

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Colin LaVie

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

First Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly

Friday, 21 June 2019

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS.....	206
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS.....	211
SUMMERSIDE-SOUTH DRIVE (Discovery Centre).....	211
SUMMERSIDE-WILMOT (Spotlight School of Arts).....	211
CORNWALL-MEADOWBANK (Andrew MacMillan).....	212
ORAL QUESTIONS	212
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Progress of TRCs call to action).....	212
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Department and calls to action)	213
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Annual report on TRC and MMIWG calls to action).....	214
CHARLOTTETOWN-BRIGHTON (Economic plan for government)	214
CHARLOTTETOWN-BRIGHTON (Economic plan re: well-being of people and environment)	215
CHARLOTTETOWN-BRIGHTON (Economic plan and community sector).....	215
MERMAID-STRATFORD (Impact on watershed and ponds).....	216
MERMAID-STRATFORD (Review of policies on watersheds)	217
MERMAID-STRATFORD (Assistance for farmers to protect their land).....	217
CHARLOTTETOWN-WEST ROYALTY (Timeline for work on new Hillsborough Hospital).....	218
CORNWALL-MEADOWBANK (Delay of healthy school food pilot project)	219
CORNWALL-MEADOWBANK (Delaying of the Breakfast Program).....	220
MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Use of brine on PEI highways)	221
MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Review of brine used on Island roads)	221
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Operational funding to community organizations).....	222
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Priorities for investing in community organizations).....	223
CHARLOTTETOWN-BELVEDERE (Full-time staff member for community sector network)	224
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	224
PREMIER (National Indigenous Peoples Day 2019)	224
AGRICULTURE AND LAND, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (Canadian Agriculture Partnership)	224
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY (Electricity Costs)	228

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING (Delta Waterfowl)	229
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....	231
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	231
SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE	231
BILL 9 – An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act.....	232
BILL 10 – An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act.....	238
BILL 13 – An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act	241
BILL 14 – An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act.....	242
BILL 7 – An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act	243
MOTION 10 – Recognizing the mental health of Island first responders.....	244
AGRICULTURE AND LAND, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	244
FISHERIES AND COMMUNITIES.....	245
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK	246
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY	247
TYNE VALLEY-SHERBROOKE.....	248
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	248
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE.....	249
CHARLOTTETOWN-WEST ROYALTY	249
ADJOURNED.....	250

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: I'll call on the hon. Premier.

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

Good morning to everybody in the Legislature today, and all of those who are in attendance in the gallery, and all of those, of course, watching across EastLink and through our Internet services.

I'd like to recognize to begin that today is National Indigenous Peoples Day across the country, and there are celebrations going on across Prince Edward Island today. Some have been rescheduled due to the weather. Some have been moved indoors, but it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our very proud Indigenous culture and heritage here in Prince Edward Island.

I had the great privilege to work for five years with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island, and it was indeed a privilege to get to meet individuals from all of our communities and to share their stories and to learn about their culture and their just warming and loving nature. I think it really is one of the proudest things that I have been able to do.

I also want to recognize that over the last week or so we have had some changes in the leadership in our Mi'kmaq communities. I want to congratulate the new Chief of the Lennox Island First Nation, Chief Darlene Bernard, for her successful election, as well the new Chief of the Abegweit First Nation, Roddy Gould Jr. Also, there are a couple of new councillors: Sheri Bernard is a councillor with Abegweit; Madlene Stark and Wendell LaBobe are new councillors in Lennox Island.

I know all of these individuals very personally. They're tremendous additions to the council, and they're going to be great active voices and advocates for our First Nations here on Prince Edward Island.

I also want to welcome Jenene Wooldridge, who I worked with for many years, who's here representing not just the Abegweit First

Nation but the Mi'kmaq Confederacy as I understand.

I will be doing a ministerial statement after Question Period on the importance of National Indigenous Peoples Day here in Prince Edward Island.

So thank you very much.

Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

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

I'd firstly like to welcome everybody to the gallery today. It's lovely to see a full house.

A couple of people I'd particularly like to mention: I saw Dr. Susan Hartley come in and Dr. John Andrew as well who I – they must be sitting behind me. Yes, there they are. And John Terra sitting in the corner, many other familiar faces here in the gallery, so welcome here today. I hope you enjoy the proceedings.

I would also like to make note of the fact that this is indeed National Indigenous Peoples Day. Had planned to attend an event at 7:00 a.m. this morning that was cancelled, but there are many others going on today, and we all have opportunities to go and participate in the celebrations today.

Last night was the Bluefield graduation. I believe that my hon. friend from Cornwall-Meadowbank was able to attend that. So many of the families and children who live in my district would have gone to Bluefield school and many of them graduated last night, so I'd like to pass on my personal congratulations to them.

I also had an opportunity last evening to be present for the grand opening of the Mitsubishi car dealership here in Charlottetown – the only car dealership owned by a woman on Prince Edward Island, the remarkable Tammy Roach, just an absolute force. It was a pleasure to be there and bring remarks.

She's a constituent of District 17, and the work that she's done to build up that dealership is just extraordinary. So I want to

extend my congratulations to Tammy and to all the team at Charlottetown Mitsubishi.

