

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Colin LaVie

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MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS .....	133
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS .....	136
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE (Chez Nous Cooperative) .....	136
CHARLOTTETOWN-BRIGHTON (Solar Village on PEI) .....	137
O'LEARY-INVERNESS (Congratulations to Blues) .....	138
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AS NOTICE	
AGRICULTURE AND LAND, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	138
(Aggregated land holdings; Land ownership) .....	138
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	139
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Short-term rental regulations) .....	139
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Protection for Islanders for housing) .....	140
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Short-term rental hosting platforms).....	140
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Regulations for short-term rentals).....	141
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Clifford Lee's role in short-term rental file) .....	141
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Carbon neutral by 2050).....	142
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Climate change re: concern to young Islanders) .....	142
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Cost of options to reduce emissions).....	143
SUMMERSIDE-WILMOT (Cost incurred through crop insurance re: severe weather).....	144
SUMMERSIDE-WILMOT (Ensuring a viable future in farming) .....	144
TIGNISH-PALMER ROAD (Plans for long-term care in this fiscal year).....	145
TIGNISH-PALMER ROAD (Need for long-term care beds in Tignish) .....	145
O'LEARY-INVERNESS (Land bank and land financing program) .....	146
O'LEARY-INVERNESS (Viability of family farms and new entrants).....	146
O'LEARY-INVERNESS (Amount of acres in land bank) .....	147
MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Inspection and age of Sorrey Bridge) .....	148
MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Replacement of Sorrey Bridge).....	148
SUMMERSIDE-WILMOT (Direction for sustainable agriculture for the future) .....	149
SUMMERSIDE-WILMOT (Study of crop opportunities and challenges) .....	149

SUMMERSIDE-SOUTH DRIVE (Electric Power Act).....	149
SUMMERSIDE-SOUTH DRIVE (Transitioning energy supply to carbon free).....	150
SUMMERSIDE-SOUTH DRIVE (Electric Power Act (further).....	150
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Teaching of climate change in Island schools) .....	151
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Barriers to teachers attempting to educate on climate change) .....	151
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS .....	152
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND CULTURE (Loan Disclosures).....	152
FISHERIES AND COMMUNITIES (Importance of the Fishing Industry).....	152
EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING, ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement) .....	154
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....	155
INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS.....	156
BILL 9 – An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act .....	156
BILL 10 – An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act .....	156
BILL 13 – An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act .....	156
BILL 14 – An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceeding Act .....	156
ORDERS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT.....	157
SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE .....	157
PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL .....	157
BILL 105 – An Act to Amend the Rental of Residential Property Act .....	157
BILL 102 – An Act to Amend the Climate Leadership.....	157
MOTION 2 – Assembly consider method of public review of legislation prior to approval .....	173
CHARLOTTETOWN-WINSLOE .....	179
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE .....	174
CHARLOTTETOWN-WEST ROYALTY .....	174
AGRICULTURE AND LAND, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	175
MERMAID-STRATFORD .....	175
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION .....	176
ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT) .....	177
REPLY TO THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE .....	177
O’LEARY-INVERNESS .....	178
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY .....	179
MERMAID-STRATFORD .....	182
HEALTH AND WELLNESS .....	184
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING .....	186
FINANCE .....	188
MONTAGUE-KILMUIR.....	190
SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE .....	191
BILL 6 – An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act.....	191
BILL 2 – Government Reorganization Act .....	200
BILL 5 – An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act .....	201
BILL 8 – An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act .....	203
ADJOURNED.....	205

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of  
Guests

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Oh sorry, the hon. Premier, recognition of guests.

**Premier King:** Go ahead if he wants.

**Speaker:** No, no. Sorry about that.

**Premier King:** That's all right, Mr. Speaker. I've been mistaken for way worse.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to rise here this afternoon, and welcome all guests to the public gallery, all those watching on EastLink.

I'd like to make special mention to my friend, Joe Byrne, the Leader of the Island New Democrats, who is a frequent visitor here.

I'd like to give a quick shout out to my friend, Norman Clow, who's the proprietor of the famous Clow's Red and White in Hampshire. He hasn't been smiling much these days, he's was a Boston Bruins fan and he's still in mourning from the loss.

I'd also like to shout out my very good friend Kurtis Riley who works with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island in Lennox Island as the hon. member of District 25 would know well – who's done an incredible job helping to move forward when it comes to the Oyster spat business that the First Nations are running very successfully at the old Bideford station.

While I'm on my feet, I'd also like to pass along some condolences on behalf of this Legislature and all Islanders. Federal member of parliament Mark Warawa lost his battle with cancer this morning and was a Member of Parliament since 2004 in British Columbia in the riding of Langley-Aldergrove and I just wanted to pass on – as we all know being legislators is a very proud profession and it's one that only a few of us in this country get to actually do so, on

behalf of everyone here to all of his family and connections, I'd like to pass along our condolences.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'd like to welcome everybody to the gallery, I have some particular friends I'd like to make note of: a woman with whom I worked with for many years in my previous life Gloria Shaw is here today and alongside her, Kathy Large, who is one of the contributors to the political panel on CBC. Now that one of them sits in this House, maybe that's your future Kathy, who knows.

Also sitting them Bethany Collicutt McNab who is also a very keen political observer. In the front row, Shirley Jay – it's lovely to see you Shirley. Beside her, Jacob MacDonald who I believe is working in the government member's office upstairs.

Jacob and I did some work together last year actually, when I was with the third party and he's a wonderful man with, I think, a very bright future ahead of him.

Yesterday evening I attended the AGM of the organization previously known as CLIA, now called Community Legal Information. A wonderful organization here on Prince Edward Island that provides legal services at reduced costs to Islanders, making sure that they have access to the judicial service here.

Fantastic organization, the AGM was well attended and it was really good discussion at that.

I then went to a rhubarb social in Canoe Cove where I ate rhubarb pie, rhubarb crumble, rhubarb cheesecake, rhubarb cake, all kinds of stuff and it was delightful. It was a gorgeous evening; it was lovely to be with a number of folks from the South Shore in District 17.

I also want to make note of Wayne Wright. Wayne who has been the cartoonist with the *Journal Pioneer* for 40 years here on the Island, poking fun and doing brilliant

depictions of notable Islanders, I think dating right back to Alex Campbell, actually, was the first time he started doing his cartoons.

Wayne is a wonderful guy and he cuts right through with a very local lens – those issues and those stories and those personalities to really illuminate them on the pages. Literally, a picture is worth a thousand words when you look at Wayne's cartoons. We're all sad to see him go.

He placed a Facebook post I think the other day that has over 1,000 shares, so that really tells us the depth of the love and respect that Islanders have for Wayne and for his work and his work will be missed. I'm sure he'll still be around and I'm sure he'll be putting his creative juices elsewhere, but Wayne will be missed.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Certainly is a pleasure again to rise in the house and welcome everyone in to the public gallery today. As I always say, it's always great to see so many faces come in to see and hear what happens on the floor of the Legislature.

As you mentioned right off the get-go Mr. Speaker, it sure is a lovely day here on Prince Edward Island and there will be a lot of things going on on Prince Edward Island today, but I think one of them may be a lot of people jumping out on their lawn mowers and getting their lawns cut before this anticipation of a lot of rain that's coming over the next three days.

With the rain coming, I do want to again mention graduation week that is well underway now and a lot of graduation ceremonies are being held today and over the next few days in a lot of our communities across PEI. So again, I do want grads to all have a safe grad and a responsible grad, once again.

Last night on the way home, I do want to make reference again to another group of

people on Prince Edward Island who year over year step up to take on these roles.

As I was going home, the soccer fields and ball fields were all full of young children, young Islanders in my area, last night in particular.

I really want to give a big show of credit and support and thanks to those coaches and managers who year over year step up for our Island youth and children to mould and shape them into fine young athletes on Prince Edward Island that go away from here and represent the province in many, many age groups over their athletic careers.

So thank you to every coach, manager, supporter of sports for our children on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Mr. Aylward:** Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's certainly is a pleasure for me to rise in the Legislative Assembly here today on the eve of summer.

I'd like to send a special hello out to residents all across Prince Edward Island that may be residing in a community care or long-term care facility, and particularly, my mom, Elizabeth, out at Beach Grove.

Last evening, I had the immense pleasure to attend a very important event. It was Health PEI's Long Term Service Awards. During the ceremony, 216 hardworking and dedicated employees were recognized for their years of service.

This included recognition for 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of service. Of particular note, there was even celebration and recognition for Norma Williams who is now – now in her 56<sup>th</sup> year of continual service within Health PEI serving Islanders.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Aylward:** When I spoke to Norma last night, she informed that she has no plans in slowing down anytime soon.

It was an interesting fact as well, that from these 216 individuals and all their years of service, it actually represents over 5,000 combined, collective years. That is certainly a huge milestone.

I would like to thank all of these individuals for their dedication and commitment to the well-being of Islanders.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to recognize some of the people in the gallery today, especially Bethany Collicutt McNab. I know her dad is always watching. I'm quite confident he would be watching right at the moment, if he got the rope untangled from his lawnmower that he got caught up into the other day.

Also want to recognize Emily Maxfield as a Page, and she's from the great riding of O'Leary-Inverness. Emily is a fantastic person, and she was here in the fall as a Page.

But also, Bethany is in many other endeavours – Emily is in many other endeavours, she's a lifeguard for our provincial park system and does a great job in doing good work there. But she is also a contestant in the Miss PEI, Miss Potato Blossom contest that's coming up in about a month's time. So there are some great ladies from that – contestants in that. I wish her the very best in that.

I also want to acknowledge the potato farmers. I think most of them have their crops in right now, and it was bit of a slow spring getting started. With the hard work and safe work that they have all put together, they've got their crop in. I wish them a very successful crop, although it looks like we are going to get some rain in the next few days. Once again, here's hoping that it's not too much rain all at one time.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Deagle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today and welcome everyone in the gallery, especially Jacob MacDonald, Chelsea Perry who are staff in the government member's office. They help us out a lot and keep us in line. I'd also like to welcome Jeff Reynolds, as well.

This morning I had the pleasure of attending on behalf of the minister of education the prosper east program graduation, which assists recipients of social – sorry, social assistance. It helps them through a seven week program to get back into the workforce. It was touching to hear about a dozen or so graduates, their stories and their journeys. I commend them for their work and wish them all the best.

Finally, I'd like also like to wish all the graduates of Montague Regional High School who will be graduating this evening at the Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre in Montague.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today and welcome everyone, especially those watching from District 18. We had a great ice cream and conversation town hall last night, although a lot of the fishers and farmers, of course, were out on the fields and the water.

I would like to welcome everyone to the gallery, the press, of course the Leader of the NDP Joe Byrne, but also the Executive Director of the P.E.I. Home and School Federation, Shirley Smedley-Jay, great to see you. Jeffrey Reynolds and my constituent Kathy Large. I didn't really know that she lived on the Taylor Road until just recently but now that I do, she's informed me we got to fix the road, so we'll see what we can do.

I wanted too, as well, just also wish all those graduating, convocating, across the Island a good luck. It starts off with Bluefield tonight I believe, which is of course where most of

my constituents go. We won't be able to attend but I wish them the best.

Also, at the UPEI climate lab today, they're piloting this brace training for professionals on climate change. So this is Dr. Phenoix, Stephanie Arnold and other climate lab staff. Staffs from my department are really working with professionals to show them what they can do to build regional adaptation capacity when it comes to adapting to climate change, so it's pretty exciting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to welcome Shirley into the gallery today as a constituent of mine. She's not just PEI Home and School, but she's also a performer and on the organizing committee, I think, if I remember, from the Bluegrass Festival. So it's pretty important to our tourism industry obviously, the number of people that attend that each year.

I also want to reiterate Bluefield High School as I'm a former alumni of Bluefield High School. Wishing them a safe graduation, I think they got through the prom unscathed and hopefully through their graduation ceremonies tonight and to further their careers. Their futures seem pretty bright, from some of the ones that I've talked to and some of the Pages that actually work in the Legislative Assembly are on the graduating role and that's, I'm sure, some of the reason why we're short over the next few days. So hopefully it's a safe grad and they prepare themselves well for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

**Ms. Beaton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today and just to say hello to everyone out in Mermaid-Stratford.

I particularly would like to recognize a couple of farmers that the Federation of Agriculture recognized as the June PEI

farmers: Faces of Farmers. It's Beaton's farm, I'm kind of biased to them, but really from this farm is how I know anything about agriculture. I've lived next to agriculture all my life. This farm gave me my first job, and many others picking strawberries. They grow a multitude of crops including; carrots, soybean, hay, grain and really just two humble gentlemen, Roy and Allan Beaton. I just wanted to give a shout out to all farmers; they are just about wrapping up all the planting for the season. It's been a pretty intense spring for them all, given the weather that they've had and the coldness that they've had, so anyways, just wanted to say thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

**Mr. Fox:** I just want to wish all the graduating class of Kinkora High School the best tonight as they go on the stage and receive their diplomas. I wish I could be there but I wish them all the best and all the best luck in the future.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** I would also like to stand and recognize some guests. Of course, I welcome everyone into the gallery and there are a couple special guests here today. That would be my sister Michelle Aiken and her son Tyler Aiken and they would live in the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park's riding and I just heard Tyler, the hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford talking and maybe you can get a summer job, or she can get you a summer job, he's not working yet. So I'd just like to welcome you to the proceedings. I know my other sister was supposed to be here but she had an accident and couldn't make it, so hopefully she will get in the next two months or eight weeks with her arm in a sling. So I hope everyone enjoys the proceedings here today.

#### Statements by Members

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chez Nous Cooperative**

*Cette dernière année a été riche en événements pour la Coopérative Le Chez-Nous de Wellington.*

This past year has been an eventful one for the Chez-Nous Cooperative in Wellington.

In 2018, Le Chez-Nous celebrated their 25th anniversary as a community care facility.

It also received the prestigious Service Business Award during the 2018 Lauriers de la PME Awards held in Vancouver last September.

The awards are organized by RDÉE Canada, sponsored by Air Canada. They recognize entrepreneurial excellence among small and medium-sized Acadian and Francophone businesses in Canada that are outside of Quebec.

At this time I would like to extend my congratulation to president, Marcel Richard, manager, Edgar Arsenault, and staff and board members of Le Chez-Nous, as well as the community for their ongoing support.

This past May the Cooperative began a 5,600 square foot expansion to its facility. It was an honor to be part of the sod turning ceremony with the new minister of health to celebrate the expansion. This expansion will add 12 manor care rooms to the existing 47 community care beds. The project is expected to cost \$2 million – and when completed, employ 10 staff positions.

Le Chez-Nous Co-operative is an important facility in the life of the Wellington and surrounding communities. It provides care close to home in a language very important to the community.

I am sure all members of the House will join me in congratulating Le Chez Nous on the celebration of 25 years plus the successful operation and its receipt of a prestigious national award. As well, the Cooperative is to be commended for the expansion of its facility to include manor rooms.

*Pour terminer, je tiens à remercier le Conseil et le personnel pour leur engagement et leur dévouement.*

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board and staff for their commitment and hard work.

With their continued efforts, the future looks bright for this vibrant Acadian and community facility.

*Merci Monsieur le Président.*

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

### **Solar Village on PEI**

**Mr. Hammarlund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Even as I was building the arc back in 1975, which was known as the first Net Zero and Net Food Building in the world, I realized that building a single family home in the middle of nowhere made no sense.

Any truly sustainable project needs close neighbours so that most walls and floors are interior with no have heat loss. Furthermore, humans are social beings and enjoying close contact and the ability to share tasks such as caring for children or elderly or others with problems, or even more importantly, to have fun together.

For all those reasons, I believe that the ideal sustainable housing is a village, combining solar energy, affordable housing, economic growth, social networking, better health, sustainable living and country living in a facility preferably in an existing rural location that needs the injection of new families.

Aside from being sustainably built and operated with heat needs being knowledgeable and power generated on site by solar collectors and windmills, the complex will be designed to accommodate individuals and families of all ages and needs. Many needs such as day care and elderly care would be provided right on site, creating employment without a need to commute.

Transportation needs would be met with one or more communally-owned electric cars and of course an organic farm would

surround the property and would have customers right next door and the land would be protected against development forever.

Communal facilities would be extensive and include spaces for day care, teen and senior's activities, a common dining room and even workshops encouraging local business and crafts. To put it simply, this solar village would combine all the best aspects of the city with the beauty and health of the countryside. That's my vision.

Thank you.

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

### **Congratulations to Blues**

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know you're a great fan of hockey as well as an astute fan of the Boston Bruins, so as the MLA for Hockeyville O'Leary, and as a fan of the National Hockey League, I would like to recognize the achievement of the St. Louis Blues in winning the Stanley Cup, defeating my beloved Bruins 4-1 in game seven of the Stanley Cup finals.

I want to inform this House that the PEI connections to the Stanley Cup champions will have their names inscribed on the Stanley Cup. Left winger Sammy Blais played junior hockey with the Charlottetown Islanders in the 2015-2016 season for 33 regular season games and 12 playoff games. As well, assistant coach Steve Ott was born in Summerside in 1982. He went on to have a solid NHL career as a player, playing an 848 NHL games with give different teams.

He became the assistant coach with the St. Louis Blues at the beginning of the 2017-2018 season, and he, along with Blais will have their name on the cup.

Notable other Prince Edward Islanders who played for the St. Louis Blues include in the past, a former MLA of this House, Bobby MacMillan. He played three seasons with the Blues from 1975-1978. Shane MacEachern played one game in the 1987-1988 season for the Blues and finally, Summerside native Doug MacLean who is

now a commentator, was an assistant coach with the Blues early in his coaching career.

Mr. Speaker, obviously you and I have been astute hockey fans and cheering for the Bruins and for that, I had the pleasure of being present at game two of the Stanley Cup finals out of the TD Garden in Boston which was, unfortunately, won by the Blues in overtime.

It is the Blues first cup since entering the NHL in 1967, and I'm sure all members of this House will join me in congratulating Sammy Blais, Steve Ott and the Blues organization and all the Blues fans on a most deserving and long awaited victory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just before I read the notice, I do want to point out you were a little modest with your nephew, he's one of the top baseball pitchers on PEI for his age.

I had the privilege of coaching him two years ago and he helped us win the silver medal for the provincials.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** Must have got that from his mother.

I wanted to thank the hon. member for the question you raised yesterday on land holdings. Firstly, I think important to put the question into context: the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* is administered through the Land Regulatory and Appeals Commission.

Certain land transactions require an application to be made, being non-resident acquisitions and corporate transactions that fall under the act.

Each application is reviewed in detail by the land analyst and the commission with their overview being presented and reviewed by

the commission to make recommendations to Executive Council.

Considerations when reviewing each application includes regency, geography, development and current land holdings.

The hon. member specifically asked about the public ability to determine land ownership.

There is public land registry in Charlottetown at the Jones Building that the House records for Kings and Queens County. Likewise, Access PEI in Summerside that would determine land ownership.

The hon. member has also requested information on the aggregate land holdings. Aggregate land holdings include leased hold interest and other related interest depending on the situation.

This information would not be housed at the registry office and it's specifically used for the application process where considerations for IRAC and making the recommendations to Executive Council.

This information is fluid and also subject to change, depending on the devastation of the land expiry leases.

As a result, there is no housing of aggregate land holdings as defined under the *Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* for corporations or non-residents.

If requested for application, given the information provided on the application, there would be potential privacy considerations that would need to be reviewed before we could commit to disclosing those documents.

A person can own 1,000 acres and 3,000 acres for aggregate.

Thank you.

#### Questions by Members

**Speaker:** Our first question from hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last night I attended the public meeting on short-term rentals hosted by the City of Charlottetown as part of their public consultation process. It was a packed house, with many Charlottetown residents taking the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns with city councilors and officials.

Short-term rentals that are listed via sharing sites like Airbnb, Vrbo and Home Stay now make up 1 in 50 privately owned dwellings in Charlottetown, while at the same time the vacancy rate for the city is at near zero.

While short-term rentals are not the sole cause of the current housing crisis, they are a contributing factor especially in the turnover of existing long-term rental units as tenants are renocted.

#### **Short-term rental regulations**

A question to the minister responsible for Charlottetown: What conversations have you had with Charlottetown City Council about short-term rental regulation?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

I thank the hon. member across for the very important question.

I, unfortunately as I alluded to earlier, I was not able to attend that public forum last night. I had another obligation related directly to my portfolio with health and wellness.

With regards to the conversation around what's happening as we forward, those discussions are being lined up as we speak. As a matter of fact, I have a meeting scheduled, along with the Premier for Monday, along with the mayors of Charlottetown, Stratford, and Cornwall. That is one of the top agenda items that we will be discussing.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** It was clear from the feedback provided at the public meeting last night that the majority of those favouring regulated the units listed on sites such as Airbnb and Vrbo wanted an owner-occupied model. That would mean in order to rent out on one of those sites the unit would also have to be your primary residence.

Currently in PEI, short-term rentals are required to be licensed under the *Tourism Industry Act*. These regulations exist to protect the interests of tourists; however, no provincial regulations on short-term rentals exist to protect our housing supply, and the interests of Island tenants.

A question to the Minister of Social Development and Housing: What kind of regulation do you think is appropriate for short-term rentals?

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

**Mr. Hudson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do thank the member for putting the question forward.

Certainly as I have said before, any family, if we have one family, if we have one individual that does not have a roof over their heads, we have a housing crisis and we certainly have that situation right now.

Having said that though, we do need to work, we have to work with our municipalities right across the province as the hon. minister referenced here just a couple minutes ago. We do need to work with our municipalities.

