have your issues in trying to do those particular interoperations of what each vision and view from each of those organizations are. But, it's great to talk about the spirit of legislation but when you deal with legislation you're dealing with laws – he's the minister of justice – so anything that we put down has to be legally interoperated. It isn't about spirit and those types of things; it has to be legally interoperated. So we need to make sure as legislatures that we're making this as clear, as black and white as we possibly can.

So anyways, I'd say this throne speech is a lot about platitudes and clichés but, it has a good framework. I think that there are things we need to work more on. I certainly see that there are potential problems around land banks, I'm very curious to see what that's all about but I want to see money that goes with that. A land bank concept is a wonderful concept but there are lots of challenges and lots of issues that will come with that.

An Hon. Member: Call the hour.

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

Speaker: The hour has been called.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. MacEwen: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that this House adjourn until June 20th, at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until Thursday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m.