This, of course, is also the solstice. This is the summer solstice, a day where we enjoy the longest number of daylight hours. Growing up in Scotland, there are many very old stone monuments which are built around the cycles of the year. On the summer solstice, if it's sunny – which is rare in Scotland, I know that happens here – but if it's a sunny day just the precision of how those things were built thousands and thousands of years ago still astonishes me and that connection to the land and the world around us.

I think that's something that we have lost as a modern people, and something that the Indigenous peoples here, both in Prince Edward Island and around the world, are still very much deeply attuned to, the cycles of mother Earth. That's something that I think we could learn well from them. There's much that we can learn in the way we do politics and also in reconnecting with mother earth. So on this National Indigenous Peoples Day, I just wanted to take a moment to do that.

It's also national Bike to Work Day. Again, not a great day for doing that, but I know many of the cyclists out there, it doesn't matter whether it's raining or snowing or blowing a gale, they will still get on their bike and cycle to work. So for those who did that today and do it on a regular basis, thank you so much for that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly once again, it's a pleasure to rise and welcome all to the public gallery. Certainly welcome those viewing in from home across Prince Edward Island as well. Every day I learn of a lot of new Islanders that do tune in, and watch what's going on in the proceedings of the floor of the Legislature. So I do – It's nice to hear that.

I, too, would like to particularly recognize some people that are in the gallery today. My great friend Wayne MacMillan is back.

Wayne usually comes on Friday, so it's good to see Wayne back in. John Terra was mentioned as well.

But there's a couple of other people that – the Delta Waterfowl group, who I got to know when I was Minister of Communities, Land and Environment; Ms. Gallant and Ms. MacNeill, who I got to know when I was minister of health and it's great to have them in the gallery of the Legislature today. I do welcome everyone else as well today.

As was mentioned by both the Premier and the Leader of Opposition, today is National Indigenous Peoples Day. I do wish that all the events planned run well for them. It is unfortunate that the weather has interfered with some of that, but I know things have changed and things will go along nicely as well.

To all Islanders, as was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition as well, obviously this is the first weekend of summer so I do hope that Islanders have an opportunity to enjoy this weekend. I'm sure some will be planning on going to the campground and that may be curtailed but hopefully the weather will change at some point in time on the weekend and people do get a chance to get out and enjoy another beautiful weekend in PEI.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry, I just had missed on the way in, I didn't see Lisa Cooper walk in, I'm sorry, the Chief and the President of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island and I wanted to make sure that her wonderful work has been recognized. She does a fantastic job, and I'm sorry I missed you.

Susan Hartley as well, on the board of directors of the Kings Playhouse in Georgetown among other things; and I see John Clements back there, once a holy terror in the Eastern Kings hockey league when I was just a young boy. So, welcome everybody.

Thank you.

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning to all of my colleagues, everyone in the gallery today and everybody watching back home in Kensington-Malpeque.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about an event that's happening in Summerside tomorrow. A walkable food festival tomorrow morning – there's 27 restaurants, three stages with live music. It's a great opportunity to bring the whole family out for the grub crawl. That's right. Not pub crawl, the grub crawl. I know how much you like food, Mr. Speaker, so hopefully the City of Summerside will see you up there tomorrow.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to be here on a Friday and see a full House. I assume the weather has something to do with the crowd we have here today. Nonetheless, it's great to see people here.

I want to give John Clements a shout-out too. Years ago I served on the PEI Minor Hockey Council with John, and yesterday I talked in the Legislature about if you can survive hockey you can survive politics. John and I didn't always agree but John taught me to be a better debater, he taught me to bring better facts, and he taught me to stand up for what I believed in, even if sometimes you don't get to win those arguments. I want to welcome John here and thanks for what he's done for me.

We're expecting a lot of heavy rain for the next couple of days. I want to urge motorists to slow down. There's still a lot of roads that have big holes in them that haven't been patched yet. There is a possibility of water being held on the roads. So everybody slow down and take some caution.

I also want to note one of my favourite days in Charlottetown is coming up this Sunday:

it's DiverseCity. It's a great day. I urge Islanders to come down. Queen Street is all shut down, and there's vendors up and down and there's music. It's a lot of fun. It's one of my favourite days besides Farm Day in the City which is my second-favourite day in Charlottetown – which also closes down Queen Street, so there's a trend there for me with Queen Street being closed and fun stuff happening down there. So I really look forward to this weekend, and I hope that the sun shines by Sunday morning so we can pull that event off.

Finally, I want to give a shout-out to Natalie Jameson. Natalie Jameson is the PC candidate in District 9 in the deferred election. I was out campaigning with her Wednesday evening. She is very well-spoken, very well received on the doorstep. I have a lot of experience knocking on thousands and thousands of doors over my career. She is very good at it. She's very responsive to the people. I give her a lot of credit. She's young, she's smart, she has a young family and she's really motivated.

I wish her all the best, and by the looks of it out there she's being really, really well received, and I look forward to sharing a spot over here with her on this side of the floor before too long.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today and welcome everyone to the gallery and everyone watching from District 18 Rustico-Emerald – especially, of course, the Delta Waterfowl group who I'll be recognizing later on in a ministerial statement.

We've got Eric Paynter and Ben Bain and Linda Roach. Jim Fisher's here, as well as John Clements, who was a resident of District 18 Rustico-Emerald for many years across the valley from where I live, so great to see them here today.