The needs in the Greater Charlottetown or the Charlottetown area are not necessarily the same as they are in Summerside or about the same as they are in West Prince. When I say the needs, it means the solutions as well are not necessarily the same.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some municipalities seem reluctant to act, with the notable exception of the town of Victoria by the Sea, and are looking to the province to provide solutions, solutions that are required urgently.

### **Protection for Islanders for housing**

Minister, will your department step up and develop the necessary regulations to protect the rights of Islanders who need a secure, long-term place to live?

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

**Mr. Hudson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It would be about a week and a half ago that I had the great opportunity to attend an event right here in Charlottetown: tent city. It was coordinated by the PEI Fight for Affordable Housing.

I had a tremendous opportunity – it was a great opportunity that day to speak to the organizer, Mr. Jason Aylward, but not only to Jason, but also the ones that are living this day in and day out.

That's the type of thing like I had mentioned a minute ago, that certainly we have to have the discussions with municipalities, but we have to collaborate. I am the type of person I am not going – I would much prefer to collaborate as to dictate what should be taking place.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Other jurisdictions have required short-term rental hosting platforms, like Airbnb, to enter into information sharing agreements so that government has accurate data upon which it can formulate good public policy.

### **Short-term rental hosting platforms**

A question to the Minister of Social Development and Housing: Will your government commit to perusing such agreements with hosting platforms?

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

**Mr. Hudson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I do appreciate the question from the hon. member and I do appreciate her passion. I share with her, with regard to the housing situation, let's face it, the housing crisis that we are presently facing. Short term rentals are no doubt a very important issue. With that as my colleague had mentioned earlier, the provincial departments that are impacted that have a say in this, that have a role to play in this, are working collaboratively and in discussions with regard to long-term solutions, but also working with municipalities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

While I appreciate that the minister is new to the portfolio as are all members of the House, this problem is not a new problem, it has in fact been brewing for months, if not years, and is a significant aspect of the current housing crisis. I am please to hear that the minister is using that language to recognize the situation that Islanders are in and that those discussions are ongoing with the municipalities who are obviously a key player in this. But again, minister, the time for discussion and consultation is well passed.

### **Regulations for short-term rentals**

Minister, will your department make a commitment to developing regulations to restrict the currently unregulated growth of short-term rentals across the province?

**Speaker:** Minister of Social Development and Housing:

**Mr. Hudson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to reiterate that I'm not the type of individual who is going to dictate. Having said that, I do appreciate where the hon. member is coming from, that regulations most likely do need to be put in place. But having said that, we do need to work in

collaboration, we do need to listen to our municipal leaders, we do need to listen to the ones who are living this on a day in day out basis and take our action, our movement, our decisions based on that Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member of Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **Clifford Lee's role in short-term rental file**

Last year the province appointed Clifford Lee as the special advisor on housing. A question to the Minister on Social Development and Housing: Can you elaborate on what Mr. Lee's role has been on a short-term rental file in the almost year that he's been employed.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Clifford Lee is under my department. I had a couple of meetings with him to discuss the housing file. He brought forward what he has been working on, the projects that have been presented to him, the projects that they are looking at and at this point, it's like the minister said, we're working to get this housing problem solved and Clifford Lee is a part of that.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I don't view climate change as an environmental issue at all. It's a security issue and in fact, it's the gravest security issue that humanity has ever faced. The throne speech essentially acknowledges this in saying climate change poses severe threats to and I quote "...our coast lines, our crops and the lives of future generations of Islanders..."

The following sentence in the throne speech says this: government's long term vision is to achieve a carbon neutral society.

**Carbon neutral by 2050**

A question to the premier, now that our National Parliament has established that it is appropriate to refer to our situation as a climate emergency and if we accept that the Paris targets are scientifically established goals necessary to keep global heating to less than 1.5 degrees, does he mean by long-term, that we will be carbon neutral by 2050?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker for the question.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition is exactly right. Climate change is probably the issue that is facing us today and also facing those that are coming behind us. In the throne speech we tried to articulate the seriousness of this. As a government, we've appointed a department of climate change for that reason. The Paris targets that are set from 2015, we are working towards meeting those targets by 2030.

That won't get us to carbon neutrality, as the leader of the opposition knows. It would be my desire as it would be the desire of every other member of this House and every other member or resident of Prince Edward Island to get there much sooner.

I think as we can continue to evolve as a society, as we continue to innovate, as we continue to learn more about how we can go about reducing our carbon footprint, reducing greenhouse gases, I feel confident that we can get there sooner. But, we also have to have some, what I like to say, common sense and some reasoned approach to this and 2050 is a target that is very reachable. I do sincerely hope we can get there sooner.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The current legislation under which we work, the *Climate Leadership Act*, on the trajectory that it puts us on, we will not be carbon neutral until 2065 – 15 years after the

Paris Accord says we have to be at carbon neutral.

Once again, in the throne speech there is a section where our youth here on Prince Edward Island are described as our teachers when it comes to climate change, and that we must, and again I quote: listen to their voices.

**Climate change re: concern to young Islanders**

To the Premier: Has he heard any voices from younger Islanders who have suggested that we should be less concerned about climate change and that a more gradual approach is what they would prefer?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Well, Mr. Speaker, in response to that question, I would say absolutely not.

I think the vision going forward for Prince Edward Island and for the world is going to come from our youth.

I have a 12-year-old son, a 15-year-old daughter who are very, very passionate about making sure we do our part for the environment and to leave this place better than what we found it. It is an issue that all youth, I think, are very conscious of and are really driving us to make sure that we get it and move forward.

So the answer to your question would be: No.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

One of the problems when we talk about climate change is having to admit that fixing it is going to cost us. It's going to cost us plenty. There is no free fix.

The choice with the biggest cost is in-action. All other options must be weighed against each other by asking the following three questions:

By how much is it going to reduce carbon emissions? How much is that going to cost? How does that compare to the other alternatives that are available to us?

**Cost of options to reduce emissions**

To the Premier: Is he in favour of adopting, for Prince Edward Island, the most effective, cheapest options to reduce emissions?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Mr. Speaker, I see my role as the Premier of Prince Edward Island to come up with reasonable and doable options to actually help us get there. The one question that wasn't asked in the three by the Leader of the Opposition is: How do we do it now and what are the impacts if we do that now?

It is irresponsible to do that without looking at that, and it's real that we have to look at what – there are costs that are associated with that. Yes, there are costs on the back end if we don't get there, but there are costs now that we have to be mindful of.

The Leader of the Opposition and I had a couple of really spirited debates during the election campaign, and this was one of the issues that we mostly agree on but we found a little bit of room to wiggle and discuss. I think it is responsible for Prince Edward Island to make sure that we're doing everything we can to reduce the carbon, but we also have to be aware of who is here right now, and there's a cost that goes with that that we have to make sure we don't download too much on.

I think we can do a lot more by innovating. I think we can do a lot more by rewarding Islanders for being mindful and to actually reduce carbon. That is the approach that I have been wanting to take, but I want to get there, hon. leader – I want to get there as fast as possible. I absolutely do, yes.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** The Premier talks of reasonable – it is unreasonable for us not to be facing this crisis absolutely head on, but to do it in a way that takes into account; absolutely, the hardships that will

be endured by this generation. But, this generation has created a terrible mess here on this planet and it is our responsibility not to pass that mess on to future generations.

In combating climate change and assessing the costs associated with it, one critical factor, as we have just agreed, is protecting every-day Islanders who are alive today from those extra costs.

To the Premier: Of the choices that are available; more regulation, carbon taxation, incentives, rebates, penalizing big emitters, tax credits and on and on, which does he believe will create the least economic burden for Islanders who are here today?

Or, put another way, as it states in your throne speech: which will be the ideas and solutions that work for everyone?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the way forward is found in all of those, quite frankly. I think there's something to be found in all of those components that the Leader of the Opposition has put forward.

Where we differ on a carbon tax is yes, I do believe the science. I do believe that carbon pricing is one of the best ways to change how we operate as Islanders. I believe that.

I believe in it wholeheartedly, but I also have been very adamant in saying that the biggest challenge with Prince Edward Island when it comes to greenhouse gas is transportation. Everything that we export is by transportation. Everyone who lives in rural Prince Edward Island has to get places by driving a car.

I think it's unfair to download all of those costs onto us right now, because it absolutely does nothing to change what the reality is. I want to live in the reality. Let's reduce carbon. We agree we need to reduce carbon. We need to be a leader on that.

I think as Islanders we're leaders and innovators on that. There are more things that we could do, absolutely, but penalizing people for living and working in rural Prince Edward Island is not something that I want to do right now.

I want to work with them. I would rather incentivize Islanders to live there. I would rather find a way move forward and actually reduce carbon to get to the levels that we need to get to as outlined in the Paris Accord of 2015.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Farming is critically important to our economy and right now, Island farmers are facing increasingly severe challenges due to the effects of climate change. We have seen this over the last couple of years with significant crop failures due to abnormal weather, which has put extraordinary pressure on crop insurance programs.

#### **Cost incurred through crop insurance re: severe weather**

Question to the minister responsible for agriculture: Can you advise this House on the total costs incurred through crop insurance as a result of last year's severe weather?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

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

Yes, I can give you some details on the crop insurance. I mean the potato industry had a difficult fall, difficult spring. These don't happen very often, but they got a double whammy last year; and the devastating effects of not getting their crop out and a light frost in the spring it led to trigger the crop insurance.

It was approximately \$53 million from the crop insurance, which is federal insurance money.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\$53 million is an extraordinary amount to payout in one year.

Unpredictable weather patterns are a reality with climate change, and the longer we continue to dump carbon into the atmosphere, the less stable our climate becomes. As members can see we are already paying the costs of inaction and those costs can reasonably be expected to increase substantially as we approach or exceed 1.5 degrees of warming. This is one small example of costs, but it's far from the only one.

Question to the minister responsible for agriculture: Do you have any concerns that multiple growing seasons like last year could impact the ability of crop insurance programs to stay viable?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

**Mr. Thompson:** Thank you for the question, Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

As a farmer, I also purchase crop insurance every year and I have only had triggered a large payment once in my – I guess I have been farming since '94. It happens, and we are so fortunate that the farmers have that insurance program there so when they have a year like last year they can take advantage of it.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Talking about mitigation when it comes to farming is critical and in agriculture a strong adaptation plan will be necessary as even if we cut emissions to zero today we can reasonably expect to see warming continue for some time.

#### **Ensuring a viable future in farming**

Question to the minister responsible for agriculture: Can you advise the House on any steps you are taking to ensure a viable future in farming can be sustained with our new climate reality?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

**Mr. Thompson:** My department, the Department of Agriculture and Land, are taking great strides in preserving the quality of the soil. We are doing a new soil test that takes measurements of the soil so you can measure the organic matter. We are investing in technology like never before where it helps the farmers preserve the land.

Also, precision agriculture is a big word that I'm using now in pushing forward to farmers across this Island that we need to – precision is a key word on preserving everything and using only what we need.

The farmers, myself, and farmers across this Island, take great pride in their land and in their environment. They make their money, they make their livelihood, their families live off the land and they care about their land.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the past campaign this spring, the PC platform had stated they would give \$3.3 million, additional dollars, to long-term care. But yet, there was no mention of this in the throne speech.

#### **Plans for long-term care in this fiscal year**

So my question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness: Can you give the House today some information on what your plan is for long-term care, specifically in this fiscal?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

This certainly was in our platform and long-term care is extremely important to this government, unfortunately the past administration, when they replaced three manors: the Prince Edward Home, the manor in Montague and the manor in Tyne-Valley, they built those facilities with the same amount of beds they were replacing.

While I applaud the former administration for taking measures to replace those facilities, they didn't have the foresight to look forward and to realize that we have an aging demographic and we were going to require more beds.

The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche spoke in his member statement with regards to a great investment that we announced recently with regards to adding 12 beds in the Wellington area, in Chez-Nous.

I mean, we have a budget, it will be forthcoming and at that point in time, I'll be able to share exact details of what our plans are moving forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It was the last government that actually allocated those beds to Chez-Nous in Wellington, along with – or included 100 beds last year of long-term care right across the Island.

However, there is a huge need for long-term beds in my community, in the community of Tignish.

#### **Need for long-term care beds in Tignish**

We have a 52 bed community care facility that's a co-operative and we're very proud of that, but their ask now is to have an allocation of at least 12 long-term care beds in our community.

Will you make this a priority in your allocation?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

I recently have had a conversation electronically with a member of that co-op and I agree with the hon. member, that it is a wonderful facility. I've actually been up to

Tignish and I've seen the facility several times before and I applaud the great work that this co-op is doing. I applaud the work that they've been able to do in the community care facility to help with long-term care as well.

One of the discussions that we had when we were going back and forth was apparently a commitment by the previous administration that we're still trying to track down and an invoice apparently for two hundred and some thousand dollars that was promised that would be paid, that we're still trying to track down that information so we have something in writing so we can go back and actually evaluate it and come to a conclusion one way or another.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

What the minister just mentioned, I'll go back to the board and I'll find out that information for you because it's all news to me, but I will be speaking with the board at 5:00 p.m. and I'll get back to you with an update on that.

So would you be willing to – you've been through the facility several times you said – in your capacity now as Minister of Health and Wellness, tour the facility, meet the board and while you're also in Tignish go through the health centre and see what services that they provide and they also have an ask and a need in our community and they would love to have the opportunity to have a sit down with you and discuss their needs.

Would you be willing to do that?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Land and land ownership has always been a contentious issue here on Prince Edward Island and an issue of importance to Islanders since our first settlers arrived here many hundreds of years ago.

The throne speech and the PC election platform has identified the concept of a land bank –

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Henderson:** – the previous administration had a concept of a farmland financing program and this program was established to provide opportunity for farmers to actually own their land and to build equity in their farming operations.

### **Land bank and land financing program**

My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Land: Will the minister provide the House with a detailed schedule to when farmers can expect this bank will be in operation and will the farm land financing program be discontinued when the land bank is operational.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

**Mr. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and member from, I believe, District 25.

As a person who farms and owns farm land and went through the Future Farmer Program myself, I know the importance of having access to financial needs, access to land and (Indistinct) the farmland financing program it did do that, it financed young farmers or expanding farmers or farmers in that aspect.

But for the land bank, we want to take it and look at it that. We want to do something different; we wanted to take the land that can go up for sale and nobody is interested. It's across the Island and we want more of an uptake. I looked at the numbers from before and only 13 loans were issued from across the Island in farmland financing. So we want to take a different approach, a different look with the farmland.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from O’Leary-Inverness, first supplementary.

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously the minister would know that a land bank can come in many forms and it can help to preserve our traditional agricultural sector and help maintain viability of our Island farms.

As I understand it, land banks can be private sector or public sector entities and as the throne speech is rather vague, I am sort of seeking some greater clarification of this.

### **Viability of family farms and new entrants**

Does the government have any preference, or the minister have any preference, as to an organizational model that will be used and in the ministers view, which model will best preserve the viability of family farms and encourage new entrants into our agriculture community?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I guess I’ll answer this as the land bank does fall inside the department of transportation, as all land acquisition does for the government.

We’re in the very early stages; this is something that’s very important to this government. I know the Premier gave directive like: let’s get this thing going. I met with staff, we talked about it, we’re exploring what the options are, so the timing of your question couldn’t have been better.

If you want to be a part of the discussion, I know you have a lot of experience as the minister of agriculture, I know you have a lot of experience as a farmer and any insight that you can provide, we’re going to be open to that because we’re not designing this for us that sit over here, we’re designing this for all of Prince Edward Island, for the future, for faring in the future and for our children. So the door is open and we’re looking forward to anything you can provide to help us.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from O’Leary-Inverness, your second supplementary.

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That’s encouraging to know that that’s actually the preference (Indistinct) going to be acquiring the land, it’ll be interesting to see who’s actually administrating the land and determining how that particular land bank operation works.

In the PC Party platform, it was mentioned that there was a cost of about \$1million that was going to be assigned to this particular land bank. I’m sure the minister of agriculture is well aware of the value of land in his community.

### **Amount of acres in land bank**

Minister, can you explain to this House what this money will actually be spent on – and if it is the minister of transportation that’s good – and if it for the purchase of land, how many acres would that put into such a land bank.

**Speaker:** The hon. –

**Mr. Henderson:** Give all three that’s good!

**Some Hon. Members:** Indistinct.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Well no, Mr. Speaker, I feel since I’m the rightly or wrongly the architect of this plan that you continue to – you might want to flip it over and look to the back to some of these things – but there’s lots more in it in there, of course.

The idea for this was to actually put \$1 million forward to start to formulate what exactly a land bank would look like. We want to explore as we talked about on the campaign with other party leaders, what that could be. Whether there’s some private investment option, whether there’s a public investment option, all of those other things.

We obviously know that \$1million is not going to buy much agriculture land in Prince Edward Island so we will have to be utilizing more resources going forward and how we go about doing that. I hope the plan would be to send this to the standing

committee on agriculture, or whatever that committee gets made up. I would like the recommendation to come from this legislature and from Prince Edward Island as to how we actually put that forward.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Deagle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

There is significant concern in my district with the Sorrey Bridge which is located Knox's Dam. Some of the concerns to do with this are through the bridge's structural integrity.

### **Inspection and age of Sorrey Bridge**

Can the minister confirm how old this bridge is and when the bridge was last inspected?

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Good question.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am familiar with this bridge. Back in the old days, I'm sure the Premier might have been there, some afternoons that he was supposed to be in high school we used to swim off of there in hot days like today when we should have been in school, but it's been there for a long time.

I can't tell you the exact age of the bridge, but I do know that the bridges are inspected in two-year cycles so it would have been inspected no more than two years ago.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Deagle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bridge is heavily travelled. Hundreds of cars travel over it every day. School buses travel over it with children, dozens of school buses every day.

Minister: What did the most recent bridge inspection find out about this structure?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There's no question this bridge is old. It's one of the wooden structures that we still have. It is highly travelled. It is in very bad shape on the surface, for sure, it's rough. I believe the inspections found that it was in fair condition, which isn't the worst rating that we give bridges, but it's not the best rating obviously either.

We have a budget of about \$1.5 million a year that we use to repair bridges, and we have a budget of between five and \$7 million a year of capital budget to replace bridges. So I feel like we've done a good job in the department keeping up.

This was the first year that we released the inspections report to the public, so anybody can go look at it and decide for themselves how they think that we're doing. This is something we're going to continue to do so that all Islanders can grade us on how we're doing with bridges on PEI.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, your second supplementary.

**Mr. Deagle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I can assure you, the bridge is not in fair condition. It's extremely poor. Perhaps, 20 years ago.

### **Replacement of Sorrey Bridge**

Minister, will you commit to replacing this bridge and make it a priority so all traffic, including school buses, can travel over it safely?

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is in our capital plan. It's in our five-year capital plan. I'm not sure of the year. It's not this summer, for sure. Our bridges have all been announced –

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. Myers:** I don't even think it's next year, but you know what, hon. member? If you want to sit down and look at the priorities that are in your district and want us to shift things around to get that bridge done before something else, then I am more than happy to get it bumped up the list for you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Even if we stay under 1.5 degrees of warming, which we must, our climate reality is going to be substantially different from the past.

Temperature and rainfall patterns are changing and the range of what is able to survive here will change with it. We can expect to see trees; plants, wildlife and crops that have historically thrived here do so no longer.

### **Direction for sustainable agriculture for the future**

Question to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: What information is your department using to assess what direction agriculture needs to be moving in to be sustainable in the future?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot, thank you for the question.

The Department of Agriculture and Land is taking great strides to improve the sustainability of agriculture and the soil, and we have a department of sustainability in the department and we're continuing to going to add to that as well.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question was specifically around what information are you using and where you're getting that information from.

UPEI's climate lab has made some excellent recommendations, one of which is to commission a study that would provide evidence for future decision-making with regards to which directions we take in agriculture. I'll be tabling a copy of those recommendations later today.

### **Study of crop opportunities and challenges**

Question to the Minister of Agriculture and Land: Will you commit to commissioning a comprehensive study of crop opportunities and challenges under warming conditions under the next 30 years?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, hon. member, we take all considerations in and for the betterment of the soil, the farmer. We will be looking at different things as they come and we will continue to.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

**Mr. Howard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our current *Electric Power Act* allows a certain return on the portion of grid assets. The utility is allowed to own currently at least 40% of the total. This system does not encourage innovation as any potential losses are absorbed by the utility, but any returns over the determined rate on a return must be returned to rate payers.

This encourages the utility to use only status quo assets, which they consider to be low risk, such as diesel generators. There is no incentive for the utility to take any sort of risk and drive our grid infrastructure towards the innovation we need to get to the energy future we want.

### **Electric Power Act**

Question to the minister: Do you agree that it is time to have a closer look at the *Electric*

*Power Act* and ensure it works, both for the public utility and the people of Prince Edward Island's collective future?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, I do.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

**Mr. Howard:** Formerly we had a cost plus 10% arrangement in place that was making it difficult for the utility to make a profit selling NB Power's electricity, so we changed it. Now we have essentially guaranteed returns, in other words charge what you need to make a certain amount of profit.

Is the minister willing to explore alternative models for how we ensure Maritime Electric is both profitable and encouraged to innovate?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, absolutely I am.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

**Mr. Howard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The PEI Power Corporation now has the ability to control demand at the source with behind the metre storage, potentially electric vehicle storage, smart appliances, and small-scale renewables. Islanders want many of these innovative technologies in their homes and businesses as they provide economic benefits and security against power outages, as well providing a path towards household greenhouse gas emission reduction.