As well, I wanted to recognize that today is National Indigenous Peoples Day and the Summer Solstice and it's also my parents'

anniversary – 51 years this year, I believe, for them, Ron and Linda Trivers. It's also the birthday of the Deputy Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning, Bethany Macleod, so I wanted to wish her a happy birthday. She didn't tell me her age, so I don't know.

Also, it means that the end of school is fast approaching as it is June 21st. I know that teachers are excited and students are excited. It's a busy, busy time of year. I'll ask all the parents to think of the teachers this year and send some good thoughts their way.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say, speaking of deputy ministers, that both in Education and Lifelong Learning and in Environment, Water and Climate Change, the doors of the deputy ministers and I are always open. That's the true spirit of collaboration; we look forward to having many more meetings with you.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise in the House today and welcome everyone to the gallery, but I would like to recognize two people in particular: my good friend and colleague Dr. Susan Hartley, who ran in the general election in District 2; and my good friend Dr. John Andrew, who is running for the Green Party in District 9.

I think it takes incredible courage and strength to put your name forward to stand for election and I would like to congratulate both of them for doing so and welcome them here today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a privilege to be here today, and I'd like to welcome all of the guests and John from District 8. It was nice to meet you this morning for – I believe it was the second

time, but very fortunate to represent District 8. It's one of the most beautiful districts I believe on the Island. We have the national park on one end, and we have the Hillsborough River on the other end. We have the tourism, we have fisheries, two harbours and probably some of the best farmland on Prince Edward Island, even better than 25 I believe, but he's not here right now so –

An Hon. Member: Oh, whoa.

Mr. Thompson: (Indistinct) – but anyway, I'd like to shout out to Dr. John Andrew. I believe we are related distantly, but welcome him here today and say hi to all the people in District 8.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, national indigenous day and a shout-out to our Senator Brian Francis who was a champion, obviously, on Prince Edward Island for the indigenous community; Jenene Wooldridge is here today, I've known Jenene for quite some time.

A shout-out to the Delta group sitting behind me, too; with the new Cornwall arterial highway, I had a call not too long ago from a couple of hunters saying great work to the previous government and hopefully the continued work of the minister of transportation on recreating wetlands around the new arterial highway. It seems to be going very well.

Also, I'd be renege to notice the diversity in the gallery today and I think that's what makes PEI a very strong place and I must reiterate the minister of transportation's comments on DiverseCity this weekend, and hopefully everybody can get out and enjoy and get to meet some of these people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McNeilly: Thank you.

I'd like to welcome everybody in the gallery and wish all the best to John Andrew as he's running in the deferred election, I'd also like to send a shout-out to Karen Lavers who's there working hard, and all candidates in that area.

I, too, would like to – as a person of diversity, I too would like to welcome all the people of a diverse background or anybody that really wasn't born in Prince Edward Island. This is a great place to come. We're all welcoming. This is the people's House and thank you for coming and participating. It warms all our hearts to see you take an interest in the proceedings here and be part of our culture and community moving forward.

Get out to DiverseCity this weekend 12 to 5 o'clock on Sunday here in Charlottetown on Queen Street, one of the best festivals we have.

As well, je parle un peu de français maintenant. C'est la première fois. Je vais au Carrefour cette fin de semaine pour un festival là-bas. Tout le monde aime... « Bonjour, bonjour! » C'est la première fois à pratiquer mon français, mais ça va être probablement pas la dernière fois.

Merci beaucoup.

As well, I speak a bit of French now. It's the first time. I'm going to the Carrefour this weekend for a festival over there. Everyone likes... "Hello, hello!" It's the first time I practice my French, but it probably won't be the last.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today. Welcome to everybody in the gallery.

I would just like to say I'm going to be spending some time down in District 4 this weekend – the entire weekend camping out in the rain. It's going to be a blast, I know it is.

I'd just like to recognize the Girl Guides Association, because this is the final camp for Girl Guides before we break into summer and they start renting out Camp Fairhaven to different organizations that come here from across Canada.

We're going to have Sparks and Brownies at our camp this weekend, so I'm going to be spending my weekend with 50 six-to-nine-year-olds, teaching them really cool things about camping, about cooking outside, hopefully, and planting trees because our theme is around Dr. Seuss, and so we're going to be recognizing the Lorax, and different fun things like that to get kids engaged.

I just wanted to recognize that organization, the largest organization of girls and women across the world, and we have excellent representation straight across this province.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today. Welcome to everyone in the gallery. It's great to have you here today. It was a very rainy ride in today but it's great for the farmers and great for my flowerbeds. I don't have to be out there watering.

It's going to be a busy weekend in District 4. It's good to hear the hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford is going to be down there. Brings back a lot of memories. Camp Fairhaven, I was a camper there on a regular basis and went all the way through Girl Guides. Definitely a great organization that helps empower young girls.

In District 4, the Belfast Area Watershed Group is having a tree planting tomorrow. The watershed group is fairly new, about two years old, and I want to thank the Leader of the Third Party for his work in helping me establish that. It was the last area on PEI to have a watershed and we're very active and working very hard.

Tomorrow you can come and plant trees. They said bring your own shovel and your gloves, and learn about repairing in zones. So I'm looking forward to that.