### **Transitioning energy supply to carbon free**

Will the minister be working to find ways to immediately encourage the participation of Island homeowners in transitioning our energy supply to carbon free local energy sources?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So the hon. member and I have had a couple conversations about this – one formal, one informal.

I believe strongly in helping Islanders shift over for how they use energy and how much energy they use. In the Office of Energy Efficiency they have programs that help along with that and they have expertise that helps along with that.

Our platform that some of you like to talk about a lot here lately. Our platform had in it that there was going to be a solar rebate program to help Islanders to get into solar rebate or to get into solar energy in their homes.

That is something that we are going to move forward on because I think it's important.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

**Mr. Howard:** Effective public engagement will be important to creating a new system that works for the people of PEI.

### **Electric Power Act (further)**

Will the minister commit to striking a committee on how to best to revise the *Electric Power Act* to ensure the utility, the government, and most importantly, the people are motivated to move into the 100% clean energy future that PEI wants and needs.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know if I would strike a new committee, but we will soon have or maybe we already do have committees of the House that will deal with those types of things. That's probably a great place for committee work. The committee can do what they like with it, take it to the public, take it to any community they want, and report back to the House. I would absolutely love to be a

partner in the results of that committee to decide that that was the best avenue for it.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

Oh, I'm sorry.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

**Ms. Bernard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My colleagues have spoken to the devastating effects of climate change on our Island. All eyes are on us, and I for one, want to look my own children in the eye and tell them I did everything I could to protect them. I just hope that it's not too late. Our Island schools are the best place to reach youth and children.

### **Teaching of climate change in Island schools**

Question to the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning and Environment, Water, and Climate Change: Are you comfortable what we are teaching in terms of climate change in our Island schools is adequate?

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

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, that's an issue that has been raised a number of times, most recently by the youth that were having a Friday Futures Climate Change strike over here at Province House. They suggested things like having environmental fairs, both science and heritage fairs with environmental themes, or an environmental fair itself.

They also said that there used to be an environmental studies program that was offered in the schools, and in fact it was their belief it was classified in the arts as an arts credit. Immediately, of course, I looked into that and I do have a document that outlines exactly what is being shared in our schools in terms of curriculum right now.

I've asked the department to look at that for the future; I would say in terms of timelines, it won't be until the fall until we would be

able to give you anything but I'll gladly share that document with you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

**Ms. Bernard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There are many barriers that they have identified in the New Brunswick document that talks exactly, I was going to bring up that exact Envirothon and the experiential learning that they do in New Brunswick they've integrated into their curriculum.

In this document they identify many barriers that teachers face in the implementation of something like this.

Some of these include but are not limited to a fear on the part of teachers that this topic will upset parents and teachers. Some teachers have a lack of connection to the environment, lack of classroom materials, resources, professional development, peer mentoring and or community support.

### **Barriers to teachers attempting to educate on climate change**

How will you support teachers in addressing these barriers should they choose to address climate change on their own?

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

**Mr. Trivers:** You know, this is a great question and a timely question.

We've got some really excellent in the department who are experts in developing curriculum and one of the areas they've been looking at recently is what they call an inquiry-based approach.

They are taking the leaders in science and social studies and other subject areas, not just the literacy and math, but all those other areas and they're saying: Let's take a coordinated approach to that. That's something I think we should bring to them because that's exactly how we could address some of the fears of teachers, by integrating the curriculum across those areas including something on the environment and climate change within that.

Statements by Ministers

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

**Loan Disclosures**

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our government made a promise to be more transparent and accountable to Islanders.

It is very important, from our perspective, that Islanders have access to information about how their tax dollars are being invested.

Today I am pleased to announce that we are taking an important first step in our efforts to do just that.

The provincial loan portfolio supports nearly 900 Island businesses with close to \$400 million in loans.

That portfolio is vital for the growth of Island businesses, job creation, and our economic health.

It also makes money. Our loan portfolio returns an average of \$4 million in profits annually even after accounting for all write offs and expenses.

So, it's a successful program.

Since I was first elected in 2015, I've advocated for greater transparency around government loans. For too long Islanders have had too little information on the loans we are approving, who is receiving them, and how they're being used.

With that in mind, I am very pleased to announce that moving forward, all government loans worth \$100,000 or more will be posted online once approved so they are available to the public.

Up until now, loans had to be in excess of \$1 million to be published online.

The information posted will include the name of the borrower, the name of the lender, the amount, the interest rate, the term, and a general comment about the use of funds.

We will also work with borrowers to be able to provide more information on individual loans on a case by case basis.

Our government believes Islanders want more transparency and accountability.

And I think improved transparency on our loan portfolio is an excellent place to start.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

**Mr. Hammarlund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think this is really welcomed news. I'd like to ask the minister, what was the reason for the cut-off at \$100,000? What about smaller loans, should they not be public as well?

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I commend the minister for this announcement, you know, loan disclosures are important part of government's accountability and transparency. The lending agency has been a very productive part of government and very successful and as you had indicated, you know, for 900 Island businesses to be able to tap into this and succeed through loans is a wonderful thing, so I think the minister for his statement and I look forward to the future and reviewing this.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities

**Importance of the Fishing Industry**

**Mr. Fox:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to talk briefly about our the importance of our fishing industry in P.E.I. and advise the House that new innovations in harvesting and processing are being explored and it will strengthen product quality and also safety. The fishing and

agriculture industries contribute to approximately \$650 million directed to the provincial economy, in account for more than 8,000 jobs across the Island.

This industry is a major economic driver in rural communities, across our whole province. Prince Edward Island is Canada's Food Island and has earned an international reputation for products from land and sea. Actually this week, we actually met with visitors and buyers from Eastern Europe on our agriculture industry. The muscle industry is also strong and is growing. The landed value of this industry is in the area of \$45 million.

We are the largest muscle producer in Canada, accounting for 80% of the total production. Prince Edward Island is the largest oyster producer in Atlantic Canada and the landed value is upwards to \$14 million and we are working on ways to increase harvesting and also exploring, which will be beneficial to our economy.

Thank you.

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

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I agree with that, it is such an important industry for our Island and of course it is a huge economic driver. The reputation that our fisheries and agriculture industries have internationally is well deserved.

There are many ways that the province can support these industries such as, working with industry associations to identify new export markets, opportunities for innovative new uses of seafood products and more locally, finding ways to locally incorporate products into our communities.

In order to help our Island's fisheries and aquaculture industries to be viable, in the long-term, it is essential that we protect our waterways from contamination and degradation. I will take this opportunity to remind government that the release of the effluent into the Northumberland Strait is of grave concern and a significant threat to our fishing industries.

A federal environmental impact assessment is needed and there are three main reasons why this is called for.

First, the actions of Northern Pulp in the Northumberland Strait will have interprovincial implications.

Second, Indigenous people will be directly impacted and;

Third, there has been an overwhelming outcry that warrants an in-depth investigation. On any of these reasons, they would be sufficient on their own to call for a federal impact assessment and I urge our government to advocate as such.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Anytime the government invests into fisheries or shellfishery on Prince Edward Island it's good for all of us. It's good for our economy. I know coming from my district, I wouldn't be far from saying 80% of our local economy is driven from the fishery. So any business does well. In fact, this spring, we had an appreciation night for the fishermen in my area. We had the car dealers from Summerside tripping over each other to try and get up there and support them because they know that if the fishers are doing well, the Island economy is going to be doing well.

I'm very happy to hear that there was an announcement today in fisheries because there was no mention of this industry whatsoever in the throne speech. So I'm not sure if this was an afterthought after the Member from O'Leary-Inverness yesterday mentioned it in his response to the throne speech, but, we would like to see more announcements for the fishing industry and the shellfish industry here on Prince Edward Island and we have to do all we can to support them and sustain them for a very viable future.

Thank you.

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

### **Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement**

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, as minister responsible for lifelong learning, training and skills development, I'm very pleased to rise today to announce our new Workforce Development Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement with the Federal Government.

We know our most valuable resource is our people. Today, in partnership with the hon. Patty Hadju, Federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, I am pleased to announce that our governments have signed agreements for Canada to provide Prince Edward Island \$200 million over a six-year period.

That's right, it's very very good to have \$200 million to have back to invest in our Island workers.

These agreements represent an increase in funding of over \$11 million, compared to previous funding levels.

I am mostly excited about today's announcement because this increase means more Islanders will receive the training and skills development they need to prepare for jobs in Prince Edward Island.

These skills training programs will focus on groups too often underrepresented in the workforce such as youth, those with disabilities, women and Indigenous people and newcomers. As well, older workers looking to enter or reenter the workforce.

The Workforce Development Agreement will help deliver training and services such as; the workplace skills training initiative which is designed for employers to train new or existing employees to develop their skills and align with the needs of an ever-changing workplace and supports for persons with disabilities – including skills development to prepare and find meaningful employment and funding under the Labour Market Development Agreement will help more Island workers and employers meet their needs though support for Training PEI

to provide Islanders with the skills and education necessary to find and maintain long-term employment and employment assistant services to provide employment counseling, career planning and job searching. Also, continued delivery of the highly successful Graduate Mentorship Program.

Support for non-profit community organizations to deliver short-term projects that provide unemployed individuals with a valuable work experience to enhance their skills and continued support for Self Employ PEI to provide an environment to facilitate growth through small business start-ups.

We are very pleased to continue working in collaboration with the federal government to ensure Islanders have the education and skills necessary to build a strong workforce.

If there are MLA's in the House that aren't aware of these programs or what they mean and how their constituents can use them – please do reach out to me or the department and we would be very happy to provide you a briefing, especially the new MLA's.

Today's announcement perfectly aligns with our long-term vision to grow our provinces intellectual capital through education, skills development and lifelong learning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Bernard:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That certainly is wonderful news and I'm so thankful that we do have programs to support people in their efforts to secure employment or start their own business.

Programs such as these have such potential to support innovation on Prince Edward Island, which is such an important piece of our Island and its future as we move forward.

My hope is that these services – I often hear that services can be difficult to navigate and that people tend to face barrier after barrier in trying to access services.

It seems as though being cautious and honest in projections can be a bit of a detriment to the person seeking these services. If you're a little more risk averse you may not qualify for certain services.

So, I'm very thankful we have these, I'd love to hear more about them and I look forward to hearing more as we move forward.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Certainly this is great news indeed. This is vitally important to employers on Prince Edward Island and workers that they will take into their employment needs that are well skilled and developed so this will allow people to, not only develop new skills, but enhance skills that they already have and anything that assists that, when it comes to skills development.

Some of these people will go on to self employment and become very very important to our Island's economy moving forward. So I do want to thank the minister for signing this agreement.

I do want to thank the federal government for giving us more money to Prince Edward Island to continue to enhance these programs. It's been a relationship that the former government has developed over the last dozen years and I look very forward every year to working with the federal government on that – so it's very encouraging to hear they came up again forward in a very big way.

I'm glad you were able to sign this agreement.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

#### Tabling of Documents

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House I beg leave to table answers to written questions from the

65th General Assembly, from the Member from Borden-Kinkora and I move seconded by the Honourable of Minister of Health and Wellness that said documents be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Fox:** (Indistinct)

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

**Mr. Hudson:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House I beg leave to table an answer to written question number one dated yesterday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Communities, 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:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table the federal government's definition of low income measures and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, that said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

**Ms. Lund:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House I beg leave to table recommendations for a climate change crop study from the UPEI Climate lab and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke, that said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

Reports by Committee

Oh, reports by committee. I'm sorry, members, but you got to – I looked around the room a couple times this time, you got to give me a little warning when there are bills, please.

Thank you.

#### Introduction of Government Bills

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Social Development and Housing, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Bill No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act*, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Little overview, minister?

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Summary Proceedings Act* to modernize provisions related to the court administration of fines and instance of tickets.

The amendments will clearly outline the consequences for default and payment of a fine, enable the person to default and have their license and registration reinstated when they make satisfactory fine payment arrangements with the court – allow the summary offence tickets to be issued electronically.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property 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. 10, *An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act*.

**Speaker:** Overview, minister.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Trespass to Property Act* to change the minimum penalty for provision entry or activity on premises so that it matches the penalty under the *Off-Highway Vehicle Act* for prohibition operation of an off-highway vehicle on a confederation trail.

This bill is in response to the request made by the PEI Snowmobile Association that the penalties under both acts be the same.

**Speaker:** One more?

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Clerk:** Bill No. 13, *An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act*, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Overview, minister.

**Mr. Thompson:** This bill repeals the *Gulf Trust Corporation Act*, which was a force in 2000 to remedy the unintentional dissolution of the Gulf Trust Corporation by earlier private member's bill.

The Department of Justice and Public Safety has determined that the act has done its job in continuing the trust of Gulf Trust Corporation under the *Companies Act*. We therefore propose that it shall be repealed.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Thompson:** This is the last one.

I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*, and I move, seconded by the

Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Communities that the same be received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Bill No. 14, *An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Overview, minister.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals the *Bailable Proceedings Act* which came into effect in 1939. It provides the authority for the imprisonment of (Indistinct) distributors. This practice is no longer in modern civil enforcement proceedings on Prince Edward Island.

That is why the department process that the act should be repealed.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Rental of Residential Property Act*. And I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk Assistant (Doiron):** Bill No. 105, *An Act to Amend the Rental of Residential Property Act*, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Overview, member.

**Ms. Bell:** Under the *Rental of Residential Property Act*, tenants who receive a notice of termination under section 15, which includes reasons like renovations and the conversion of the premises to use other than residential use have ten days to apply to the director of residential rental property for an order setting aside that notice.

This *Act to Amend the Rental of Residential Property Act* would extend the time frame during which a tenant can apply to the director after receiving a termination notice under section 15 of the act from 10 days to 20 days.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Orders Other Than Government

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now I ask that Order No. 9 be called.

**Clerk:** Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No.102, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by Charlottetown-Victoria Park, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Climate Leadership Act*, Bill No.102, read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

**Ms. Bell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, that this House now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I have asked the Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

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

We have a request to bring a stranger onto the floor.

Shall it carry? Carried.

For the record, could you please state your name and title, please.

**Mr. Patrick Lévêque:** Patrick Lévêque, Principle Secretary, Opposition Office.

**Chair:** Thank you very much.

And the mover of the bill, would you like this opportunity just to give it a little preface into what the bill contains?

**Ms. Lund:** Yes, thank you.

The intention behind this bill is pretty straightforward. It's simply an update to the *Climate Leadership Act* to make sure we're actually being leaders on this critical issue we face on Prince Edward Island.

Our current target is based on the Paris Accord, and for those of you who are not familiar with that, its goal was to limit warming to two degrees. Since then, scientists have told that us two degrees of warming is far more dangerous than they thought.

There is a trend in this area for climate change to outpace the models. We saw a report on it just this morning that sea ice is melting at a rate of about 70% faster than we expected. I can give a lot of examples where this has been true, but suffice it to say, we know we cannot continue on track to reach carbon neutrality in 2065, because that means were advocating for 2 degrees of warming. The IPCC report was unequivocal that we must hold Global average temperatures to 1.5 degrees of warming to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change. This will not be easy and I'm not pretending it was be, but the challenge is still easier than trying to govern in a world that is 2 degrees warmer.

IPCC models predict that warming of 2 degrees will double the catch losses for fisheries compared to 1.5 degrees. We can expect similar impacts to our agriculture and tourism sectors, the foundation of our economic well-being. If we're going to keep PEI safe from catastrophic climate change, we need to challenge other provinces to tougher targets; we need to lead by example. The lower targets contained in this build do

exactly that by putting us on a path of carbon neutrality by 2050. We need to be leaders and I hope you'll consider supporting this.

**Chair:** I have a question from the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair and thank you member for bringing this to the floor.

I know you've put careful consideration into this amendment and I do appreciate that. I would like to first of all note that, when the 1.4 megaton target was set in this legislation by the previous administration it was set prior to the United Nations in our governmental panel on climate change being released, so, let's first put that out there.

Of course, the Climate Change Action Plan that has been outlined and again, from the previous administration that we've inherited and we're adhering to but we're hoping to add to and improve on, also, is based on that 1.4 megatons. I want to note that, but the other key thing I wanted to note is that as indicated in the throne speech, it is the goal of this government and it's the goal of my department as the minister responsible for climate change, to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. That is net 0 carbon emissions on Prince Edward Island by 2050 that is indeed the goal. So what we're really talking about here is how we get there with this target.

Right now, with the 1.4 megaton target that's in the legislation, in fact, we can still get to net 0 carbon emissions on PEI by 2050; it just means that we have to accelerate the rate after 2030. We have to accelerate the rate at which we reduce carbon emissions so we meet that target and in fact, that's something I asked the department to look at and they feel pretty confident, especially with the improvements of technology that are coming.

For example, we all know that electric vehicles are becoming cheaper and better, with longer ranges and we'll continue to see in the future. So we're really confident that after 2030, if we can definitely accelerate the rate at which we reduce carbon emissions on P.E.I. to meet a 2050 goal of net 0 carbon emissions.

So that is a path that I think I would prefer to take and I really believe that in terms of the broader picture and making sure that we don't reach that point where we have so much carbon in the atmosphere that we can't actually recover, as the Earth, I think that with PEI committed to that target, I think we'll be all right. So I wanted to hear your comments on that.

**Ms. Lund:** So I'm happy to hear that you're interested in perusing a carbon neutral society by 2050, I think that's imperative and you're absolutely right, that when these targets were originally set we were going by the Paris Accord not the IPCC agreement. At that point we thought we could manage with 2 degrees of warming and 1.5 was the stretch target we were reaching for. IPCC has made it clear now of course that 2 degrees of warming is far more detrimental than we thought it was.

They're also clear that it's going to be much, much harder for us to reach a carbon neutral society in 2050 if we haven't had a significant drop by 2030. I understand that there is a desire to want to push that down the road but, I'd argue we've been pushing that down the road, since the 1980's. In the late 1980s we were receiving warnings from scientists that we needed to be acting on this and when you're trying to do drops, what you want is a fairly straight trajectory downward. If you have sudden drops, it's a lot more disruptive.

It has to be more disruptive in technology and changes and the way that you transition. So, there is a lot to be said for having a more clear trajectory. I think there's a lot of low-hanging fruit that's available now that we don't need to wait for new technologies to emerge in.

If we follow along with everything that's in the *Climate Leadership Act* as it is and with the energy strategy, if we lean to the more stringent side of it, we're going to come a long way.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** Yes, and thank you, Chair.

I do appreciate what you're saying. I mean, if the world as a whole were to approach the

2030 target set by the Paris Accord, then what you're saying is, we wouldn't be reducing carbon emissions fast enough to meet that net neutrality goal –

**Ms. Lund:** That's not to say it's impossible.

**Mr. Trivers:** – by 2050. Right, right.

And this is wherein sort of lies the struggle, right?

Really, it's the parliamentary budget office in that article that was released the other day. They did hit the nail on the head. I think the Leader of the Opposition mentioned in Question Period, they said: for all the arguments about climate policy, there are just three simple questions every proposed policy ought to answer.

By how much will it reduce emissions? How much will it cost to do so? And how does that compare to the alternatives?

So when you're looking at things from a Prince Edward Island lens, and you're looking at how much easier we believe and the department believes and how much more cost effective – that's the more important thing – how much more cost-effective it will be to reduce emissions after 2030, given the expected increase in better technology, it's probably going to be best most cost-effective and the best alternative for us to continue to follow that 1.4 megatonne with the increase after 2030.

That's what I would submit, would you agree with that?

**Ms. Lund:** May I respond to that?

**Chair:** Yes.

**Ms. Lund:** So minister, I'm wondering if you've ever heard the expression: the social cost of carbon.

**Mr. Trivers:** I've heard it before but go ahead and give us.

**Ms. Lund:** When we're talking about the social cost of carbon, we're talking about we, as a society, are paying because of carbon emissions now.

It's estimated we are currently paying about \$45 a ton is. If that's correct? \$45 approximately a ton is the estimation that people have on that. That our society is already covering.

The idea that kicking this down the road even further is going to be more cost-effective, it's just not accurate. We're not doing the math right on that.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you and that's a really interesting number.

I'd be curious to find out of course where you got that number from if you have any references for that. The thing is you – I just think it's irresponsible to ask Islanders to reduce their carbon emissions when either the alternative is very, very expensive when we know there's going to be a cheaper alternative in the very near future.

Or there is no alternative to go to.

I mean, we can look at electric vehicles. I mean, I am very privileged of course to be driving the first electric vehicle in the government fleet and electric vehicles are great. They're clean, you don't have to go for oil changes, a lot lower maintenance costs – but with the current prices right now, I mean, it's around \$46,000 dollars for the Chevrolet Volt that the government owns in its fleet and there's more on the way.

For the average Islander, you can't look at the maintenance and even the cost and fuel savings and you can't make that add up for an Islander today. In 2030, I think we're going to see that they're going to have – electric vehicles will be ubiquitous, they'll be the way to go.

So, I'm not sure we want to push Islanders that way but I wanted to get your opinion on that.

**Ms. Lund:** I would argue that there are a number of ways that we can reduce emissions and I'm in no way trying to prescribe what the way to do that should be. If you were to decide that electric vehicles were the way, I would say that's a

very expensive way for us to be moving forward in that.

On the note that you said, you think it would be irresponsible for us to ask Islanders to do this, I would argue it would be very incredibly irresponsible for us not to make this action.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** I'm glad to see we do agree on that point, and first of all, I'm very interested to hear how you think we should proceed. Maybe I should start with that.

If we're not going to use the short-term i.e. before 2030 movement to electric vehicles, because as we all know it's not cost-effective to do that right now – hopefully it'll be a lot before 2030 when it becomes cost-effective.

They really are a treat to drive, right? It's clean, it's quiet, all the rest.

Just curious as to how you think we should move quickly to the goal you're proposing at the 1.2 megatonnes.

**Ms. Lund:** I think that it's important that we realize there are an awful lot of mechanisms that we can use but that is very much outside the scope of this particular bill, this is very much about setting targets. More than happy to talk about mechanisms we can use of which there are a number.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** Well and it's very interesting to hear you say that because – and this is one of the problems that I think was born out with this act in general, the *Climate Leadership Act*.

I'm not sure it was appropriately named but you'll notice that the clause that you're trying to amend says: the purpose of this act is to provide a price – provide for a price on carbon for purchasers and consumers of fuel in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province to less than 1.4 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year by 2030.

The key phrase here is to provide for a price on carbon.

As much as you say your amendment is setting a target, that's not tied to a particular method of decreasing carbon emissions. In fact, it's directly tied to this price on carbon. So, I would be really curious to find out if indeed that's the way you think we should try and achieve this much stricter goal of 1.2 megatons of carbon dioxide.

**Ms. Lund:** So, our party's position on the price on carbon is not something that's ever been unclear and I absolutely think that based on what we've seen economists putting forward, it's the most effective way for us to lower greenhouse gas emissions in a cost effective way.

You'll also note we have a price on carbon as it is now. I think what we need to be doing is setting a target that's in line with a stable climate for that.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** So, would you agree that by changing the target to less than 1.2 megatonnes, from 1.4, lowering it to 1.2, in the – the way the legislation's worded, it actually puts an onus on government to provide for a price on carbon to achieve that goal – primarily a price on carbon?

Frankly, that's what I'm worried about. I don't want to put government in a position where, you know, we tie our hands to that. I should mention that we are open to talking about a price on carbon and we will.

I think coming up in this fall, with the federal election, depending on what happens we're going to see some changes there and I think we have to be prepared on Prince Edward Island to decide what we're going to do. I look forward to the input to see how we change that

I think that this particular act is probably going to have to change, depending on what direction we go as well.

So I think we're going to see further amendments to this act in the future.

I just wanted to know how – given the wording of the act and the actual clause here, how you think you can separate the target from the price on carbon, because I don't think you can.

So with the way the *Climate Leadership Act* is currently set out, I think it's pretty clear that carbon pricing is the main tool in the tool belt so I think it makes sense for us to tie our new targets to the current mechanisms that we are using.

We have a carbon price right now.

**Mr. Trivers:** All right thank you.

Thank you, Chair. You can move on to someone else if you want for a while.

**Chair:** Next on the list we have the Premier.

**Premier King:** Thank you very much.

I really do appreciate you putting forward this bill. I think it's noble in its construction but I think it's a little bit more complicated than just changing a number from 1.4-1.2 and I'm curious to know having endured three straight days of all members of other parties asking what's your plan; I would like to know what your plan would be to do it.

**Ms. Lund:** It's a very fair question but I would also say the scope of how we're going to lower emissions is outside the scope of this particular bill, but to speak to it, you are in an enviable position. Where the opposition is actually on the same side, that we need action on this, so it's not our intention to hammer away at how are you going to do this properly. We want to be active partners in doing this. If we decide that we're going to set a target that's ambitious and that its inline with the IPCC goal of 1.5 degrees of warming, you're going to see partners with us, we can have meetings, we can sit down and create that plan together and I'm happy to be at the table for taking responsibility on that with you.

**Premier King:** I've got more, can I keep going?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** I'm starting to feel a little bit of what the Leader of the Opposition feels when he asks a question about plans from the Premier and he wants an era about how much we want to work together. So I would like the Leader of the Opposition who I know is listening, so I understand the need for more clarity. To me, I would suggest it's irresponsible to set a target without knowing how we're getting there and without a plan. Is that a wrong approach or question?

**Ms. Lund:** So historically, whenever you're going to try to get somewhere, you start with a goal. What do we need to achieve together? Then you draw out a road map on how you're going to get there, you don't do it backwards. We have to know where we're trying to go before we can build a plan for it.

**Premier King:** Fair enough, I agree 100%. Where I have some questions around is, I think it's not just as simple as going from 1.4 to 1.2 without thinking there's a cost to it. Do you think there's an estimated cost to this?

**Ms. Lund:** There's absolutely a cost to it. I'd argue there's a cost to not doing it as well and we're currently paying some of that cost.

**Premier King:** I would agree

**Ms. Lund:** It's not going to be a simple thing to achieve and anyone pretending it would be is being disingenuous. It's going to be a lot of work, but not doing the work is far more detrimental.

**Premier King:** You would know this much better than I, but 48% of our greenhouse gas comes from transportation.

**Ms. Lund:** Transportation, it certainly is.

**Premier King:** So obviously as my colleague was alluding to, the price on carbon, as a disincentive for people to change, would obviously have to increase the price of fuel to reduce some of these things. Along with attitudes, but if we believe the science and the suggestion that the most effective way is to put a price on carbon, the biggest price on carbon would have to be gasoline here and fuel. I'm curious to know what's an acceptable level of price for that.

**Ms. Lund:** Well it's interesting, the interest report, I don't know if you saw that, it came out in 2007 and it was very much around how we could bring active and public transportation to all parts of the province. I've been advocating to see that strategy updated to the current timelines and see where it needs to go but I think that's going to be part of it. I also think there are a lot of other factors, for ways you can encourage people to ride share together or a way that you can encourage people to car pool. There are other mechanisms in place.

Smaller vehicles, there's a lot of options for things that people can do and I think assuming that we're going to get all cars off the road immediately is not realistic.

**Premier King:** Yeah, I don't think I would be suggesting that, you're suggesting that. So I hope you don't think I mean – but obviously as I – in response to some questions in Question Period today, our economy is largely driven by exports in this province, which are utilized by transportation truck, we don't have a seaport, we don't have a rail system, so we have one way to get them. I would argue that inflating the price of gas or diesel to a point where it becomes a disincentive for us to do that or it becomes uncompetitive for us, would be a significant problem.

I think to take a page from the Leader of the Opposition, I think we can't look at these things exclusively or independently, we have to look at them together. What do these changes – how do they impact our economy, not just tomorrow but today. I don't think it's an unfair question to ask about today. I know we have to be visionary and I support that, but we also have to be realistic and have some common sense and think about today, wouldn't you agree?

**Ms. Lund:** I would absolutely agree but I think part of that common sense is recognizing I'm not talking about decades and decades into the future. The impacts of climate change are going to be felt acutely, specifically on Prince Edward Island and the costs of all of our economy are going to be impacted dramatically. In action isn't a real option, the cost of it is far too much.

Whenever we are discussing the cost of any program, you have to think about investing

enough into it, to get all the way to the end because otherwise, if you bring in enough money to do 70% of where you need to get to, but don't give it that extra 30% to get it to the top, you've wasted 70% of those dollars. You need to fully fund it. If we are currently advocating to be carbon neutral by 2065, that's 15 years too late. So what's the point of doing that?

**Premier King:** I would...

**Chair:** Premier I just want to remind members at this time that please, through the Chair direct your questions. It's all right, it's just a friendly reminder so we have some order and some accreditation is given to those who speak.

The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Look, I understand what you're saying. Here's a question that was asked to me this morning behind a closed door from a farmer. If Prince Edward Island was at 1.2 today, what difference would that make in the world? Would the polar caps stop melting, would the sea level decrease?

**Ms. Lund:** It's an interesting question, are you familiar with the story of the tragedy of the commons?

**Premier King:** I'd like to hear it. I like a good story anyway. How's that a way of saying no?

**Ms. Lund:** The premise behind it is a shared resource system, it was sheep farmers who were all able to have one piece of common land that they could graze their flock on and nobody was responsible for it and because nobody particularly was responsible for it, therefore no one at all took responsibility for it. There was no incentive for me to not graze two sheep on it, to not graze three sheep on it.

The economic incentive, if you will, was for me to deplete that resource until it was useless and that's what happens in the story of the tragedy of the common. As an Island state if you will, we are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, we're going to feel it more acutely than some other provinces in an awful lot of ways. Even though we on our own cannot stop climate change, what we have to do as

leaders, is to be leaders. We need to step up and set targets that inspire other places. We need to show them what can be done because were leaders.

Then we look to our neighbouring provinces and say: where's your target? What are you bringing to the table, this is important. Then we have a whole country that is moving forward. It's not going to be easy and anyone pretending it is, is lying. But the consequences of not doing it are just incredibly harder.

So I would love to see us as a small province who has not been afraid to lead in the past, who has been prepared to step up and show the country what can be done, to do so, especially at a time when our province is going to be impacted so significantly.

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** I think the hon. member is ready for a seat in government because she gives great answers to questions, I'm very impressed actually, no, it's very good.

I agree with most of what you're doing here. I think where we have – and I've had the same conversations with the Leader of the Opposition – where we sort of break away on this issue is what I keep referring to as the common sense component and that is the now component. So yes, if we go to 1.2 it shows that were leaders etc cetera, but what if Alberta says to heck with it and we're not doing it, right? So now, is it fair for the people of Prince Edward Island to bear the full brunt of that, far greater than other provinces are prepared to actually put forward and actually maybe make us uncompetitive in the big scheme of things. Is the noble gesture of us being the "leader" worth that in the short-term?

**Ms. Lund:** Mr. Premier, that's the tragedy of the commons. That's very much saying, if I'm not going to be the only one to benefit from it, then I can't add. What if someone doesn't do it as well as we do? That may happen and it entirely may but we have to have leadership. I would look to you in your role to challenge premiers in Alberta to say: look what we're doing; we know what can be done. I expect that from you as our Premier and I believe you can do it.

**Chair:** Hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** Look, I think the reality though is much different. You didn't deal with the aspect of the question which is the most important. That story notwithstanding, but is it fair for us – and I'm not saying we shouldn't do it – inaction isn't an option. I don't think what the plan here is wouldn't be categorized as inaction.

**Ms. Lund:** That's fair.

**Premier King:** It might not be strong enough, you know, or maybe we can go further and that's a debate we'll probably have until we're all out of here. But, I don't think inaction is what anybody is lobbying for, so I'd just like that part of it clarified. But, it isn't actually, as the people who are responsible, we're going to table a budget sometime next week in here and there's going to be a whole lot of questions about why you spent this and why you spent that, and part of this is taxpayers of Prince Edward Island have to be given a fair opportunity to generate the tax dollars that come here, so I don't think we can do this disconnect, to be disconnected on this.

So I do think the cost of this has to be discussed before we just go and set a random number, for example, IPCC recommendation notwithstanding, but I do think we need to discuss the cost of this. I think that's a fair –

**Ms. Lund:** Two points on that, Mr. Premier: It's certainly not a random number. It comes from the best science in the world –

**Premier King:** No, fair enough. Fair enough.

**Ms. Lund:** – all around the world; but I agree with you, and I actually think that's why we need metrics in place to measure how well we are generating outcomes versus dollars invested. It's something I'm more than happy to talk about. I think that's important. We need to be considering the various mechanisms at our disposal and which ones are going to generate the greatest emission reductions per dollar invested.

I'm not saying there's only one way for us to get there, and I'm more than happy for us

to have discussions around what those can look like. I'd argue it should be based on evidence, on reductions per dollar invested entirely, but I think unless we have a target that's realistic, we're advocating for spending that 70% – or, excuse me, the dollars that get us to the 70% – but not following it up with the money that's actually going to do the thing.

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** I'll just have one more and I'll let others – but I think all of these acts that we have in place have to be nimble, because it's quite potentially possible that in two years there's another report that comes forward that says we have to actually get here by 2028, for example. So I think we have to be nimble, obviously, and that they will have to change.

1.4 versus 1.2 from a Prince Edward Island perspective in the big scheme of things isn't a large number comparatively to the world. Would you agree?

**Ms. Lund:** I think there are charts that demonstrate what that difference is in megatonnes and I would be more than happy to send you that information. I don't have it in front of me.

But, I think what we need to be talking about is fairness. This is our fair share of the global problem based on scale.

**Premier King:** But when we signed the deal from Paris it was 1.4, now there are new reports – do you see what I mean?

**Ms. Lund:** That tells us that the information we had was not accurate. We need further action.

**Premier King:** Yes, absolutely.

But, there could be a report going further which will do the same and we'll have to look at that, but what I'm saying, isn't it important that we focus on the measures that are in place for that scale that you did talk about earlier, to keep focusing on them?

I don't think we have to stop because we did something well. We can continue to work on that, but I would think that we have to be focused more, not so much, on what could

be the change in goals, which they likely are to change because of the seriousness of this issue, and to continue to focus on the programs and policies and other efforts we have to make as a province to make sure that we're continuing to reduce greenhouse gases?

**Ms. Lund:** Mr. Premier, successful provinces and modern governments use performance metrics to determine how well they are handling public money. It's a responsible thing to do, to know what you're working towards and then being able to generate reports that tell you outcomes for dollars invested.

The public wants to know that we're using their money well and if we don't have a shared vision of what we're trying to achieve, how will we know if we've done it?

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

The Premier actually just set this up beautifully for me because he mentioned that targets are always changing and something that was a determinant two years ago or five years ago is no longer valid.

I know the IPCC reports have been brought forward every five years or so since 1990, and part of that IPCC report is a prediction of where the climate will be before then in five-year's time.

Can you tell the House whether those predictions – have they generally been conservative and by that I mean have they suggested that global climate change is going to be less? Has it occurred – what am I trying to say here? Has the reality of climate change been worse or better than what they have predicted?

**Ms. Lund:** Historically, models are always conservative. They try to give the numbers that are going to be most realistic, but that's never been true. It always bears out that climate change is accelerating faster and more significantly than we thought it was.

But, a report came out this morning that said global sea ice is melting at a rate of about 70% faster than we thought it was. There are species that are collapsing at rates that far

exceed where we thought we would be. Climate change is almost certainly worse than the best numbers we have right now.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

I appreciate that context, because going back to the comments of the minister for – I'll just call you the minister for climate change today because it's more succinct.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)

**Leader of the Opposition:** The minister talked about: Well you know what? We can carry on aiming for 1.4 and then accelerate our reduction after that.

But if, historically, things have proven to be worse than we imagine they are, and that's been a consistent pattern – I agree with you – do you still feel that that idea of: Oh, we'll just wait – imagine – okay, you know you have an exam coming in two weeks. Do you leave the cramming until the last day or do you do it in a regular period to make sure that you are ready for the exam when it actually arrives?

**Ms. Lund:** Especially when there's the potential to find out that the exam is actually tomorrow.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** There are – and you alluded to this in one of your answers towards the end of the exchange with the hon. Premier about having to be a leader in this and I absolutely understand that in global terms, the carbon emissions that we produce here on Prince Edward Island are very tiny.

We're the smallest province and albeit, a large country – a country which emits more than three times the average per capita than other countries so we're not doing well on a per capita basis although, because we have a relatively small population. We don't produce a lot of carbon emissions in totality, but many other small Island states have indeed taken that path.

I'm thinking of (Indistinct) and the Soloman Islands and Sri Lanka, places that are more

susceptible to climate change than the average part of the world.

How would you place Prince Edward Island in terms of its vulnerability, both among Canadian provinces, but in the world in terms of their vulnerability to climate change?

**Ms. Lund:** I am informed that we are number nine for emitters in the world on a total level and as a small province; we are known to be the most vulnerable to sea level rise, to erosion, to precipitation patterns. Our entire economy, or a big chunk of it, excuse me, is reliant on industries that will be particularly disrupted by climate change.

I think that because of our high level of susceptibility, we have the same sort of responsibility that you see in other Island states to step up and demonstrate. Yes, transitioning is possible. This is how it can be done. Look at us leading, even if we don't have the highest level of emissions.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

There's also been some comments about the economic implications for becoming more aggressive, shall I put it that way, in terms of our goals regarding reducing carbon emissions and of course, the inferences that the more ambitious we are, the more we're going to punish Islanders – is there any information out there about – particularly when it comes to carbon pricing or carbon taxation – what impact that actually has on the economy of a jurisdiction which implements it?

Is it harmful to the economy or does it have no effect?

**Ms. Lund:** Whenever you look at jurisdictions that have had carbon taxes in place for a long time, British Columbia is a good example, and it has not adversely hurt their economy in any way. Actually, it's been positive for them. There are a few jurisdictions around the world that have implemented carbon taxes and are still thriving.

I would say that there's no evidence to support that fear.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I think it's important that we understand that, that being ambitious on this and being leaders on this is not in any way an inducement of punishment on Islanders. In fact, my understanding is that economies that transition more quickly than others to clean energy actually have a competitive advantage over others.

Do you want to comment on that or would you agree with that statement?

**Ms. Lund:** I'm very certain that that's true. You hear that pretty regularly, actually. And also, it creates a lot of good-paying jobs for people in the trades. It creates long-term jobs. There is a figure that I don't have exactly, but the amount of jobs that are created through green energy are just substantially more than when we continue with a carbon economy.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** So would it be fair, then, overall to suggest that if we were to be more ambitious with our targets – the far from punishing the economy of this Island – we might actually promote ourselves into a position where we would have a competitive advantage over our neighbours and it might be a real benefit to the economy here on Prince Edward Island.

**Ms. Lund:** Absolutely. There are actually nations in other parts of the world who have done transitioning to clean economies and it has brought in quite a lot of tourism. It has been positive for their technology industries and innovation. It's been very advantageous for them.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

That's on a macro level, the economy of the jurisdiction. But we're concerned about Islanders, individual Islanders, and a carbon tax, of course, is going to increase the cost of gasoline. It's going to increase the cost of heating fuel. It's going to increase the cost of goods and services provided to Islanders.

Is there a way of structuring a carbon-pricing mechanism – and I seem to remember reading something – actually I believe it was – well, a Nobel Prize winners have written about this – but also an ex staffer from Mr. Harper’s office, I believe, wrote a report on how the income from carbon pricing, or taxation, can be redistributed in a way that actually that so-called punishment ends up with people who are more vulnerable, low and middle-income Islanders in our case, could actually end up with more money in their pockets.

So could you talk to that? Is that the sort of punishment that we’re talking about here?

**Ms. Lund:** Carbon fee and dividend is a really great example of how a carbon tax can be implemented in a way that is not adversely difficult for particularly low-income Islanders.

The money that comes back in is redistributed out in equal proportions to the bottom 40-60% of Islanders, something in that range. The numbers can be changed around that, but basically it is helpful to people who are struggling. It ends up being a top-up for them. And usually, it’s your lowest-income earners who are the lowest users of carbon just from a circumstance, so it’s not disproportionately hurtful.

**Chair:** the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Last question for me. Thank you, Chair.

So, when carbon taxation is characterized as a form of punishment, studies would show and Nobel Prize winning economists would back this up, that actually that punishment is that you have more money in your pocket afterwards. Is that correct?

**Ms. Lund:** That is what the evidence bares out, yes.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

**Mr. Howard:** Thank you, Chair.

I’d like to respond to the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning and Environment, Water and Climate Change’s comments about just waiting for technology to save us kind of thing, and if we wait until after 2030 it will be –

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. Howard:** – an awful lot easier.

I’ve been following technology for a long time and I’ve been, particularly, in the clean energy field for the last 15 years and there are some low-hanging fruits that we could act on right now. We talked a lot about transportation and how it would be a more difficult transition, but there’s clean energy technology solutions out there right now that we could be aggressively pursuing that we are not at the moment. There’s a great deal we can do in the interim to try to get us to these targets.

The only thing that we’ve been lacking, and this is said time and time again, it’s not a technological problem. It’s a political problem. It’s political will. So I was really discouraged to hear that if we just kick the can down the road til after 2030 that might make it easier for us because we really have to get two things here.

Would you agree that we can have some low-hanging fruits here right now, we can get to work on this right away and do some things that are actually good for PEI’s economy?

**Chair:** I’m sorry, member, are you directing that question to the minister or to the mover of the bill.

**Mr. Howard:** Good question.

I was responding to his comments.

**Chair:** Okay, did you want to do an intervention, minister?

**Mr. Trivers:** Yes, I’d be happy to answer that.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** It’s a really good point and that’s why a debate on this is so important

because there's a lot to consider, especially, as the mover of the bill mentioned, the costs that we're incurring now because of climate change and what those costs actually are and how they're quantified.

I don't think – I can't speak for everyone in the Chamber, but I'm not sure that's been really quantified to government very well before.

**Ms. Lund:** I'd be happy to table that.

**Mr. Trivers:** Yeah, and I'm sure you would.

And then, of course, the member across is talking about these opportunities for low-hanging fruit to reduce our carbon emissions immediately and being aggressive to pursue some of those low energy options.

When I'm looking at this, I'm thinking there's huge opportunities for us to continue to work together on this file and I want to work together with you and I think my department does as well.

I'm not sure that this is the right time to make this amendment to the *Climate Leadership Act*. What I'd like to do is make sure we set the correct target; you mentioned that the target does keep changing and you mentioned another report that came out recently, just today. I'm thinking that in order to quantify the different costs involved, both currently and future, and come up with the proper target and discuss this price on carbon – because, remember the amendment you're making is directly tied to the price on carbon through the language of the bill, and looking at the bill itself, I'm thinking it might be a little premature to be making this particular amendment.

I'm wondering if you would consider – and this would have to be a unanimous decision as well of the House – consider having further discussions on this bill outside of the Chamber here, perhaps at a standing committee or that sort of forum. I know the standing committees don't exist.