On Sunday, there is a benefit for Helen Dawson, a great community-minded person who is battling cancer, and I just encourage everyone to get out and support her. It's at St. Joachim's Hall from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and she's a great volunteer with 4-H and a number of different community organizations.

Our thoughts go out to Helen, and I want everyone to enjoy their day and have a great weekend.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Statements by Members

Speaker: I will call the hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

Discovery Centre

Mr. Howard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My family and I were in Halifax recently, and one of the highlights of the visit was the Discovery Centre they have there. My four-year-old boy, Oliver, was fascinated by the seemingly endless interactive displays, and my oldest said later his favourite part was the Planetarium. I enjoyed it all.

All of us came away with some of the mementos and a stronger connection to science. After returning to PEI, the kids have since requested that we return to the centre because PEI doesn't have one to visit. It turns out we're the only province that doesn't have one. Newfoundland has multiple.

As it happens, there is a group of dedicated locals working to bring a centre to Summerside. A complete business plan is in place including seed money. Summerside City Council has provided the land required, and willing local partners are actively pursuing other sources of funding and will facilitate the delivery of many of the educational programs the centre would offer to children all across PEI.

This would be a place of higher learning for all of our Kindergarten to Grade 12 students and even for those younger and older. Learning should be lifelong.

This project would bring many tourism, educational, and even cultural benefits to PEI. The proposed location of the centre in Summerside has access to many local benefits like a beaver dam, eagle's nest, osprey nest, pond, beach and forest.

A planetarium would be the centerpiece of the building itself. Another feature that stood out to me from the presentation I saw was the beehive wall where you get to see the inner workings of the life of bees. These features would set this centre apart from any other centre as most are in very urban centres and have no access to any local features like these. Summerside's location is a gem.

I fully support this great initiative and I hope to see this government find a way to become a partner and see it to fruition.

Speaker: Next, we'll have the Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Spotlight School of Arts

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending what was to be the last performance put on by Spotlight School of Arts Inc. in Summerside.

We often talk about the value of culture and arts through the lens of tourism, but the impacts of this sector go much deeper. They make the fabric of our communities richer. We're quick to value the contributions of sports, and I'm wholly supportive of that, but many children don't see themselves represented in this. That's why I fell in love with Spotlight's tagline: "Theatre is my Sport."

For the last 9 years, spotlight has been contributing to the lives of many and has won numerous awards for their work.

The feelings of inclusion and belonging, the sense of community and the improved self esteem that Spotlight has offered so many people is no small thing and that's not even to speak of the beautiful work they've produced. One scene ends and another begins. Spotlight is moving on and will be merging with the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts. The love the

students have for Reasha, Dominic, Monica and Samantha is beautiful and this time when the curtain goes down on one phase, and before it goes up on another, I'd like to congratulate Spotlight for their many contributions and wish them well in the future.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Andrew MacMillan

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the course of the past number of years I've had the pleasure of working with Andrew McMillan, CEO of the Liquor Commission and Cannabis Management Corporation. Andrew recently accepted a position in the private sector. Andrew's contribution was particularly noteworthy in regards to the role out of the cannabis retailing on Prince Edward Island.

As the CEO of the liquor commission and the cannabis management company, he took the lead in collaborating across provincial and federal government departments and agencies. The introduction of legal cannabis, a very complex file, involved addressing a number of issues, including infrastructure, safe guards, health and awareness, education, sourcing of supply and so forth.

While the introduction of legal cannabis is no means complete, P.E.I.'s initial rollout has been recognized throughout Canada as compared with other provinces. Andrew's direction and leadership played a significant part in PEI's success. I am confident in all members of this house, will join me in thanking Andrew's service to the province and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Today, as we've already heard, is National Indigenous People's day. It is a day when we should all

stop to recognize and celebrate the culture, the history, the diversity and the many contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people to our county. But this is also a day for those of us who are settler peoples to reflect on the harms of the past and how we can personally support reconciliation.

One of the most shameful and heartbreaking policies implemented by the Crown was the Indian Residential School system that ran from the 1870's to the mid 1990's. The mid 1990's, where Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families' and sent to residential schools. In June 2015, the truth and reconciliation commission released a report that included 94 calls to action to help advance the process of reconciliation.

Progress of TRCs call to action

A question to the Premier and Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs: Could you provide this House with an update on PEI's progress to implementing the TRC calls to action.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Mr. Speaker, I would echo the comments of the Leader of the Opposition. It's probably one of the darkest days in our Canadian society as we reflect on those terrible atrocities.

Where as I said in my opening statement, I worked with the Mi'kmaq confederacy for five years, many of those during the time of the reconciliation commission and to sit in and listen to the stories, not just of those families who were actually attending residential schools but the trickledown effect and how that has spiraled into the families of today.

With the House's indulgence, I would actually like to get my department to prepare a document that I can table here, if not by end of day today, certainly by Tuesday.

To give you a full update on that, I would be less than honest if I told you that I know exactly where we're at with those recommendations, but I will bring those back with the House's indulgent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much; I really appreciate that response Mr. Premier.

Just a couple of weeks ago we also received the final report on the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls. This report contained 231 calls to action. The Premier has already spoken eloquently on this report earlier this week and I have absolute confidence in his commitment to work collaboratively with all levels of government, with the Mi'kmaq First Nations and Indigenous community and community partners on these calls to justice as he promised.

Department and calls to action

A question to the Premier: Could you provide us with more information on which department within government will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of these calls to action?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well, I thank the leader very much for the questions. These are very important questions, and I do welcome them.

As the minister responsible for Indigenous affairs, the office through the Executive Council office would be the spearhead of this, but as you pointed out, not just today but in your address to this earlier in the week, the recommendations in this committee or in this report actually touch most of the departments somehow in some way, shape, or form throughout our government.

So it would be the intention of my department through Executive Council, through the responsibilities of the Indigenous affairs responsibilities that I have as Premier to begin to shepherd this process.

But it also includes working with individuals like Lisa Cooper in the Native Council of Prince Edward Island, and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island because the answers are not always inside of

a government department. We need to have a reflection of what the realities are, what we can do to actually make a difference here, and I think we have to begin that process immediately.

To answer the leader's question, I believe that has to start with me.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

One of the issues in the past and one that has created stasis in this issue is that they tend to cross departmental boundaries. Between the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, we have been tasked with addressing over 300 calls to action affecting a number of departments. Acting effectively on all of those calls to action will require an enormous amount of collaboration between multiple levels of government, and many departments within the PEI government.

A question to the Premier: Have you considered assigning responsibility within a single department – and I know you just said it starts with you and your responsibility as Indigenous affairs minister, I get that – but would you assign responsibility within a single department in order to coordinate, and when necessary, direct action to ensure that all of our obligations are met?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that that is a fantastic suggestion. I think one of the challenges we face as the minister who is responsible for Indigenous affairs, but also Francophone and Acadian affairs in this province, we don't have big enough departments to actually take on the serious nature of this work.

We do end up being understaffed, and we do end up allowing things to fall through the cracks. I think that is a fantastic suggestion.

As a matter of fact, I'd like to maybe discuss who you think would be a good person to

lead that. I would hate to think that this fantastic report dealing with so many important issues that we need to deal with would not get dealt with her on Prince Edward Island.

So think it is a fantastic idea and I'd welcome the discussion.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Before I ask my final question, many of us would have listened to the political panel this morning on CBC. One of the contributors there said a breath of fresh air has come through this Legislature. I think that's a perfect example of that. I really appreciate your response to that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there should not only be clear lines of accountability within government, but also reporting mechanisms to ensure that the implementation of these calls to action is both timely and effective.

In addition, it's important for people to see that we are working to address the harms of the past.

Annual report on TRC and MMIWG calls to action

Would the Premier commit to having an annual report prepared by Indigenous affairs that will outline progress this province has made across all departments on both the TRC and the MMIWG calls to action?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

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

Once again, I think that is an absolutely wonderful suggestion. I think that is something that we should actually be very, very interested to commit to and I think it's a good idea. I would commit to the House that we would do that.

I think the one thing – many things that the Leader of the Opposition and I agree on is consultation. When we talk about consultation – we've had this discussion on a personal level, consultation is more than just telling somebody what you're doing, it's actually reaching out and it's hearing others, it's listening to others for ideas and actually getting that community and other interests to make sure we do things right.

I think it's a wonderful idea and I do really welcome – I think if there is a breath of fresh air in here, I think all Islanders are breathing that in. I think it's fantastic, those are good suggestions, and I look forward to working with the Leader of the Opposition and all members of this Legislature to make those things happen.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During the last election, we heard calls for the next government to develop an economic plan for the province and each party was on board to develop a plan.

Economic plan for government

Question to the Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture: When can we expect to see this economic plan?

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you hon. member.

Over the last six weeks as I've been getting briefings in and finding out what the department staff is working on, their abilities – so (Indistinct) some ideas, we've had open discussion pretty well every day on a lot of issues, this as being one of them.

The department is working on it as we speak, I don't have a timeframe when we'll have it, obviously a lot is going to happen here over the summer and we're hoping we'll have something for the fall.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks for the response. Whether it is doing well or doing poorly, the economy is something that affects all Islanders.

While it's great that government has said it wants to work with a partnership for growth on the economic plan, the truth is, there are so many other stakeholders that need to be part of its development.

Question to the minister: who specifically will be consulted as part of the development of this economic plan?

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

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

As of yesterday, my fellow colleague from Morell-Donagh had met with the PEI Partnership for Growth, he's the one that has the lead on it – very capable MLA and I expect good things from him.

I think everybody can have a part of it. This is the starting stages, the public is involved, the industry is involved, this is where some good ideas are going to come to light. Feel free if there's some suggestions that might have been missed that want to be a part of it, I certainly think it can brought to the table and we can pass it on.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you for the response, I welcome the opportunity.

It is important that we avoid viewing the economy through a narrow lens and instead, view it holistically.

Economic plan re: well-being of people and environment

Question to the minister: How will you ensure that this economic plan goes beyond simple economic indicators and considers factors like the well-being of our people and our environment?

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously I think it comes down to the public and industry, ourselves as leaders here, this is the starting stages of a great opportunity, I think it's something that is going to get legs and we're going to get to the next level.

I'm certainly looking forward to it, I know the industry is looking forward to it. Like I say, any input you might have as well feel free to bring it across. We've got a very capable MLA that's going to be leading this; I have a lot of faith in my colleague from Morell-Donagh and industry leaders as well so I'm really excited for the opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you.