Maybe we even need a special one to look particularly either at carbon pricing or at climate change, in particular, because, as has come up time and time again, these are

extremely important things. I just feel like there's a lot of information right now that we have, that you don't have, that you have, that we don't have, that other people in the Chamber might have, that experts need to give to us and I'm not sure this is the right time to be making this amendment.

In fact the target you're setting might not even be aggressive enough.

**Ms. Lund:** I have a couple of questions to that, if you can?

**Mr. Trivers:** Yeah.

**Ms. Lund:** I'd love to know what information you would need to see to think that we need to be more aggressive in our targets on carbon reductions.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct) the cost.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** In particular, I would like to know the cost right now of – you said there's a cost that we're incurring now because of climate change that –

**Ms. Lund:** That's right, the social costs of carbon.

**Mr. Trivers:** I'm not sure that people are aware of that.

I know that I haven't read the reports that quantify that, and maybe I should have, but I know you have those. That would be the big one and it comes back to that comment, it was the CBC article, right, at the parliamentary budget office where it says: For all arguments about climate policy, three simple questions every proposed policy ought to answer.

How much will it reduce emissions? And that's what we're kind of talking about today and I'm not entirely sure we've got the right number even at 1.2. How much will it cost to do so? I definitely don't think we have that information in the House today up for us to really consider that. And how does that compare to the alternatives? Again, I think that's really the question that's being asked by the members.

We don't know how much that does compares to alternatives and I would really like to get a comprehensive answer to those three questions, so when we amend this bill we actually do it in a fulsome way and we do it for the best of the future of the Island and the best interests of Islanders.

So that's where I would like to go. I don't know if you have comments on that or what you'd like to consider. I think the Premier has some comments on that, too.

**Ms. Lund:** I think it's important to know that we're never going to be able to say definitely how far we can kick this down the road.

**Mr. Trivers:** I'm not talking about kicking it down the road.

**Ms. Lund:** That's exactly what we would be doing, though, by saying we have to wait until we have the proper target because those targets are going to continue to change. We know that. The models almost always demonstrate more change is required, not less.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** So definitely, I just want to be very, very clear that right now on Prince Edward Island there is a Climate Change Action Plan. Change is happening. We are reducing carbon emissions through efficiency PEI, and primarily through the implementation of heat pumps.

We've already done over 100,000 tonnes, right? We are working towards that, in that we are taking action. We, the government –

**An Hon. Member:** Oh sorry, we –

**Mr. Trivers:** Yes, and I'll give credit to the former government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trivers:** So, it's not like this is a point in sand, if we don't make this amendment today we are not taking any action, we're not reducing carbon emissions. What I'm saying is I think it's premature to amend the act, and to – especially because of the

implications on cost and carbon pricing in particular.

I want to have that broader conversation. I want to answer those three questions. I want to know what the alternatives cost. I think we could probably vote on this amendment today, I'm not sure if it would pass or not, but either way, I want to continue these discussions. I want to come to the right amendments to this.

I think that in my department we're going to be looking at this act and we're going to be making amendments to it because I think it really needs to be updated, we need to make changes to it. I would love, like I said, I would love to work with you to make that happen and have that fulsome discussion before we make any amendments.

**Ms. Lund:** (Indistinct) are you proposing on that?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

**Mr. Trivers:** Well, that is a good question.

We've got the rules committee and the committee on committees that's being formed and if we go a standing committee route, I would like the standing committee to set those timelines. I think that potentially, and I haven't talked to my department about this – they are going to shoot me if I be too aggressive I would say – but I would say let's discuss it and see what we can come forward with for the fall session. That's what I would say.

We got to realize too, that in the fall there is a federal election, and what's happening, both funding wise from the federal government and direction from the federal government, has potential to change radically. So, I think we should start talking about what we want to do as an Island right away, but I think in terms of amending the act, maybe the fall, but probably the spring because that's when the federal election will be over and we'll know exactly what that means from a federal perspective.

Let's face it, the money that we are spending right now to make a lot of these things happen, a huge amount is coming from the federal government and that's one reason

we're able to make change, and one reason it's palatable to Islanders.

I'm going to say, realistically, let's target fulsome amendments and the target plan for the spring sitting in the Legislature.

I'm going to go out on a limb and say that right now. Hopefully my phone is not texting from my – oh, it is, too. My department is texting me. There you go.

**Chair:** Do you have some response to that, or?

**Ms. Lund:** Well, I think that one thing that you brought up earlier that I would just like to come back to quickly is on heat pumps. You were talking about the great work that's been done on that, and I absolutely agree. You indicated that we have lowered emissions by 100,000 tonnes using heat pumps, and I wonder if you have done the math on what that cost per reduction in emission.

We talk about carbon taxes being a very expensive way for us to be spending public money and I would love to know if you have found that to be a particularly effective way for us to reach the targets that we need to.

**Chair:** I am going to also for part of the information; I'm going to give way to the Premier.

**Premier King:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I this is a fascinating discussion and I think it's sort of the best of what this Legislature can be when we talk about this.

I do have a – I know frustration is the right word, but I think – I don't think we're terribly divided on this. I think – essentially is the minister suggested, we're debating 1.4 versus 1.2, and I do take a little bit of offense when people start saying well kick it down the road or we talk about a punishment of tax.

I think we change that level of debate and we sort of try to separate ourselves when I don't believe we are all that separate on this. There is a lot of good work that's being done; there's a lot more work that needs to be done. I fully believe that.

Like the minister says, I'm not opposed to having regular looks at how we adjust these numbers because I think the science and the reality requires us to do that, but I also think it requires us to try to find that balance of cost. There are a lot of questions around that that I think it's irresponsible if we don't know at least some kind of ballpark of what the costs are.

So I really think we're close on this, essentially in many ways. I don't think anyone is suggesting that we kick this down the road. I don't think anyone is suggesting that we're trying to say something is a punishment or anything like that. That's certainly not what I am saying, but we do have to look at it through the realistic lens of not just tomorrow, but today.

Do you feel we're close on this? Am I out to lunch here on this?

**Ms. Lund:** I would never say that.

**Premier King:** No, I appreciate that. You didn't disagree.

**Ms. Lund:** I will say this: the difference between 1.4 and 1.2 for when we reach carbon neutrality is a 15-year difference. I'd argue that is kicking it down the road. We could go back and forth on the semantics of that or on the language that we're comfortable with, but it absolutely means 15 years in the difference for when we reach carbon neutrality, which by its very essence, is pushing it down the road.

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** We are suggesting that we can get there by 2050 so that is a 15-year difference.

**Ms. Lund:** So you would be comfortable with a target of carbon neutrality by 2050. You just think that the decline needs to come at a later point. Is that your feeling on that?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier King:** I don't think necessarily.

I think that I'm comfortable right now with what we have in place for targets. I think we need to be much more aggressive on how we

incentivize Islanders and encourage, as the Member from Summerside-South Drive suggests. Whether it's low hanging fruit, other incentives that we have to put in place, we have to arm Islanders with the ability to actually help us get these goals. I think we can actually ramp up the decrease if that's not a double negative, by actually developing some programs and some policies to actually get us there along the way.

So I don't necessarily believe we need to go here and then drop. I think that can be gradual. I think we have to keep our eyes focused on the end goal here, and we work with Islanders to actually give them an incentive and reward them for doing so when we reduce carbon.

**Ms. Lund:** And your goal is carbon neutral society by 2050.

**Premier King:** 2050, it's in the Speech from the Throne. You all read it.

Sorry, Mr. Chair.

**Chair:** That is fine.

Also, intervention from the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Chair.

Just a couple of comments I want to make, and the Member from Summerside-South Drive – I cannot see his thing – talked about – there's a lot of things and just hearing the conversation there's a lot of assumptions that we are not doing anything. So by saying we don't do – we aren't doing anything, we won't lower it and I agree with that through the department that I am the minister for the Office of Energy Efficiency, we have programs currently in place, we have programs that we're adding.

I talked about it just briefly today, the solar program. It's not ready to put out. I asked the department to be really aggressive on it. I want people to take this up. I want the program to be a program that people will look at and say, yes, this is a program for me.

I know at some point during this mandate, because it was an election promise, we're

going to be looking at incentives for electric cars and what that looks like through my department. We are adding charging stations in 18 locations across Prince Edward Island this summer.

So I don't think – we're doing things, and to talk about targets like the targets you are talking about are assuming that we won't change anything that we're doing and we are changing the things that we're doing.

This morning I came in the office early, and I had staff waiting for me to talk about the motion about the net zero buildings. I read it and I'm like – they said well what are your thoughts on this? I said: It's a great idea. Let's get the mover and the seconder in to brief us what they think that looks like, and let's get all the people who plan buildings for us in the room, let's get the deputy in the room, let's get the decision-makers of the departments in the room to hear from these two gentleman on what their thoughts are so we can start moving in that direction.

I don't think there's any push back from the department in moving in that direction.

Government is one of the – I have always said this and I said it in opposition, that government needs to be leaders and government needs to show leadership on things like building, on things like energy.

We have a large wind farm insulation that we're hoping to bring forward later this year that's going to increase our wind energy by a big jump. I think that all those things that we're doing are contributing to lowering what our – so I think it's really important.

I think that we need to show the way. Arguably some of our buildings that we have that TIE looks after would be some of the biggest offenders and what does that mean and how can we fix them and how do we make them better and I've asked those questions.

Those questions are important to me for both reasons, there's a fiscal reason to want to tackle this, there's a fiscal reason for government that if we can lower, especially our lack of efficiency in some of these buildings, if we can make some of the current structures for more efficient, we are fulfilling our goals to the Paris Accord and

we're also being more cost-effective and we have more money to spend on things like health care and I'm sure that the minister sitting next to me would love to hear that we could save money and give it to him to help solve some problems that he has in his department.

I think we're very much committed to this. I'm very much committed to it and through the department people were very much committed to it and I'd like the opportunity to show you that we are and in four weeks I obviously haven't been able to show that. But I think if you give me a little bit of time I can show that we're going to bring programs forward that you're going to be happy with. We're going to do them in conjunction with you; we're not doing them without you. We're going to bring them to you and say: What do you think of this program? Is it good? Is it good enough? Do you think there's a good enough uptake? Are we hitting the right things?

I want to do it together, because clearly I'm not an expert in energy or efficiency, but I think that everyone should have an opportunity to have a say in this.

For me, I admire what you're doing, I think that we're committed to the same things, but I think that we need to show that we're willing to do it.

All far too often government pushes their agenda on people and say: we need you to do this, we need you to be better, but we don't do it ourselves.

I just wanted to talk a little bit about what we are doing in the department and I hope that given the opportunity to work with everyone here will show you that we are on the same page as you without having to put it in legislation.

**Ms. Lund:** Minister, I agree with so much of what you said, there is incredible work being done on this file. I think it's important that we set targets and tell Islanders what it is that we genuinely need to achieve in order to maintain a stable climate.

I agree with you that the work (Indistinct)

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

**Mr. Myers:** I do appreciate that and I think that from my perspective, I, too, want to show Islanders, but I want to make sure that we have the programs in place.

I've always said about carbon pricing is, I'm not against it as a measure of last resort, let's give them all the tools, let's give everybody all the opportunity to do it and let's do it through all income brackets. Let's be cognizant of the fact – we have a great winter warming program in my department now and as an elected member prior to becoming the minister, I didn't know about it.

I didn't know that in my own community if you have people that are in a low income bracket, we'll go in and do an efficiency audit on the home. We'll provide fixes for \$0 and that could include a heat pump and I mean what a great initiative for Islanders.

What I've always said is that: the lower incomes that are going to hurt the most if we don't give them the tools to bring down their own carbon footprint and I think we should do those things first and then at the end of the day if we can't get there – and I agree the timeline has to be short – but that's why I said to my department I want you to be aggressive with these things, I want you to and put out programs out that people are looking at and saying: Ok, we have to do this.

I want to look at the option of seeing if we can help become a lender for people who need to borrow some of the money to get into things like solar to make sure that there's no entry point limiter, so there's nothing that's going to prevent people from coming into our program. That when they look at it – they're going to look at it and say: I can't not do this, it makes so much sense from so many levels.

So if people don't take us up on that then I'm on all for change in legislation and say we gave you your chance and you didn't take us up on it.

**Chair:** Thank you minister.

It's been agreed upon prior to today's session and all three parties that we give the last 20 minutes to the third party, so at this time, I'll ask you to say that.

**Ms. Lund:** Mr. Chair I move the Speaker take the chair and that Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having under consideration a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Climate Leadership Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I move seconded by the hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank that Motion No. 2 be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Motion No. 2, the hon. Leader of the Third Party moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** one of the central challenges facing our Legislative Assembly is ensuring that its deliberations remain relevant to the Island public;

**AND WHEREAS** too often, Islanders may feel they do not have an adequate voice in the development and approval of legislation;

**AND WHEREAS** a process that offers the public voice a place of greater prominence in the development and approval of legislation may help to build relevance and engagement;

**AND WHEREAS** a public process in the development and approval of legislation may be preferable to one that is confined to political parties;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Assembly consider a method by which the public will be provided an opportunity to be heard on all legislation prior to passage.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In recent days there's been talk in this House about collaboration. For the most part, I believe this conversation is helpful.

There is little doubt in my mind that this House needs to refresh its processes if it is going to remain relevant to all Islanders. However, I have become a little concerned with the direction of this conversation.

Let me offer an example, as everyone knows, the Leader of the Opposition circulated a draft agreement to the three parties. One element of this agreement, which the Leader of the Opposition called: A gift to government, was a provision to circulate all legislation among the three parties prior to being tabled publicly.

I'll quote from a recent CBC story that quotes the document as: The government would be required to carry out with opposition parties in order to count on their support in confidence motions on budgets and throne speeches. Two weeks advanced notice of bills to be introduced into the Legislature with briefings on those bills as requested.

Now, I certainly appreciate the desire to have wider discussion on proposed laws. However, this particular idea does not include a very important group, of course, that is the Island public.

For that reason, I'd like to offer a shift in direction. Collaboration is important, but the corner stone of all collaborative efforts should be with the public.

I'm suggesting a new process, by which Islanders will be offered an up unfettered opportunity to provide their input into proposed laws before they are passed.

Our neighbouring province of Nova Scotia already has a process like this. In Nova Scotia a Law Amendments Committee hears testimony from interested persons or organizations from the general public before a law is passed.

Therefore, the hearings of the committee make it possible for citizens to have a direct impact on the development of legislation in the province.

Members of the committee listen; ask questions and can propose amendments based on the presentations by the citizens.

This would be a unique stage in the process of bills through the Legislature.

Right now, we don't have a formal process for Islanders to criticize or speak to the merits of bills or to offer suggestions for their amendments.

I am told that this process is extremely valuable in Nova Scotia. We had a version of that process here on PEI when we were developing the *Water Act* a few months ago.

As minister at the time, I was not required to undergo a public consultation process on that bill but thought it was extremely important and hundreds, hundreds of Islanders expressed their views on this Mr. Speaker. I believe as a result, the bill became stronger because it reflected the concerns and ideas of all Islanders and I believe that this is what we need to consider now; a way to formally gather the insight and advice of Islanders into the laws that we consider in this very House.

One of the main reasons for the value of public process is that some of the most meaningful discussion on proposed bills would take place during this public phase. In particular, some of the best input comes from members of the public expressing how a particular piece of legislation would impact them personally if passed.

In short, it is this direct connection with people from whom legislation has the potential to help, or harm, that provides the greatest value of this committee.

Again I wanted to acknowledge many of the fine words that have been said in recent days. Collaboration is important, but in the process of sharing our fine words, let's not lose sight of the real goal, Islanders and their views. If we want to modernize this institution, I believe our starting point must be with the role of citizens. Unless, about the political relationships between political parties.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure for me to second Motion No. 2; that asked the Assembly to consider a method of public review of legislation prior to approval.

I wholeheartedly support the mover and the Leader of the Third party on his view. It appears we have to look no farther than our sister province in Nova Scotia that has indicated for ideas and collaboration with the public.

The Standing Committee on Law Amendments has been in place for a number of years in that province. After public bills have received second reading in the House, the committee gives them clause by clause consideration and hears (Indistinct) from any interested persons or organizations.

It's my understanding the committee works in an efficient and timely manner. If members of this House are interested in ensuring the spirit of collaboration includes the Island public, I urge that you support this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McNeilly:** As a new MLA I have been treated in this House with nothing but respect and I'm super excited to speak to this motion. I think all new members – and I think there are 11 of us in this area – need to look at this very seriously and have gotten here because we listened to the people around us in our neighborhoods.

The Minister of Social Services and Housing today spoke today about getting more input, being more receptive of input around housing and some major initiatives outside of this. I do believe that we do need leadership on that file and there are some major issues going on with housing in Charlottetown, but I like that approach, listening. I believe it's the right direction for Islanders and we have a strong voice and input in the legislation today.

Too often Islanders feel they do not have adequate voices in this Legislature. It's best to involve the public, if we want to make more relevant to people, we have to involve the people. We're not going to involve people by cutting any kind of back room deals. Islanders are active and participate in the political process during the election. Let's increase public engagement in legislation for laws and impact the direction of future generations. This is a new beginning for Islanders to participate; let's engage them to the fullest.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

**Mr. Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the hon. member for bringing forward this motion.

I appreciate that all members of this assembly recognize the importance of making sure that government decisions and policies will help make Prince Edward Island the best possible place it can be. For that to be a reality, the voice of the Islanders absolutely needs to be included.

Government recognizes and believes in the meaningful engagement with Islanders that come from extremely knowledgeable public servants with expertise in many different fields. In also come from the people. Our long-term vision is fuller involvement from Islanders and communities so that together we can find the right next steps for those who will impact most of the government decisions.

Right now the government does a good job at working with impacting communities and organizations. We even have legislation under the *French Language Services Act* that ensures that our Acadian and Francophone communities have the ability to participate in language of their choice, but with all things there is always opportunity to do more.

Last week, as Her Honour delivered the throne speech there was a commitment to convene a panel of Islanders and elected officials to consider practical, beneficial

changes in the Legislature on the way the public input is gathered.

Our government made a commitment because as Premier King has stated: We are open to good ideas, no matter where they come from.

If there are ways to make our existing consultation and engagement process better, we want to hear about them. We want to find a way forward that respects the work of the Legislative Assembly while finding ways to better include the voices of Islanders that work. Because we are in different times, our government is looking to do things differently.

We will look at other jurisdictions to see what is out there to study the best practices that exist and to see how those practices might apply in our government.

With all that said, I want to be clear and say that I support this motion. There is no doubt in my mind that the government will ensure that Islanders are at the heart of decisions because we want Prince Edward Island to be the best place it possibly can be.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

**Ms. Beaton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I couldn't agree with this motion more. It would actually be public engagement that put me into this position and made me want to run for public office – run to be an MLA. I agree that with the *Water Act*, public engagement was critical and very important but I can also point to a time where public engagement was disregarded.

When we talked about the review on schools that started in 2017 and went for a year and a half, that was a year and a half consultation with the public and in the end, all of that collaboration, all of those recommendations were pretty much not accepted and were looked over. When you engage public, you need to actually listen to public. When you engage public you can't disregard their recommendations.

It is extremely important that you listen to them because if you disregard them, they do not engage again. So the second time that we went into the school review to review the Charlottetown area of schools, we had much less engagement that time around. So I implore this government please, I absolutely, absolutely back this motion, but I really caution that if you're going to engage the public, the public needs to be heard and you can't disregard it because if you do, then you're jeopardizing having them reengage.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's a pleasure to rise to this motion which I absolutely intend to support.

I'm going to make reference to a couple of things that the Leader of the Third Party said, just for some clarity, however in the House. He referenced the confidence and supply agreement. I'm glad you're still looking at that, hon. Leader of the Third Party, because it's still absolutely there available for all parties of this House to sign on to.

It's critical that we make a distinction between an internal organization, which is between the parties of this House and between all of the legislators who are privileged to sit in the House and public engagement. A Confidence and Supply Agreement is an agreement between the parties represented in this House.

I think it's important that we realize that some things are appropriate for the public to have consultation in and I would argue that all pieces of legislation, much of the work that we do in here, as we'll see as we go through the list of bills brought forward by government – many of them are housekeeping bills, a couple of lines here, we change a comma here, the subsection here needs to be renumbered, whatever.

The amount of interest that's going to generate is going to be pretty small.

Then you have issues like the *Water Act* which quite rightly needs to be out there so that the public can become engaged and their voices can be heard.

Ideally, of course, we would recognize at all times that this is the people's House and that we are here as representatives of the citizens who elected us in our various districts.

In that respect the people's voice should be heard in this House through what we say as representatives of our districts.

Public consultation of course is absolutely critical because work will come forward with from this House and from the civil service, which is new and the public will have no prior knowledge of that.

On occasion there will be bills, there will be pieces of work that we're doing here in the Legislature that is absolutely appropriate and in fact, I would argue, necessary, to go out to the public for their input even though we are in here in this House representing them and speaking their word, speaking on their behalf.

So, a couple of distinctions we have to make, not all bills are created equal.

Not all bills will require nor will generate the same sort of public interest, but when it's clear that a piece of legislation is before this House which has a profound impact on Islanders, whether that be Islanders in general, or a particular section of Islanders – particular facet of our community – then it's incumbent that we allow them an opportunity to speak to that.

In most other jurisdictions, the work of the House is done differently.

Here we present a bill, it is read a first time and then when it comes back for second reading, we do that in Committee of the Whole House, as we did this afternoon with Bill No. 102, *An Act to Amend the Climate Leadership Act*, that's not how it's done in almost all other legislatures.