I think it's good that the industry is connected in there but during the election we spoke about the importance of the community sector – a significant employer of Island women and how that sector contributes to the overall well-being of Islanders and their communities.

Economic plan and community sector

Question to the minister: How will the economic plan include and support the community sector.

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't have that answer for you right now member, I can certainly go back to my department and discuss it with my colleague from Morell to see what discussions have

happened around that and I don't mind taking it back to you on Tuesday.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

Mr. Hammarlund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is well-known that purchasing local will benefit local economy.

Question to the minister: Will your plan include increasing local purchasing, such as suggested by the centre for local prosperity?

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

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

Certainly, when we can go local and buy local, that is a number one priority. This is something that we're pushing, the previous government has started some of that in the past and we've had some great conversations around our table as well. There's some great ideas floating around, certainly we're in the starting stages. Definitely, I think that's a number one priority for sure that will be discussed.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With climate change, the frequency and intensity of storms will increase substantially.

When non-arable land is converted to arable land by removing trees, head rows, and terraces, or disturbing wetlands, storm water runoff changes can adversely impact watersheds, ponds and ditches.

Impact on watershed and ponds

Question to the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change: What repercussions are there when watersheds, ponds, or ditches are negatively impacted?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That's a great question. I think in that area, this is one where the impacts of climate change are most visible to Islanders. For example, we have farmers that maybe have been following the existing regulations to a T, and then the transportation infrastructure might not be able to handle some of the water that's coming in these extreme weather events.

Because of that, some of the, I'll say, items that are in their land may get to a waterway and it's really no fault of their own. They're doing everything that they need to do. That's a great example of where bad things can happen and this is why adaptation is really one of the key components of our Climate Change Action Plan. It's something we need to continue to improve on and we need to consider the costs of going into the future.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Interesting that you say that because my next question is to the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

When a wetland or watershed has been impacted by storm runoff, who is responsible to repair those damages?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Member, that was one of the first questions I had when I became minister and started meeting with the department.

One, in my own district out in Rustico-Emerald, and I think across the Island, we see, in particular, sediment that is coming off and going into waterways and wetlands. In some cases, it's completely filling a wetland in.

Right now I have to say that the responsibility is not pinned on any individual and not even on government, per say. When a wetland fills in, sometimes there's a private individual puts up the money to dig it out. Sometimes the

government does, but that is an area where we're going to have to work to improve. We need new regulations. We need a plan going forward and like I said, I brought that up with the department and we've already had one discussion on that.

We need to work very closely with the department of agriculture on that, but I think it's one of the key areas we need to address.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I couldn't agree more.

When a watershed has been damaged by runoff, it can take years to reverse that impact and many times, you can't reverse that impact. This is an imminent problem that we have. You don't have to go very far to see ditch after ditch, field after field, where this problem exists. I think education is also a very big piece of this.

Review of policies on watersheds

My question is to the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change: Will the minister review all relevant policies around this issue?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of reviewing all policies around this issue – I mean, it is an extremely important issue. What I've done is I've asked the department to, first of all, get an understanding of what policies are in place. I guess that is a review.

It does go across multiple departments and that's one of the challenges with climate change, of course, because it impacts so many areas and that's why we have a climate change secretariat that is inter-departmental.

I want to give you an example of one of those regulations. Right now in fact, when you look at a field or tilled land, it's allowed to lose three tonnes per year of material and

that's within the allowable limit. So that would be an example of something that we have to look closely at.

Farmers, of course, directly are impacted by this and we hear – use the term 'stewards of the land' – I mean, that land is their livelihood and they are taking measures already. There's a really great report by the Federation of Agriculture that was prepared with the government and it's how to best – best management practices for land.

I'll give that to you as well.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Farmers are constantly under pressure to have more yields of their crops, to follow certain measures and I would ask that those negative impacts to watersheds not be put on the shoulders of farmers.

I think that we actually have to ensure that many people take responsibility for that because it isn't just our farmers. Our farmers are actually being pressured by other areas that are outside the realm of them – and they are stewards of the land. Farmers do actually want to protect their land and work hard on their land.

They actually put aggregates in to their land to build up the biomass and to ensure that they get to have high yields. There is extenuating outside pressures to them.

Assistance for farmers to protect their land

Question: What are we going to do to help the farmers to ensure that they are able to produce?

Speaker: Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I agree completely. This is not a problem that should be borne by farmers and corporations or anyone who has large land holdings. This is a problem that stretches from beginning to end. Our department of transportation works with watershed groups

for example to prepare sediment traps and to put in gabion cages and do those sorts of things to help farmers. That's not being funded directly by farmers.

I'll give you an example of a situation, so this is where you might have three land owners on a sloped piece of land. One at the top, one in the middle and one at the bottom and the problem lies with untilled land at the top of the slope – but really when the sediment comes off, it's at the bottom. This water is rushing down from the untilled land and comes off the bottom into the waterway – the land.

The problem has to be addressed where the lands not coming off. You might even end up with a situation where the farmer at the bottom gets fined and it is actually the land owner at the top that needs to make the changes.

Anyway, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McNeilly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On June 19th the Minister of Health and Wellness said the work will be underway on a new Hillsborough Hospital in three years.