Typically, when a bill goes for second reading it goes to committee and when a bill goes to committee there's an opportunity automatically for the public to get involved. One of the suggestions that at that time, the

third party made in our paper on legislative updates and changes was to adopt exactly that model, that when a piece of legislation comes up for second reading, that rather than do it in the Committee of the Whole House here, in the sort of insulated box in which we live and work, that we send that to a standing committee and that therefore the public has an opportunity.

I'd like this House to consider that as another option to do this, I know this is a motion just encouraging the House to do something.

I'm suggesting that that might be the vehicle, the mechanism, by which we might be able to accomplish that.

There is also a spectrum of consultation and as my honourable friend who preceded me, I think spoke very passionately and from her own personal experience, if we are to consult with the public we better do it in a way that they feel that the input that they have brought forward is listened to and acted upon because there is nothing that breaks down trust and the representative process of which we are a part, then asking for input and then ignoring it.

That is one sure way – again I cannot do it anymore eloquently than my honourable friend just did – but if we are to do consultation it has to be meaningful consultation.

A couple of acts come to mind. Last session the third party brought forward a motion on conversion therapy, that was not –

**An Hon. Member:** Call the hour.

**Speaker:** Members, the hour has been called.

The House will adjourn until 7:00 p.m. this evening.

**The Legislature adjourned until 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Good evening, everyone.

**An Hon. Member:** Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

### Recognition of Guests II

**Speaker:** Please be seated.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party, recognition of guests.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thought I'd take a moment to draw attention to some visitors that are in our public gallery tonight. They are in from time to time, so it's great to have them in tonight to see the proceedings and I do hope they enjoy it.

So with us tonight, we have Cassidy Morrison, who actually works in our office and will be around for most of the summer. Michael Ferguson and Will McGuigan, former president at UPEI, it's great to have them all in the room tonight. They are three very capable young Islanders who are carving out their way in a lot of ways, professionally, personally, and it's great to have them in the House tonight to be a part of this.

Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, recognition of guests.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, as well, would like to welcome three very capable young people, and two of them are actually from District 4. Politics are alive and well –

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)

**Ms. Compton:** Three.

So all from District 4. A couple of them we might have to work on, but they are all very capable, very interested in politics and to me that really warms my heart.

Welcome William, Sam, and Cassidy.

### 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.

**Clerk:** Order No. 1, Adjourned Debate on the Draft Address.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness to continue debate.

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

As I was talking and summarizing a little bit about my views on the throne speech as the Member from O'Leary-Inverness, and it was really to encapsulate that what I have said previously was really a little bit about – I was focused about what was not in the throne speech.

I said there was a lot of platitudes, a lot of clichés, a lot of talk that sounds pretty good and throne speeches by their very nature, there is a lot of vagueness to them.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. Henderson:** I certainly can appreciate that as I have been in this House for a number of times, and I have heard lots of different throne speeches in my day.

I did want to talk a little bit more about some the issues around the primary industries. I did talk a little bit more about the fishery, there was not a lot mentioned in the fishery. It was good to hear the hon. minister talk about the importance of the oyster and shellfish industry, but there is not even one word of oyster in the throne speech. It does not even mention it anywhere. It is a very important subject in my particular riding.

There are a lot of challenges with the oyster industry around two components. There are the issues around the public fishery, and then there is also the issue around our aquaculture in the oyster growers group. Although there may be individuals that participate in both, there is concerns about the viability of our public fishery and if there really does need to be some review and study on how we can improve our oyster beds, how we can focus a little more on opening up new markets for our public oyster fisheries.

It is a sustainable fishery, and it is one of the few fisheries in the world that is still harvested by individual fishers. It is not corporate in any capacity.

I never had the chance to talk a lot about our potato industry, and I did ask a few questions earlier on some of the things around land and land banks and some of that stuff. Once again, an awful lot of vagueness to it, and there is a lot of real serious discussion that has to be had on this. One would assume that a party that is running for political office would put a fair bit of thought into making these sort of statements and even mention it a bit more in the throne speech that they are going to incorporate this stuff in and there is that much vagueness when you even ask them questions about it there is that little.

So I am hopeful that in the budget there will be much more clarity to the throne speech and will be sort of so-called the meat on the bones of this.

Not a thing about livestock strategy and that is something that is very important to me when I was a minister. When I get back to the potato industry in O'Leary-Inverness, we have the Canadian Potato Museum. That facility is the second most visited site for tourism in Western PEI, and it highlights the industry of the potato industry all across the country but does focus a lot on PEI.

When that is in the heart of a potato community, it is our largest industry, our largest commodity that we market; it signifies the importance that our community puts on the potato industry. Once again, not even a word. I do not think the word 'potato' is in the throne speech. We have to make sure we are looking at some more emphasis on that.

And I do have concerns, and I know the Member from Summerside-Wilmot had mentioned some comments about the issues around crop insurance and the impacts climate change will have on that. I do have concerns that our crop insurance premiums – we are getting to a very vulnerable situation.

As we see these more cataclysmic events tend to be occurring, we are saying that –

and the East Coast is saying that it is going to be wetter and the West Coast is drier.

Already, we have 40 to 70 mls of rain to be projected to come in the next few days. If that all falls at once at a fairly rapid amount, we are going to have crop insurance issues again and that is going to mean that our premiums are going to have to go up because our crop insurance industry is over a 10 year average.

Now you are going to have two significantly bad years at once. That is going to have quite an impact on this potato industry. That comes always with a cost.

I just think that the government needs to be well aware of that and be prepared for those types of factors that are going to come in. If you are a farmer and you cannot get reasonable security and insurance on your crop, then your banks get awfully nervous. When your lender start to get a little bit nervous and say you cannot grow that much crop, then your viability comes into question.

So I think it is very important that this government starts to reflect a bit on that. I will say it is okay to omit the potato industry, it is okay to omit the oyster industry in your throne speech, but maybe you should – we want to see some things that are in that in the budget.

So like I said before, I have sort of encapsulated that all throne speeches by their very nature tend to be vague, and I will take it this is another one of those typical throne speeches. I am okay with that. I really will focus a bit more on the budget.

I think the way I would wrap this up as my final comments to make; I am going to use a quote by Winston Churchill: “I no longer listen to what people say, I just watch what they do. Behaviour never lies.” Winston Churchill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I will now call on the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

**An Hon. Member:** Here we go. Here comes the Valkyrie. Put that meat on the bones.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate all I have heard here the past couple of days about the Speech From the Throne, and I, too, was on that side of the floor at one time and, you know, I had trouble seeing the vision that was in the document. But let me tell you, when I first read the Speech From the Throne, there were two things that came to my mind.

The first one was what a visionary piece of work, and how happy I was to be a part of this great plan that the Premier has. That’s kind of the message that I want to bring forward today when I talk about the Speech From the Throne.

We all just came through an election cycle, and this is my third time knocking on doors, my third successful attempt at being here. The weather was poor again, but the people were very inviting and they were quite willing to tell me what was on their mind.

For me, pretty near half of my district had changed so I had 50% was a brand new part of the district. I enjoyed meeting the people in the new part of the district and talking about the concerns of the people in that area.

The concerns really have not been a whole lot different no matter where I have gone. You know, people talk about the shape of the roads. In some areas they have issues with the speed of the roads, and I know parts of the Pownal road, which I picked up this time, had issues with the speed of the road – issues that I am willing to look at, issues that I am willing to try to put measures in to help slow the traffic down.

But a lot of people on the doorsteps thought that we would form government, and they were right. They thought it would be a minority government, and they were right. And the things that they asked for were good government, which I believe under our Premier we can deliver, and they really – they were really, really adamant that we worked together. I told them day after day that I am sure I can work with anybody.

Anybody who has ever served on a minor hockey board knows that if you can survive that and still have people in your community talk to you, you can probably work with

anybody. You can probably work with anybody after that.

A lot of people that I talked to felt like they had been ignored by government – it's kind of a government attitude – it wasn't political, it wasn't attached to a political party.

They felt that government for a long time has just been ignoring them, and we talked about some of the things today about would I be willing to have a committee go out to talk about how we would look at energy. Absolutely. It's those reasons why I believe in those things because I heard it over and over and over again. So the onus is on all of us. There's 26 now, there will soon be 27 and the onus is on all of us to show Islanders that we're here working for them.

I've always said since I've been elected that there's 27 seats in here and while I sit in one, I only sit at one at the leisure of the people who vote for me.

I've been fortunate to be here, now my third time, but I don't – there's never a day that I wake up and I take it for granted that they're just going to do it again, or going to be happy with the things that I do, and I think the onus is on me to stay connected to the communities that I represent and bring their voice here in whatever capacity I can.

We talked yesterday about, you know, the Tyne Valley situation and whether or not I made the right decision.

I commend the member who represents that are for defending her area, that's exactly what she was elected to do, and that's exactly what we were all elected to do.

I think it's important to remember when you come here, and I've had a lot of those rallies where I felt like government wasn't making decisions that were adequate for where I represented and I brought them here over and over and over again for the past eight years.

It's probably part of the reason why I'm still here, was that I took seriously my opportunity to represent the people.

One of the things that I probably most enjoyed through the campaign, we talked

about it this evening at supper time and I said when I campaign, I always take my time. It's not a race. I'm hopeful to get through the whole thing, but I never leave – I try to never leave anybody feeling that I don't have enough time to talk to them and talk about their issues. We had talked about there's a lot of Amish families in my district and whether or not they vote. I said I'm pretty sure they don't vote but either way they're constituents. You don't have to vote to be a constituent and I went to each and every Amish home in my district and met some wonderful people with a great attitude and excited to be here, excited to be part of our community, and excited to be able to bring new ideas and new traditions and even in some cases new products to the area.

It made me hopeful that there's something we could work towards, you know, in our communities to bring some of these new ways and new ideas to a larger audience and it's something that I'm committed to work towards.

From a departmental standpoint, I mean, you know and I've said this numerous times, it's only been probably four weeks that I've been with the department, but some days I feel like I've been there two years because I've had so much stuff come at me so quickly and so many meetings about so many different topics and anybody who is ever there for the first time understands what that's like, and, you know, one minute you look at the clock and it's 8:00 a.m. and the next time you look at it and it's 3:30 p.m. and you're like: I can't remember what I did. Hopefully when I get questions in the Legislature I'm able to remember what I was told.

So far, so good, but the session is only young.

We talked earlier this afternoon through debate of legislation about my thoughts on solar, my thoughts on efficiency, my thoughts on electric cars, and my thoughts on through our department what we're able to do to kind of help accelerate that. I don't know if accelerate is the right word. But I'd like to think that we can accelerate that because I think it's my responsibility to get this moving at a pace that's suitable to meet things, like our targets for the Paris Accord and I think that we have those possibilities

and we have those inputs through federal programs that we can put back out in the community to make PEI better.

It was part of the throne speech – solar, it was part of an election platform promise through the PC party, and while that's not necessarily why I would do it and members would argue that we didn't – all 155 things didn't make the Speech from the Throne, we're working under a perceived mandate of four years and I would anticipate that the things that fall under the department I'm responsible for will make the cut over the course of the mandate.

The land bank is something, and we talked about it today in the Legislature. It's important to me and it was important to the people whose doors I knocked on, particularly in the part of the district that was new to me.

A lot of farming in that area, I picked up a lot of farm land in the new area and a lot of farmers who are quite concerned about their future. They're quite concerned about how they're going to maintain what they have and a lot of farmers who lease land that are worried about losing it because the cost goes up so quickly and there's deeper pockets in other places who can scoop that land up whenever it comes for sale. It's something that does concern me.

So I look forward to that conversation as we go forward and like I said and like the Premier said, the door is open to – there's zero decisions being made besides the decision to planning it and to start moving forward.

There's a lot of options that are going to be open to the table, there's going to be a lot of help required, and I, like the Premier, believe that the people who sit here are the decision makers regardless of which side of the floor you sit on and we should all have input into how that operates.

I've always believed that 27 seats with an equal representation, everyone more or less – I think give or take 5% that has the same number of constituents that they represent. Everyone in here has an equal voice by that alone. We're here for the people, this is the peoples' Chamber, and we should make our decisions and we should work

collaboratively through the understanding that we each have that exact equal voice and we should use it.

That's all I'm going to say. I look forward to the parts of the Speech from the Throne that I'm responsible for. I look forward during the mandate to bring forward some options to the House that are going to, not only help Islanders, but are going to help us meet some of our targets environmentally.

There's a lot of work to do being responsible for, you know, all the buildings. There's a hundred and some buildings that we lease alone as government, not even including the ones that we own. We have to really start looking seriously at how we build buildings.

I look forward to working with the two members that are going to come in and talk to our staff about net zero and what we can do and kind of kick start that and make it part of our culture. We know it's going to cost more. It's an understood option that's going to – those things are going to cost more.

What I did say in a meeting earlier this week to staff, I said: I believe that we pay now so we don't have to pay later, and I said as a government, we need to be prepared to pay now.

If it costs a little bit more to build a building but we're doing what's right for us financially in the future and for us environmentally in the future and we're leaving in good conscience we're making the best decisions for our children and what we're leaving behind then, we should do it.

If that means we build less buildings; then so be it. If we build one building right instead of two buildings wrong, then I still think we made the decision properly. I look forward to that. It's going to be challenging, but I look forward to the help of all members of this House to make sure that we get on a path that's good and that we are able to leave a wake behind us that we can all be proud of.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

**Ms. Beaton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm happy to rise today to talk to the throne speech. As I initially read the document, I found myself nodding and agreeing and thinking this is great.

I then did a second read and a third read and I do realize that I was looking through it, I guess, subjectively interpreting what I thought was going to be accomplished in each section and working off a subjective document does create confusion and does not provide measurements that are critical to determine success, including measurements to evaluate success or the lack thereof including them is just good governance.

What are the measurements that will confirm if investments are physically sustainable and achievable?

For instance, and I quote: My government will work with all parties and all Islanders to ensure the spirit and intent of *the Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* is championed and upheld. But what does this mean? How are you going to work with all Islanders if, as we heard today, the information that they're asking for is not available?

What are we going to work on together? Are we going to agree to take it to committee and possibly an annually review? A public database; what's being proposed? Are we going to rewrite the act so there's no need of interpretation?

Islanders have lost trust in government's ability to interpret the spirit and intent of *the Lands Protection Act, P.E.I.* and ensuring them that there is nothing to worry about may seem like an all encompassing answer, but this government hasn't earned that trust. Expect Islanders to fact check and if the information isn't available to fact check, then possibly that trust will not be earned.

Every objective requires a list of measurements that this government is working towards. This will possibly come from the budget and I hope to see that but that remains to be seen. I simply can't express my gratitude enough for farmers, for their dedication to Islanders. All too often we forget where our food comes from and take for granted the dedication and hard work that goes into ensuring that food is on

our table every day. Farmers go to work every day with one sole purpose and that's to feed us. Farmers are our allies. Farmers with weather events, environmental challenges, market fluctuations, debt, regulations and paperwork every day and that's extremely stressful. The mental health, a priority for our farmers' report that was issued last month, tells us that 7 % of farmers describe their mental health as fair or poor.

I believe this data, but I also believe it's understated, because if you've ever talked to a farmer, talking about their feelings is not exactly a topic that comes easily to them. Farmers need our support more than ever. This government needs to be looking at what will be viable farming 10 years, 20 years and 30 years from now. The climate is changing and our farmers and fishers are going to be amongst the most impacted. Planning needs to be underway, so action is imminent.

The most important sectors contributing to our provincial economy are at risk and we need to realize that and put in effective measurable goals to work towards. The clock won't stop so we can't sit back and wait. Speaking of planning, I find that this document desperately lacks in any commitment to ensure that our school infrastructure is sufficient and that may be coming in the capital budget, but I question how this government will prepare to make those decisions on school infrastructure and I'm not referring to closing down schools, I'm actually speaking to ensuring that there's infrastructure available for capacity, if there is nobody watching capacity planning.

The previous government promised a high school in Stratford and I look forward to seeing the progress on that. I know Stratford has been very proactive in planning their community campus vision around the school, to ensure efficiencies can be realized. I believe that Island schools should never be subjected to a school review like the one that we experienced in 2017-2018. One realization, if you want parent engagement, talk about schools. But if you really want to upset a parent, play politics with the kids.

This government needs to prioritize our assets and utilize them. Knowledge of school capacities should never be a review or a report because as soon as you get that data, it's already out of date, it's already obsolete. Tracking school population is not a capital line item, it's operational. We should have the public sector tracking this and there should be key performance indicators set up, so that we know what the infrastructure requirement is, long before we run into the crisis that we had in 2017. Teachers, administration, home and school, students and parents were flagging issues but government wasn't listening. We need to listen.

There's no excuse for any school to be 127% capacity as Stonepark Intermediate was. There's no excuse to expect students and teachers to teach in windowless resource rooms and having resource rooms petitioned off in hallways with bookcases, with curtains? That's not acceptable.

There's no mention in the throne speech at looking at the intermediate high school numbers and when they are going to be at capacity. The numbers from a couple years ago show that moving Stratford students to Birchwood would resolve the overcrowding at Stonepark. However, Birchwood was already very close to capacity. What is that plan? Is this government strategically looking at what the next steps are, to ensure that overcrowding is a thing of the past because we have to learn from our past mistakes?

I'm happy that this government is reviewing the rural Internet agreement. I worked in telecommunications for 14 years before I was elected and there's no doubt in my mind that it is a critical service, it's an essential service. I live 11km from downtown Charlottetown and I did not get access to high speed Internet until two years ago. So I understand what it's like to try to stream, to try and watch TV, I understand that very clearly. But, I think that it's also important to note that in 1995, less than 0.4% of the world's population had internet.

Most of us had dial-up and I'm sure the member from Montague-Kilmuir probably couldn't tell us what a dial-up modem sounds like, but I think everyone else in the room probably remembers very well. That

was only 23 years ago. Cable and fiber optic bandwidth have catapulted download speeds into the triple and quadruple digits, which is required to keep us up with the explosion of online content that requires high bandwidths. We need to define high speed Internet with a quantitative number, so that we can measure it. A short 10 years ago I priced out a gigabit connection at \$30,000 a month.

Today, this bandwidth is available in some footprints for less than \$200 a month. The point I'm making is that technology changes incredibly quickly. When the government addresses rural Internet, it needs to strategically plan for technology infrastructure that has a very short life cycle. It's not like building a building and it's going to be there for the next 40 years. This government needs to educate Islanders as to what's required to maintain an upgrade technology infrastructure. The high speed definition has changed. What was high speed 10 years ago is now obsolete.

The town of Stratford is in my district. Stratford is the second fastest growing municipality in Atlantic Canada, which is a pretty prestigious title to have. Growth was mentioned seven times in the throne speech, but only once in relation to communities. Growth poses benefits but it also has great challenges.

The throne speech stated and I quote, "...We will work with community leaders to enhance opportunities for growth, knowing that stronger communities will lead to a stronger province..."

This is another subjective statement that could mean a lot of things. Will this be for communities that are not growing but looking to attract residents and businesses? Or will this help specific to communities that are experiencing growth? There are communities with infrastructure that is quite literally bursting at the seams. The Stratford sewage lagoon is passed the point of talking about the issue. This can no longer be kicked down the road, there needs to be a plan finalized with all three levels of government and work needs to start immediately. Public transit is also lacking.

Possibly engaging community leaders referred to a review of the *Municipal*

*Government Act.* As there is no specific mention in the throne speech of that, once again we are at a point where that action cannot be delayed, as we are halfway through a five-year plan. That sets out an unachievable goal for many of our Island communities. The *Municipal Government Act* treats all incorporated municipalities the same, regardless of size. So a municipality that's 200 residents is treated and held to the same standards as one that's 14,000 residents. The requirements simply aren't achievable for some.

There are tens of thousands of Islanders that live in unincorporated communities. They quite literally have no voice of what happens to them in the next two and a half years. Government needs to assist in public engagement. It is possible that this will be addressed in the Engaging Islanders and Collective Future section of the throne speech, but as I read through that again, I'm not quite sure what is being brought forward.

Finally, I'm going to address the lack of planning to aid seniors that are in need.

This throne speech was 22 pages long and only a quarter of a page was dedicated to our aging Islanders.

Seniors are among the most vulnerable Islanders living on a fixed income, the loss of a partner is not only a reality but it literally cuts a senior's income in half. Way too often when care is required, seniors are separated from the person that they have spent their lives with.

Seniors find themselves in isolation. They are lonely and they feel like a burden to family and friends. The cost of medications eats up a significant portion of their income if they don't have access to private medical care. All too often, they don't fill their prescriptions or they cut back on their doses or simply skip them; yet no mention in lobbying for a national pharmacare program.

The throne speech does mention supports to keep Islanders safely in their homes, but it does not reference the sadness you hear in seniors' voices when you ask them how they're doing or if they have concerns.

It does not address the incredible pressure that supporting a loved one has on their partner's mental health. There are seniors in great need, and they feel like they have been forgotten and we need to do better.

With the Speaker's indulgence before I finish, I would like to acknowledge a very special guest in the gallery today. I'd like to acknowledge Ava Beaton, my nine-year-old little girl who is pretty awesome, and I just like to share that Stratford elementary has initiated an incredible program in their school called Caught You Caring, and Caught You Caring teaches us about character traits, such as kindness, gratitude, respect, perseverance – I guess something that we really need to take into the House and I've learned a lot about that from Ava over the last year.

I'd just like to acknowledge that she won an award yesterday for being kind and for her perseverance. I'd like to say hi to her –

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Beaton:** – and thank you all for giving me the opportunity. I will be supporting the throne speech because I think that it has some very excellent things to be added to this Island, and I look forward to working with the government in order to achieve what the Islanders need.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

It's certainly a pleasure for me to get up and speak on this, what I would like to say a great document.

There's a theme throughout this document that really caught me right from that get go and the common theme throughout it is, it's about people. It's about respecting people, it's about caring for people, and it's about making sure that the people of PEI, which of course is our most valuable resource, are cared for in a respectful manner.

I want to take just a few minutes to share why I support this throne speech and

encourage my fellow colleagues to join me when I vote in favour of this speech.

This speech not only reflects collaboration and unity, it also reflects and focuses on the people, a vision for a better Prince Edward Island. This speech is evidence that our government has been listening to Islanders, to the members of the opposition, and the third party, and the experts within our public service.

We have a collective responsibility as leaders to respond to the expectation of Islanders, to build better social inclusion, to strengthen communities, create a sustainable environment, and to grow our economy.

As Minister of Health and Wellness, I again, as I said earlier, I was thrilled to see a section of the speech focused on caring for the people.

I can say for certain that our department will work diligently to design and implement more proactive and efficient health care. We will do this by collaborating with community, listening to the experts, and providing strong leadership so that healthy living and timely access to appropriate health care services are a reality for each and every Islander and their families.

The proper resourcing of and support for health care professionals and the investment of public dollars to our health care system, is of course, of the utmost importance. As we're all aware, health care is currently the largest area of public expenditure in our province and we know it is imperative to ensure these dollars are being invested in providing the right care at the right time and right place for all Islanders.

I echo the Speech From the Throne when I say that health care services are best delivered and better accessible when they are available in communities right across this province – increasing collaborative care models at every level and expanding scope of practice, where feasible, to ensure that professional services are effectively organized and services more easily accessible for Islanders.

The more the skills and training of all our medical professionals are fully utilized, the more Islanders are able to access the health

services they need in a timely manner. This in turn will remove service bottlenecks in our emergency rooms, thus lessening stress on patients and our health care providers alike.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting with many of our health care professionals over the last month or so, and I can tell you right now that their passion and knowledge of the system is incredible. Our department will do all we can to better integrate health care professionals into our recruitment and retention efforts.

We will work with the medical community to develop new doctors recruiting doctors, approach which will be guided by a physician resource plan. Part of this will need to include proactively identifying anticipated needs, engage our doctors to provide practical insights and mentorship for early career physicians and work with a broader team, including engaged communities, and departmental staff.

We will also need to make conditional and sustained investments to primary care and specialized care to ensure the needs of Islanders are met, that every Islander has access to a doctor, and that wait times in the area such as hip and knee replacements are lessened.

Everyone in this House knows that I have a deep passion for strengthening mental health and addiction supports for Islanders. This speech is consistent with what many of us here in the Legislative Assembly have said about the need to go beyond simply bricks and mortar.

Yes, we do need to replace the aging Hillsborough Hospital and we are committed to doing that, but we also are committed to strengthening support at the local community level.

Our long-term vision for a healthy Island is rooted in the belief that we must better understand the pressures and causes of mental health challenges in order to have the best supports and treatment accessible and available. I certainly picked up on the comments from the hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford when she referenced the report that came out recently with regards to the pressures and mental health of our

farming community on PEI, and that's another great example of quite often people that are overlooked.

I remember in the last session we did a lot of work collectively in the Legislative Assembly to make sure that the proper supports for those first responders that may be experiencing PTSD, that they had the supports in place. There's many aspects of care that we can provide for all Islanders and we can't overlook anyone. We need to make sure that everybody is moving along.

Finally, I would be remised if I didn't touch on how important the many social development statements that were built into the throne speech. Each of these initiatives: affordable housing, poverty reduction, sustainable employment, investing in children, these will all go hand in hand with our social determinants of health.

By investing in sustainable social development, we will strengthen the health and wellbeing of Islanders. So I will be voting in support of Speech From the Throne and I strongly encourage all colleagues when the time comes to do the same as well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hudson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

First of all I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker. This is an historic moment in our provincial Legislature, a minority government and greater call for collaboration across all parties. It will take a strong leader to guide our Legislatures, and I think you're a great choice for the job.

First, I'd like to recognize and thank the constituents of District 26, Alberton-Bloomfield for putting their faith in me and our Progressive Conservative Government.

I got into politics because I felt I could make a difference for my community. I do not talk my role in this Legislature lightly, and I will represent you to the best of my ability. I will work to ensure that your voices are heard

and fight for the things that are important to me and for our community: stable health care, diversified, well-paying jobs in our rural community and a reason for our youth to remain in or come back to our communities.

While it was truly a humbling night on election night to know District 26 had put their faith in me, it was equally as humbling to have Premier King put his faith in me to lead the Department of Social Development and Housing.

While the department structure has remained relatively unchanged, the name change is certainly a very significant one. Not only does it reflect our government's acknowledgement of and commitment to the province's housing crisis, but also our purpose to provide proactive, positive change for Islanders.

Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so that they can reach their full potential.

I would like to recognize the hardworking staff of my department. Certainly their jobs are not always easy, and the situations that they see firsthand on a day-to-day basis can be extremely difficult. Despite this, the staff of my department are dedicated professionals who continue to put others first, just as we as legislators need to put others first as well.

Your work is without a doubt, and again with reference to the staff in my department, the most impactful in improving lives of Islanders in our province. My staff are deeply valued and appreciated for the hard work and dedication.

The Speech From the Throne has clearly outlined government's priorities going forward. We are ambitious, such as our long term goal to eliminate poverty, and we are confident – confident that by working together across party lines and governmental departments with municipalities, community organizations, and Islanders from tip to tip, we can effect positive change for Islanders.

Will we always agree? No, but we need to meet to talk, to listen to each other, just like the great meeting and discussion that I had

this morning with the hon. member from District 11 Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Prince Edward Island's economy has been strong, but not every Islander has benefited from this. Poverty, homelessness, they are real and we do have Islanders that are struggling.

Our government will act to address these issues. We will build on the work that has already been done and find new approaches to tackle these issues. And we will do it in collaboration. Islanders, Canadians, are facing poverty, but we are committed to finding real solutions that tackle and eliminate poverty.

Governments cannot do it alone. It will require support from all Islanders. With the input of Islanders and the community sector, a Poverty Reduction Action Plan was released in November of 2018 with 67 action items, and the plan will be followed through on.

Much work has been done, and later this year, we will see the implementation of a 211 service for Islanders, and as announced in the throne speech, within the next six months, we will roll out a secure income program pilot. It will ensure Islanders with severe limitations to entering the work force have their essentials needs met with a guaranteed annual income.

While we are focusing our attention on a secure income program, we will continue to pursue a full guaranteed income pilot project with the federal government.

Just as an update, I have written to the Federal Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development, Minister Duclos, on this topic, and hope for a strong working relationship as we move forward together.

On housing, our government will continue to build on the Housing Action Plan. The Housing Action Plan, it's a blueprint for how we can expand and protect Prince Edward Island's affordable housing capacity.

A number of factors, including strong population growth, changing demographics, rising home prices and the growth in short term rental units have attributed to this issue.

We are working to address the Island's affordable housing needs and will accelerate the development of affordable housing supply where there is current and future demand. We will continue to seek partnerships with over levels of the government, with community partners and private developers to get the job done. We will continue to invest provincial dollars to get this job done.

Affordable housing, which we would define as being 25% of a monthly household income, is a definite basic need. We believe that every Islander deserves to feel safe and secure and have a roof over their head. We are not naive, there are Islanders who living in cars or out on the street. This is not acceptable and we have to work together with our communities, municipalities, individuals, to make sure that this is addressed and that we do move forward with solutions.

I want to thank the community organizations and the private businesses who partnered with government this past winter to find temporary shelter for those in need while government finds a more permanent solution. We are encouraged by the fact we were able to connect individuals, not only with temporary housing solutions, but with programs and services that could help get them on their feet because it's not just about housing, it's about addressing the underlying issues that causes homelessness.

Currently my department is working with community groups to complete a community needs assessment. The community needs assessment will help identify service gaps and help shape future policy direction. We will share those findings and recommendations with the community and with this Legislature when it is complete, and I would anticipate that this work will be complete later this summer.

While we take the time to complete a thorough review, we have agreed to continue our partnership with Blooming House, a women's shelter right here in Charlottetown. I recently met with Brynn and Liz, and was impressed with what they have been able to provide and their future plans.

I recently had the opportunity to tour Bedford MacDonald House and see the great work they are doing for our community here in the community. We have partnered with Bedford MacDonald House to extend and enhance their service model.

With an annual investment of 355,000 from the province, Bedford MacDonald House will become something much more than a place to grab a meal and a hot shower. This funding will allow the shelter to help men successfully transition away from homelessness through coaching, social interaction, and direction to practical resources, lifestyle skill development, and connection to community resources.

With the rise of short-term rental companies, such as Airbnb, we are hearing more and more stories from Islanders, of Islanders, particularly right here in Charlottetown, who struggle to find affordable places to live.

As we know, and as we've heard in this Legislature over the last few days, what is the vacancy rate? It's .3%. Let's face it, that's zero.

Provincial departments will and are working together to better understand the impacts of short-term rentals. We want to ensure that municipalities have the power to make their decisions and the right decisions which is the best ones for the residents.

I would do our department a disservice if I did not talk about some of our programs, programs such as the Seniors Home Repair Program, Seniors Safe @ Home, PEI Home Renovation Program, all of which support Islanders.

Finally, I would like to talk about our youngest and older Islanders: the future of our province, and those individuals who have helped us so much along the way. I'm pleased that government has remained committed to making the child advocate office an independent arm of the Legislative Assembly. I believe that implementing universal, half day, community-based pre-k and expanded school food programs are extremely important.

Within my first week as Minister of Social Development and Housing, I had the pleasure of hosting the federal, provincial

and territorial ministers responsible for seniors right here in Charlottetown. It was great to share our province's beauty with my colleagues, and to share the many ways in which we are supporting aging Islanders, especially with respect to supporting them age in place.

There are nearly 30,000 seniors living in PEI. We know that number will rise. It is anticipated that by 2025, more than 25% of our Island population will be over the age of 65.

We need to make smart decisions now to help support our future needs. I have already highlighted the Seniors Safe @ Home and Seniors Home Renovation Program, but we also have the Seniors Independence Initiative which provides financial assistance for practical services, snow removal, grass-cutting and so on.

I could continue to outline the programs that we have, what our priorities are going to be on a go-forward basis, but I'll stop here and allow others to respond.

I would like to say in closing, however, that I believe for our province to be successful, we all need to work together. The very best of who we are as a province is our people, and I look forward to working with the people of PEI to accomplish our shared goals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Now I'll call on the hon. minister of agriculture (Indistinct) – okay.

I'll call on the hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I really appreciate you calling me to the floor. I've been dying to get up here.

First of all, I'd like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, very happy to have you in the role that you're in, and I also want to thank my constituents in District 4 Belfast-Murray River for putting their confidence in me once again. To represent them in the Legislature is a privilege, and I'm very pleased that I'm able to do that.

As government, we know there are a number of issues, concerns and wants. Everyone in this Legislature brings here what their constituents want, what they feel is important in their own minds and what all Islanders want.

Taking on a new role as Minister of Finance, I guess I'm looking at this from a bit of a different perspective, and I can honestly say it gives me an appreciation for the former finance ministers that we've had and the work that they've done.

We all want the Island to be a better place or we wouldn't be here. We all want our children to do well and we want to set them up and grandchildren if we're lucky enough to have them. I'm hoping someday that I will. We want to give them opportunities and we want them to stay here in PEI if that's what they want to do. So I think there's no one in this house who would not agree with that.

The Speech from the Throne I thought was a wonderful document. It is a vision. It is a vision and every one of us elected here has a vision. It just happens that we as government are going to try and carry out the vision, but we want input from each and every one of you.

Yes, everything is not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and I'd be the first one to say that, but we pay our civil servants every second Thursday and that's not in the Speech from the Throne either but it does get done.

There are a lot of demands. We understand we need to work on the poverty strategy. We need to accelerate that. Islanders need affordable housing. We want everyone to live in a safe, affordable home. We know it's a challenge right now for affordable housing. We just do not have the houses or the apartments that we need.

We on this side of the house would like to think that we could solve that overnight. We can't. We're working very diligently, and I will say, having met with every department, that every department, all the public servants, are working diligently day in, day out whether we're here in the Legislature, before we were all elected and re-elected, and will continue to do that.

They have departments that have demands on both their time and on the purses of the province. So that's something that we need to balance, and everyone in this House needs to work together to ensure that we can do that.

The hon. member from O'Leary mentioned farmers. If you're not paying your bills, the banks are not happy; it affects your credit rating, it affects your ability to grow and expand. I can honestly say everyone in the House should realize it's the very same for the province, and we need to make sure that the bond raters are happy with where we're at and that we continue to pay our bills and move forward in a balanced approach.

The economy has been extremely successful, and we will give some credit to the former government, but I would also like to give credit where credit is due to the farmers, fishers and tourist operators who really do make that happen, and all other government –

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Compton:** Small business is very important to the Island.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct) pay (Indistinct)

**Ms. Compton:** They pay the bills. They pay the bills for us, and we need to ensure that we put programs in place, that we try and help lower the taxes. They're all very hardworking Islanders; entrepreneurs especially really drive the economy of this province.

So we need to work with them and remove the barriers in place that really deter them from growing; and I know we talked about growth and we do have now a minister of economic growth, and though some might not agree with that, the Hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford talked about Stratford and how it's growing.

In order to sustain that and to provide the services that you need, you need to have economic growth because that's what pays the bills and that is the way I will look at finance and trying to balance the books of the province.

Paying our bills but providing services that are needed for all Islanders is paramount to ensure that we're successful here in this province. We know entrepreneurs, they're driven and they're hard working, and we have to make sure that continues. We want to provide an environment where they stay here in Prince Edward Island, they want to work here in PEI, and we want the rest of the country and world to see PEI as a place to live and work and have a good lifestyle and enjoy their work.

I've met with a number of companies already who have said to me over and over again: This is a hidden gem. I don't know how much we want to broadcast that because we like our hidden gem, but we need to ensure that the opportunity is there to grow the trades, to ensure through Holland College and UPEI and the sustainable engineering design that we have skilled people to do the jobs, to grow the economy, to pay the bills, to keep PEI in a viable and vibrant place.

As Minister of Finance, I'm just beginning to understand this. As an Islander, as a mother and a member of a family where you have to realize if you can't pay your bills, you're not going to be able to sustain your housing, your health, all of the – being able to buy food, you need to be able to pay your bills. So that's what I will bring – part of what I'll bring to this role.

There are many, many demands on the purse of this province. Our former Premier, the hon. J. Angus MacLean said: We'll give you everything you want; it will take everything you've got. That is something that I live by.

I respect that man greatly. He also said we need to leave this province better than we found it, and I think that those are two real statements that we all can take to heart.

As Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, I understand the importance of gender equality. When we were sworn in cabinet, I made the comment – I was asked how does it feel to be the only woman in cabinet? I said I was the only woman in caucus, and I'll continue to do the role that I did.

Part of the inspiration that I had was – and I said this to the media – my father was born

in 1911 before women had the vote. He raised me to believe, and my mother, and raised my sister to believe that anything we did, as long as we worked hard and we were committed, we could succeed at. That's what I've brought to this role so far and that's what I'll continue to do.

Through the campaign I heard over and over again in my district Belfast-Murray River – which has grown by 500 more voters, a lot of extra geography and territory – but I heard over and over again, they were excited. They were excited, they were optimistic about the future, about what we were going to be able to do for Prince Edward Island to make it a better place to live, to work and to enjoy life.

Our vision is ambitious and you can all say that the Speech from the Throne is just a vision, and maybe it is, but we have departments that are helping. They're already working on our vision, what we think is where the Island needs to go, but we need to do it together.

We need to do it together with community organizations, with municipalities and we need to do it with kindness. We need to do it with kindness and caring. We need to make a real difference for this province and I look forward to being part of that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Is there anyone else who would like to speak to the motion? If not, I'd like to ask the mover of the motion to close debate.

**Mr. Deagle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd just quickly like to thank everyone for their passionate speeches on the Speech from the Throne. I think we all have a lot of good ideas and a lot of ideas that we contribute to make Prince Edward Island a better place. I'm looking forward to the vote on it.

So with that, I'd like to conclude debate on the Speech from the Throne.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Are you ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

I shall now ask the Clerk to read the motion before the House.

**Clerk:** Moved by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir and seconded by the hon. Member from Member of Morell-Donagh, the following motion: resolve that the following message be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House for the gracious speech which she had been pleased to make at the opening of the present session.

Her Honour Antoinette Perry  
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island

May it please Your Honour:

We, her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island at this the time in session assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to your Honour for the gracious speech which your Honour had been pleased to open the present Session.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I'd like to request a recorded division.

**Speaker:** I ask the Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms to ring the bell.

[The bells were rung]

**Speaker:** Okay. I will now ask the Clerk to stand and read the motion.

Those opposing, please stand.

Those in favour, please stand.

**An Hon. Member:** Put my election sign away, I guess.

**Some Hon. Members:** [Laughter]

**Clerk:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir; the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh; the hon. Premier; the hon. Minister of Finance; the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness; the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy; the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities; the hon. Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture; the hon. Minister of Education, Lifelong Learning and Minister of Environment,

Water and Climate Change; the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land and the Minister of Justice and Public Safety; the hon. Minister of Social Development and Housing; the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche; the hon. Leader of the Third Party; the hon. Leader of the Opposition; the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park; the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere; the hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford; the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness; the hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty; the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road; the hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive; the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot; the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton; and the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Speaker:** The motion has carried.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEwen:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition that the address and reply be engrossed and presented to her honour by this whole House.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the same committee which prepared the address in reply be a committee of this House to wait upon her honour to know her pleasure as to when she will pleased to receive the House and its address.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I ask that order No. 4 be now called.

**Clerk:** Order No. 4, *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act*, Bill No. 6, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Ms. Compton:** We ask the bill be read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 4, *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act*, Bill No. 6, read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Ms. Compton:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House be resolved into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Speaker:** I'll ask the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to come chair the Committee of the Whole House –

**Chair (Perry):** The House is now in the Committee of the Whole House to take in consideration a bill to be intituled, *An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act*.

Before we move on to read it clause by clause, request has been made for a stranger to come onto the floor. Is it a pleasure of the committee to do?

**Some hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Could I have you please introduce yourself and your title please?

**Nichola Hewitt:** Nichola Hewitt, I'm a Solicitor and Legislative Specialist with the Department of Health and Wellness.

**Chair:** Great, thank you.

Minister would you like to start with just a general statement about the bill?

**Mr. Aylward:** Sure, essentially it's more housekeeping than anything. I'll just read this off to you, *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* established 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 Prince Edward Island. So 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*

**Chair:** It is the pleasure of the committee now that the bill be read clause by clause.

Section 1 of the Drug Cost Assistance Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. D-14-1, is amended

(a) in clause (b), by the deletion of the words “the *Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. D-15 that is” and the substitution of the words “section 3.1 that are”;

(b) by the revocation of clause (e) and the substitution of the following:

(e) “drug” means a drug or combination of drugs identified by a Drug Identification Number assigned by Health Canada;

(c) in clause (g), by the deletion of the words “the *Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act*” and the substitution of the words “section 3.1”.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Question.

**Chair:** Ok, Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Actually, I'm sorry, it was for Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Chair:** Okay, Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

So I'm just wondering, does amending the definition of drug here, does it make the definition more limited or inclusive?

**Nichola Hewitt:** It does neither, it clarifies it. Health Canada signs a DIN to all drugs and it just made it more user-friendly to refer to the drug as the drug that's identified by a DIN issued by Health Canada, as opposed to cross referencing it to another piece of legislation.

**Ms. Altass:** Ok, thank you.

**Chair:** 2. The Act is amended by the addition of the following after section 3:

### 3.1 Formulary

(1) The Minister shall establish and maintain a formulary which shall contain

(a) a list of drugs and supplies that are benefits for the purposes of this Act, or any other drug benefit program of the province; and

(b) policies to govern

(i) selection where those drugs or supplies are dispensed for the purposes of this Act and the regulations or another drug benefit program of the province, and

(ii) criteria respecting price adjustments for drugs and supplies on the formulary.

Maximum reimbursable price

(2) The Minister shall determine the maximum price that shall be reimbursed for a drug or supplies listed in the formulary

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** So 3.1 when it speaks to the formulary, it says the Minister shall establish and maintain a formulary which shall contain the list of all the drugs and then it goes a little further with to say, a reimbursable price as well. That seems like a lot of authority to the minister that I don't recall.

However, what does the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee, how do they play into this, as they're the group that decides what drugs will be added to the formulary. Does that change any of the role of that committee?

**Mr. Aylward:** Leader, there's actually no change, it stays the same. As similar to when you were minister of health. The review committee is still the ones that are reviewing the formulary and the drug and making recommendations to add or to delist a particular drug from the formulary but of course, because the minister is overall in charge, it's also the responsibility of the minister.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Okay, I'll take that the way you've explained it there. So if there's no change, it's just a collection of two acts into one, with the minister taking on no new roles or responsibilities?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

**Mr. Henderson:** So just to kind of recap that little bit, so if a drug is on the formulary and people are accessing that particular drug at must reduced costs. All of sudden the drug company puts that cost up, you, as minister, have the authority to take that drug off the list. Is that the way I kind of interrupt it? So then the question becomes, what are you doing to those people that are accessing that particular drug just because the price went up quite a bit? So is there some sort of impact that that might have down the road? So I guess that's my question.