Timeline for work on new Hillsborough Hospital

Will the minister please explain why it will take this long to begin work on a new hospital?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. member, thank you very much for that very important question. Obviously this is an area of my portfolio I take very seriously.

Mental health and addictions here on PEI, as we've known for many years, has reached a crisis level and I'm so fortunate that the Premier has entrusted me with such an important portfolio to advance issues around mental health and addictions.

You are correct when I talked about the new campus that is going to replace Hillsborough Hospital; it's paramount that we do that.

What I have asked my staff internally is to expedite the process as far as the consultation work goes so we can establish this in a more expedited manner.

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

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

On June 7th, CBC reported quotes from the minister saying he hoped to have the work on the Hillsborough Hospital completed in three years.

That is a remarkable turnaround, within a 12 day period, not even two weeks the minister delayed startup on the project by more than 1,000 days.

What changed?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Aylward: Certainly nothing changed.

What I was referring to, and may have misspoke somewhat, I apologize for that.

My intention was always, as our government is to do this project right the first time and we can't do that if we are simply moving forward to put shovels in the ground without consulting with all the stakeholders. So that's why I'm saying instead of five years time, I want to see three years where we are starting the actual process for the construction of this facility.

But, before we do that process, before we actually put the shovels in the ground, we need to know what the stake holders want and we need to ensure what this camp is to look like and the needs around it.

There are many other components around this; just here in the Legislature the other day I announced the expansion of Lacey House. I announced that we're going to get the structured housing RFP out as well as Lacey House hopefully towards the end of the summer by the very latest, so that we can

get those parts, those components started earlier than five years and what the previous government had said.

There is a process in place and at this point in time, we're moving forward with a good work plan and I feel that the people we currently have in charge of that project are the right people to have in charge and that they are doing due diligence and holding that consultation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty your second supplementary.

Mr. McNeilly: Thanks a lot for the answer and I'm glad the Minister of Health and Wellness mentioned shovels in the ground.

I'm just trying to reiterate a point that these things do take time and we're here as all members to support and to build strong work on mental health together.

During the election, the Premier and then candidate, promised shovels in the ground as you mentioned, on April 24th. Does that show that there's a little bit of out of touch with the seriousness of this problem?

I'm tabling three documents today to reiterate my points.

The question I want to ask finally, was this just rhetoric? Or is this another case of moving targets with little accountability?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

Well again, I go back to the last eight years of my work in this Legislative Assembly and of course, in the communities and my track record around mental health and addiction. So, to reference any of the work that I have done or I'm going to do in the future, as a rhetoric, I take offense to that. I'm sorry, but I do.

This is far too serious of an issue to put that kind of language into a complex situation that we have here on Prince Edward Island

around mental health and addictions. Again, yes we had in our platform that we were going to move this project forward faster and that's what we're doing. We're expediting the process with regards to the consultation process, so instead of five years, we're looking at three years. In addition to that we're actually going to have the shovels in the ground much sooner around Lacey House and the structured housing component.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a question for the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning.

In November 2018 the province announced a healthy school food pilot in nine schools. A substantial amount of work has been done with parents, educators and students to provide school lunches. The program was to provide healthy, locally produced food and it was recognized to be a leader in the country.

My question is for the Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Delay of healthy school food pilot project

Is this program now being delayed, cancelled, or changed?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you member for that great question.

Again, when I became Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning I really wanted to find out what was going on with the school food project because that's one of the areas I care very deeply about. I found out that indeed there was some fantastic work and that pilot project was planned in nine schools.

Unfortunately, due to the timing of the election, there were grave concerns on whether we would be able to meet these September timelines and with the contracted

provider of food for the six of the nine schools if we didn't meet the program and we didn't sign with them,, then we would end up with no food at all in these schools. So we had to make the tough decision for those six schools for sure, to delay it.

But then I met with the Home and School Federation and I told them about the situation, as one of the main proponents of the school food program. I thought they were going to be very, very disappointed in me. They said: Minister, we would rather do it right than do it right now.

Speaker: The hon. Member of Cornwall-Meadowbank, your first supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald: I think we're starting to see a trend, Mr. Speaker.

This process started back in 2015 – included public meetings with work done by hundreds of students, teachers, farmers, administration, and the Federation of Home and School. The cooperation with these groups has been unprecedented in this type of situation.

As I understand, there may be different school lunch program payment models that may be used including pay-what-you-can. We all know poor diet is associated with poor school performance. I've heard the minister talk about the Breakfast Program when I was on that side of the House, how concerned he was. This is one of the most important programs that could be involved in the school system for some time, and some time to come.

Delaying of the Breakfast Program

Minister: Why are you delaying this program?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I agree 100%, and I will stand here and I say it is one of the most important things we can do. It's so critical that our children have the proper nutrition, and I mean in some cases they have food at all in order to function.

That's why we are moving ahead with this.

It's really unfortunate with how the former administration, the timing of when they decided to call the election. It's impacted this program, it's impacted the hiring teachers in our schools, and it's been a real, real pain to deal with.