**Nichola Hewitt:** So these amendments change nothing. We've got a redundant piece of legislation, which is the *Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act* and that act came into force in 2012 and it did three things really. It established an interchangeable list, which is different from the formulary. The interchangeable list says if brand drug (a) is prescribed, then you can substitute with the following generics. So that's the first thing it did.

The second thing it did was it established for the first time in legislation a formulary. It allowed the minister to set criteria for including something on the formulary.

The third thing it did was it put criteria around when pharmacists, you know there may be circumstances in which a physician is prescribing a drug that they don't want substitution done. So what we did was the College of Pharmacy came to us and said

while doing our inspections we found out – oh sorry, we did all this in 2012 – subsequent to that, Health Canada developed an interchangeable drug list, again separate from the formulary, it's generic for brand name, and pharmacists across the country started using that. They've got more tools at their disposal. So there was more ability to make a more robust interchangeable list. It was updated more frequently. So the default is going to Health Canada.

So the College of Pharmacists came to us and asked us if we would consider getting rid of our redundant list, because there's two lists floating out there now. What we did was we looked at the act, and said okay what does this act do?

The first part is it creates this interchangeable list so we knew we wanted to get rid of that. The part around the formulary, nothing has changed there. Everything that was there before the process for getting things on the formulary, what happens when there's changes in availability of drugs, none of that has changed.

The third part of the act that deals with what pharmacists can do when presented with a prescription has been transferred into the pharmacists' regulations under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. So by looking at the three major components of the drug product interchangeability: we've killed this part, we've put the second part which is the formulary in the *Drug Cost Assistance Act*, and the part about limiting about what pharmacists can do is now in the pharmacists regs.

**Mr. Henderson:** Very good.

**Nichola Hewitt:** There you go.

**Mr. Henderson:** Back when I was minister, I said that's one lady I could never debate.

**Chair:** (Indistinct) Do you have another question?

**Mr. Henderson:** No, that's very clear.

**Some Hon. Members:** [Laughter].

**Nichola Hewitt:** There you go.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I was just wondering about Section 3.3 –

**Chair:** I didn't get to that yet. Just give me one moment. I'll read it. (Indistinct)

Agreement

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Minister may enter into an agreement with any agency or person for the provision and maintenance of a formulary by that agency or person.

The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** So I guess I'm just trying to understand notwithstanding subsection 1, the minister may enter into an agreement with an agency or person for the provision of maintenance.

I'm just trying to understand when that might happen or if that is something that happens often. If you can give me an example, I'm not really sure.

**Chair:** Go ahead.

**Nichola Hewitt:** When we initially did the *Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act* that was before the Pan-Canadian agreement on drugs. So we had put that in anticipating that down the road there maybe Pan-Canadian agreements, there may be Maritime agreements, and we just wanted to have the maximum flexibility possible.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay. So it's not –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Oh sorry. Is it still necessary to have that language in the act?

**Nichola Hewitt:** Well, we'd just like to have the flexibility, because we don't – When we originally did the product interchangeability in pricing we didn't know there was going to be a Pan-Canadian agreement. So it was great that we had it there if we needed it.

We saw no reason to take it out at this point in time because it was a good tool to have in the toolbox.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Chair:** Requirements respecting formulary

(4) An agency or a person who provides and maintains a formulary under an agreement with the Minister pursuant to subsection (3) shall ensure that the formulary meets

(a) any standards or requirements respecting content or format established by the Minister; and

(b) the requirements of this Act.

Circulation of formulary

(5) The Minister shall ensure that the formulary is posted on the government website and any changes or amendments made to it are circulated to all pharmacies in the province.

3.2 Maximum cost to operator of pharmacy

(1) Subject to subsection (2), in order for a drug to be listed and to remain listed in the formulary, the cost from a manufacturer to the operator of a pharmacy for the drug shall not exceed the amount specified by the Minister.

Documentation to support cost increase

(2) If the manufacturer of a drug listed in the formulary proposes to increase the cost of that drug, the Minister may require the manufacturer to provide documentation satisfactory to the Minister to support the cost increase in order to maintain the drug in the formulary.

The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you, chair.

The 3.2, section 1. Can you just explain to me what that means. Is this setting the sale prices for manufacturers?

**Nichola Hewitt:** No. So what we wanted to make sure was that manufacturers weren't going to jack up the prices and bankrupt our pharmacies.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you.

So in practical application then how does this work then?

**Nichola Hewitt:** So on occasion if there are – say you've got brand name 'a' and you may have generics, just there maybe one or two generics. If one manufacturer decides to get out of that because it's not lucrative and you could potentially only have one that's producing the generic drug, it's possible they may want to hike the price because they see an opportunity as the sole producer of it. Right?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** I keep forgetting to wait. I'm sorry.

So this would only be use then to prevent the cost of a drug from going up for one of these reasons or could you establish the cost of a drug?

**Nichola Hewitt:** It's to prevent the cost of the pharmacy from exceeding that what we're going to compensate them for on the formulary.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Chair:** Is that everything?

**Ms. Altass:** No, actually I have one more question just about—

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** – 3.2 section (2).

So did you – It says here the Minister may require the provision of the document.

So I'm wondering this "may" part. So that involves some sort of decision being made. How do you make that decision?

**Mr. Aylward:** Sure go ahead. We're going to get into the "may" and "shall" again.

So again, if there maybe occasions when there's only one manufacturer that is going to be producing, and it could be brand name drug, that is only going to be one manufacturer across the country. And that has happened on occasion. And they've said, you know, the costs of our ingredients are increasing and all this kind of stuff. What the ministry says, well show us, prove it to us that your actual costs are increasing and then we'll take a look at what we're prepared to compensate on the formulary for that drug.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Would that be a similar provision in other provinces agreements with pharmaceuticals?

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** 3. Section 14 of the Act is amended by the addition of the following after subsection (9):

Notification by Minister

(10) The Minister, during or after an audit, may, with respect to the activities of a participating pharmacy, notify the Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacy respecting the findings or results of the audit.

Provision of relevant information

(11) Where the Minister notifies the Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacy under subsection (10), the Minister shall provide the College with all relevant information resulting from the audit with respect to the matter.

Information respecting offence

(12) Where the Minister, as a result of an audit under this Act, has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed contrary to the *Criminal Code* (Canada), the Minister may provide any information in the possession of the Minister in respect of the offence to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

4. The *Drug Product Interchangeability and Pricing Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. D-15 and *An Act to Amend the Drug Product*

*Interchangeability and Pricing Act* S.P.E.I. 2013, Cap. 11, are repealed.

Shall all four sections carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you.

So 3(10) here, I'm just wondering about – so during or after an audit you may notify the College of Pharmacy, but you're not be required to. That seems confusing.

**Nichola Hewitt:** The condition or what is revealed in the audit may not be necessary to notify the college. So if we find there's been – I don't want use the term fraudulent – but inappropriate charges or claims that are submitted to government and stuff that may very well be contrary to – it may amount to professional misconduct under the pharmacists regulations and the pharmacy college is responsible for superintending attending to that kind of activity.

**Ms. Altass:** Right.

**Nichola Hewitt:** During an audit nothing may come up. So you don't want to say they shall report it.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** So if nothing comes up then you wouldn't want to report it. You would just let them know that we've audited, and everything's okay. That's not –

**Nichola Hewitt:** Well you wouldn't even have to let them know it had been audited.

**Ms. Altass:** Oh.

**Nichola Hewitt:** If there are no issues you wouldn't be notifying the college. See what happens is the pharmacies submit claims for payment under the drug programs, and that's totally separate and apart from the functions of the college. Right?

So they may randomly choose to audit files, and if everything goes through fine there would be no reason to reach out to the

college at all. They wouldn't need to know about the audit.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke, do you have another question?

**Ms. Altass:** Yes, I just have one more.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Altass:** I'm wondering about 3(11): so this part of all relevant information. What does that mean? What is "relevant?"

**Nichola Hewitt:** So, we can't just call the college and say, we've done an audit there's a problem. You've got to give them the appropriate information.

**Ms. Altass:** Right.

**Nichola Hewitt:** You wouldn't necessarily give them everything. It's got to be relevant to whatever it is that the ministry feels is appropriate to notify the college about.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** And does that work the other way that you would give them the full audit so that they can see where things went well or where there was some questionable things but they weren't actually related maybe to the main issue. I don't know. It just feels like you'd want to give them the entire document to understand.

**Nichola Hewitt:** Well you'd give them whatever – I guess you'd get legal advice on what's appropriate and what's relevant in the circumstances.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

I just have a more general question. And I know you're new to this position, minister, but the national pharmacare plan has been a moving target for some time now and I'm just wondering if you can inform the House

where negotiations, or even discussions are, between our province and the federal government regarding the potential of a national pharmacare plan and also, what implications such a plan would have on pieces of legislation like this.

**Mr. Aylward:** Currently, you're right, there's a federal advisory committee that's been formed to bring forward and they did table a report last week. Prior to that, I think probably just a few days prior to that report coming out, there was a FPT conference call that I participated in as well. We had discussions around what may come in that report.

It's quite a ways down the road yet. Obviously it's something that we would look favourably on if it was to come about.

But the big question always is, if the federal government is coming forward with something, are they going to fund it in fullness for all time? Or are they going to bring in this wonderful looking program saying they're going to fund it and then two, three, five years down the road say: now it's on your backs. You've got to look after it; similar to health care overall. The level of funding from the federal governments over the years has slowly eroded where the provinces had to pick up more and more.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Let's imagine if a national pharmacare plan were to come into effect, would that be the end of the provincial drug formulary, or does that depend on the agreement.

**Nichola Hewitt:** It would depend on what the national pharmacare program looked like, it really would. As much as everybody else I've been listening to in the news – they were saying, I think it was on *As it Happens*, *CBC Podcast*, there's going to be hundreds of drugs on it – whether government here would choose to supplement it just depends on what's on it. It's pure speculation at this point.

**Mr. Aylward:** Just so many unknowns. Again, it's just an initial draft report that's come out and there lots of discussions yet to be had.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Appreciate the information.

Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Question along the same lines.

You said you recently had an FPT call in regards to it. What was the mood of other jurisdictions in regards to – I'll say the latest round of talks or the latest discussions that were had?

**Mr. Aylward:** I'd say optimistic but cautionary at the same time.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** There's not been a determined number of drugs in the formulary or size of the formulary?

**Mr. Aylward:** Not even remotely close to getting there yet. The discussion – the report and recommendations from the national or Federal Advisory Committee, it's really in its infancy, right?

It's really a concept more than anything right now. The details aren't there.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Mitchell:** One more question.

Are there any other schedules tasks before the presumed federal election in October of this year?

**Mr. Aylward:** I'm certainly hoping there will be. There's nothing scheduled at this time. There's no ministers conference at this time scheduled for us to come together.

I would look forward to, at the very least, a conference call, so we can all collectively be kept up to speed on this and share our thoughts.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty.

**Mr. McNeilly:** My questions were about federal-provincial relations as well with the

pharmacare program being thought about and introduced.

I just want to know about how this act is going to strengthen our relationship moving forward and if we can look at this and really look at this as a piece of legislation that will strengthen drug costs potentially in the future.

**Mr. Aylward:** Again, member, it's nearly impossible to really comment on that. I mean, we have a federal government. We are coming into a federal election.

The other political parties will be coming out with their platforms as well. So they'll look to see what they have on the table as well. I mean, you and I, nobody knows who's going to form the government after the next election. We all have our hopes and aspirations but we'll keep those to ourselves for the time being.

As far as strengthening relationship with, I mean, I go into every conversation, every meeting, always looking to strengthen our relationship and represent Prince Edward Island and the residents and I'm always looking to get the best deal that I can.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty.

Do you have a question?

**Mr. McNeilly:** No it's okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** So this is another may/shall question. 3.12; if something comes up out of the audit that is contrary to the criminal code, the minister may provide information to the law enforcement, that feels like it should be a "shall."

**Nichola Hewitt:** I think it would depend on the nature of what comes up in the audit. So, for example, the criminal code makes fraud an offence. Right? So if a pharmacy has billed for something, made a claim for something of, say blood pressure medication for my dad who gets it all the time. Dad's in the hospital but the pharmacy has an automatic system and they bill. Really, do we really want to contacting the police

because of they've made that one; although it's a violation of the criminal code, really?

So I think you have to exercise a bit of discretion in those types of circumstances, because otherwise, if they billed on one month and dad wasn't home, then we'd be obligated to call the RCMP.

**Ms. Altass:** Right. No I want to add something.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you.

I can see that point how the minister might want to have discretion in those cases if they can clearly understand intent.

It does make me feel a little cautious when the minister would have a choice to, you know, to share or not share this type of information with law enforcement because it feels like that puts the wrong sort of power in the hands of the minister.

It makes me a little uncomfortable, I got to be honest.

**Nichola Hewitt:** I think you'll find it's consistent with other pieces of legislation and again it's such of a minor – I mean it could actually be inadvertent; it could be an honest error. Although, technically, it's a violation, really.

**Mr. Aylward:** And if I can interject as well, hon. member.

If it puts your mind at any more ease, it's not myself as a minister that's going to just arbitrarily make these decisions. I've got dedicated professional staff who are working within the health care department that would bring these situations forward to me and I wouldn't necessarily take any act action without getting professional advice.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** To say quickly, I won't it a sticking point but I guess I just – I feel like we have laws for a reason. There's a criminal code for a reason and it's not really the ministers or his departments place to

make those decisions, but I suppose if it is in line with other legislation, I will let that go but I just wanted to say that.

**Mr. Aylward:** If only we had the Brighton lawyer here.

**Chair:** Shall Section No.1 carry? Carried.

Shall Section. No. 2 carry? Carried.

Shall Section No. 3 carry? Carried.

Shall Section No. 4 carry? Carried.

Shall the bill carry? Carried.

*An Act to Amend the Drug Cost Assistance Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Clerk:** Order No. 2, *Government Reorganization Act*, Bill No. 2, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Clerk:** *Government Reorganization Act*, Bill No. 2, read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Morell-Mermaid, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** I'll now ask the Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

**Chair (Perry):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Government Reorganization Act*.

Mover of the bill, do you request to bring a stranger on the floor?

**Mr. Thompson:** Yes I do.

**Chair:** Do we have permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Would you please state your name and title for Hansard please.

**Blair Barbour:** Yes, Blair Barbour Manager of Policy Planning and FPT Relations at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

**Chair:** And would you also have just a general statement of what the bill is about?

**Blair Barbour:** Yes, one sec here.

**Chair:** Okay, sure, I'll give you a moment to collect.

**Blair Barbour:** This is a fairly simple bill. The bill updates the name of government departments and the titles of ministers in various statues to reflect the spring 2019 reorganization of government.

**Chair:** Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be read clause by clause?

**An Hon. Member:** No, carry it.

**Chair:** Okay, shall the bill carry? Carried.

[Audio Malfunction]

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Thompson: I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move seconded by the Member from Morell-Donagh, that the 3<sup>rd</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 3, *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act* Bill No. 5, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the member from Morell-Donagh, that the said bill be read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act*, Bill No. 5, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member of Morell-Donagh, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Thank you.

I will now ask the Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

**Chair (Perry):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act*.

Would the committee give permission to bring a stranger on the floor?

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Would you please give us your name and title please?

**Nichola Hewitt:** Nicola Hewitt, Solicitor and Legislative Specialist with the Department of Health and Wellness.

**Chair:** Thank you very much.

Promoter would you like to start off with a general statement?

**Mr. Aylward:** Sure, the essentially the purpose of this administrative amendment is to a) correct drafting errors and inconsistent phrasing, b) provide investigation committees with additional powers to obtain information relevant to an investigation, c) extend some time frames for disciplining matters and, d) further define: professional misconduct, and the recording requirements of such conduct.

**Chair:** Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill now be read clause by clause?

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** 1. Subsection 2(3) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. R-10.1, is amended by the deletion of the word "Where" and the substitution of the words "Subject to the regulations, where".

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Ms. Altass:** Question.

**Chair:** The hon. Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you, Chair.

I have a question about this act broadly I guess, I'm wondering what the regulatory bodies, how they felt about this, if you had consulted with let's say, a college of physicians or others?

**Nichola Hewitt:** So we currently have six colleges under this act and it was the colleges who came to us, asking for changes.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Nichola Hewitt:** So we drafted the changes. It was the college of nursing who actually came with most of the changes. We drafted the amendments, sent it out to all of them and got support.

**Ms. Altass:** From all of them?

**Nichola Hewitt:** Yes.

**Chair:** Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke?

**Ms. Altass:** No, that's fine.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Altass:** Thank you.

**Chair:** Shall the bill carry? Carried.

**Ms. Altass:** Oh, sorry, did you just carry the section or (Indistinct) –

**Chair:** We carried the bill. There was a request for the bill to carry.

**Ms. Altass:** Oh. Well, I did have other questions.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** That's all right. We'll give you the floor.

Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay. So, I can just ask about any section now? Is that how it works?

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** Yeah, sure.

**Ms. Altass:** All right.

**An Hon. Member:** Freewheel!

**Ms. Altass:** All right, I don't want to break any rules, I'm just starting out.

Okay, so Section 6(b) – actually, no, that's okay. That can –

**Chair:** Carry the bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** [Laughter]

**An Hon. Member:** Tried that already.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay, give me one second here.

**Chair:** Okay. While you're looking, I'll move on to O'Leary-Inverness and I'll come back to you.

**Ms. Altass:** Perfect.

**Chair:** Okay.

O'Leary-Inverness.

**Mr. Henderson:** The biggest thing I guess I wanted – most of the bill is pretty straightforward, I would say, but on section

62 it talks a little bit about the duty to report professional misconduct or incompetence. Can one member of a particular profession, I'll say a nurse, can they register a complaint against, say, a doctor for improper duties? So it's any health profession that's within a situation, if they want to have concerns about a colleague or in another college, that they can make that request?

**Nichola Hewitt:** That's correct.

**Mr. Henderson:** And have it (Indistinct) – okay.

**Nichola Hewitt:** That's correct.

**Mr. Henderson:** Based on that, I would –

**Nichola Hewitt:** Because of course if something's going on, it may only be a doctor or a nurse present. So if it's only a doctor who can report a doctor, things would go unreported.

**Mr. Henderson:** That's my point, so that's good. Based on that, I would support this.

**Nichola Hewitt:** Yeah.

**Chair:** Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay, thank you, I'm ready now.

So in terms of Section 8, I'm wondering, the idea that they could continue to investigate after the report had already been completed and then the committee could decide to conduct further investigation –

**Nichola Hewitt:** So the college of nurses came to us and said, because they're the largest college under this act, about 1,600 members, and they said sometimes an investigation committee will come with a report or an investigator will come with a report and there's certain areas that they haven't considered, people they haven't spoken to, so they wanted to have the ability to redirect them. That's consistent with what other provinces have got in their regulated health legislation.

**Ms. Altass:** So then would the complainant get a copy of the first report or only the final?

**Nichola Hewitt:** No, the final.

**Ms. Altass:** They would only see the final.

**Nichola Hewitt:** The complete report, yeah.

**Ms. Altass:** All right, okay.

I guess the last – there's only one other question. I'm just wondering to what extent can the college impose conditions on a former member under this act.

**Nichola Hewitt:** It's no different than a current member.

**Ms. Altass:** Okay.

**Nichola Hewitt:** There's no limit. So even if you retired three years ago and a complaint comes to light, Section 58 would apply if you were going to a hearing committee. The sanctions that could be imposed against a current member can also be imposed against a former member.

**Ms. Altass:** All right, thank you for indulging me.

**Chair:** Shall the bill carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that the 6<sup>th</sup> of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act*, Bill No. 8, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act*, read a second time.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister of Finance.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration this said bill.

**Speaker:** I'll now ask the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to chair the Committee of the Whole.

**Chair (Perry):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act*.

Promoter, did you mention to me you that you had a request to bring a stranger on the floor?

**Mr. Thompson:** Yes.

**Chair:** I'll ask you to introduce yourself, your name and your title, please.

**Blair Barbour:** Blair Barbour, Manager of Policy, Planning and FPT Relations at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

**Chair:** Would you also have a general statement?

**Blair Barbour:** Yes. This bill amends the *Victims of Crime Act*, provided that a court has discretion respecting whether 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 Boudreault which held that the mandatory federal victim surcharges were contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

**Chair:** Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**An Hon. Member:** Overview.

**Chair:** The overview was already given, so is there any questions? No questions?

Shall the bill carry?

Okay, Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

So I'm not familiar with the Boudreault ruling that you just cited Blair, but can you just give us a synopsis of what that was and why changes were made?

**Blair Barbour:** Certainly. The Criminal Code has a mandatory victim surcharge attached to it. I forget the jurisdiction, but the surcharge was challenged on the ground of Section 12 of the Charter, which is cruel and unusual punishment. In a nutshell, the court found that for indigent persons, the mandatory surcharge was very excessive and there wasn't leeway for the judges to waive it in extraordinary circumstances so they found the whole section unconstitutional.

**Leader of the Opposition:** One final quick question: I'm assuming the discretion given to the judges, that there's a maximum, it's always going to be less than; or could they impose something more than?

**Blair Barbour:** The surcharge is a maximum of \$25, that's the fee that's set.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, all right.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** Shall the bill carry? Carried.

**Mr. Thompson:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried

**Mr. Thompson:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the lieutenant government in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Thompson:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**An Hon. Member:** Call the hour.

**Speaker:** Members, the hour has been called.

I'll call on the Government House Leader.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that this House adjourn until Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Everyone have a safe evening and safe travels.

The Legislature adjourned until Friday, June  
21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.