I'm really looking forward to changes in the timing of when the Legislature sits so that perhaps this won't happen in the future and maybe we can get budgets approved prior to even the end of the fiscal year so that we can do proper planning and we can move forward and we won't be interrupted by delays like calling an election before a budget is tabled.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank, your second supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's obvious. It's obvious to the House. It's obvious to the public. We're backpedaling. We're backpedaling on Hillsborough Hospital. We're backpedaling on small business corporation tax.

We haven't heard about the personal income exemption yet. That's going to cost \$22 million. The small business corporation tax is \$7 million. This school program could go up to \$7 million. It's obvious the \$35 million surplus is dwindling, and there is panic, and we're cutting programs.

Is there a delay in providing the lunch program due to financial reason?

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

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I mean, I am getting questions here from the Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank. He is the former minister of finance. I want to commend him for some of the great work he did. At one point, they actually had a whopping \$75 million surplus. Some would argue if that's a result of good planning, I'm not sure.

I can assure you that right now we have an excellent, topnotch, one of the best finance

ministers you are going to see in the province right now. I think when the budget is rolled out you're going to see that things like the school food program are moving ahead.

If you look at the Speech from the Throne, you will see a myriad of great, great initiatives that are going to go ahead. I can hardly wait to see what we're going to do in the department of education and early learning when that budget is tabled.

Let's bring it on.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Deagle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the past number of years the government has started the practice of spraying brine on provincial highways and it's a concern that I have heard from a number of people out in my area that they're not particularly big fans of this.

Use of brine on PEI highways

Question for the minister of transportation: Can you explain why is brine used on Island roads? Is it a financial or an environmental decision?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly do not think it is an environmental reason that they're doing it.

There are two different kinds of brine programs that highways use. The first program is when they prespray the roads and they call that anti-icing, and they do that up to 24 hours before a major weather event. The idea is that when the snow starts hitting it that it activates and it keeps it from sticking to the road, and then it's easier for the plows to plow off that first run-through.

The second one is where they spray the salt just prior to it being put on. It's a very small amount of brine gets sprayed on the salt and it helps the salt stick to the road. I think they had calculated they were losing 30% of the salt off the sides of the road before they

sprayed it, and now they are down to between 5 and 7% loss off the side of the road after spraying it.

So I would say that the second one definitely is financial.

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

Mr. Deagle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the concerns I've heard relate to its effectiveness and the corrosive damage perhaps on vehicles.

Another question to the transportation minister: Does the department have any data or evidence to support the use of brine on roads as being more effective?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the second type of brine where the salt is sprayed, yes we would, and we're obviously saving money on salt because we're not losing as much off on the side of the road and we can apply it appropriately and not have to worry about it bouncing off.

The other brine, the pre spray, I'm not sure if there's any evidence that supports the use of it.

Thanks.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Deagle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, I guess if there's really – for that particular spray, if there's really no use for it, I'm not sure why we're using it. I've gotten many – we just came out of a long winter and sometimes you see the trucks spraying it and you can't understand why it's being done.

Review of brine used on Island roads

Question for the minister: Will you commit to reviewing or even perhaps cancelling the use of brine mixtures on Island roads if

there's little evidence to support their continued use?

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tuesday evening when I left the Legislature here I stopped in to visit some of the mechanics who are working over at the government garage here. They have a night shift and I wanted to stop in and see how they were doing and they had a plow truck that was up on the hoist and I asked them about brine. They took me underneath the truck to show me the wiring harness, how it is basically rotting away and we talked about some of the additional costs that could be incurred from a program like this.

I don't know that we need to review it. I've talked to plow operators who aren't convinced it works. I've talked to mechanics right across Prince Edward Island as I go around touring some of the facilities that we have and they are convinced it's costing them more work and it's costing government money. So, I would say if what you're hearing from your constituents is similar to what I'm hearing from my staff, then I'll say we are going to cancel the program.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Every day Islanders access critical social services and programs from local community organizations for everything from health, education, arts and culture, employment and the environment.

Just a few we may be familiar with include the Boys and Girls Club that provides safe and healthy programming for kids, Pat and the Elephant who provides accessible transit services for people across the entire province, Hospice PEI who provide palliative care, the PEI Food Exchange who increase food security for themselves and others, PFLAG helping parents to help themselves and their family members understand and accept their LGBTQ children, and the Cooper Institute who provides education, resources and training to facilitate sustainable community

development, human rights, poverty reduction, participatory democracy, diversity, and inclusion.

Operational funding to community organizations

A question for the Minister of Social Development and Housing: How much operational funding support does your department provide to these organizations?

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

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

I do appreciate the question.

As far as non-governmental organization funding, there are – if my memory serves me correctly – there are over 30 different organizations that receive funding as NGOs from our department. There are basically three different categories, if you like, of funding that is provided dependent upon what would be considered the priority or the highest needs that are required there.

With regard to this specific question, though, that the member has posed, I'll be honest – I'll have to take the question under notice and bring back to the House.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There is often government investment made in capital expenditures like a new van for Pat and the Elephant or project-based funding like that allocated via the community training grants that we heard about yesterday, but these are not operational funds that can be used to run an organization and allow it to focus on doing it's critical, mandated work.

Employees must be paid. Bills must be paid. Rent must be paid.

I ask again, minister: What operational, long-term funding does your department provide to non-profit organizations?

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

Mr. Hudson: Again, as I just answered previously, Mr. Speaker, I do not have the information right at my fingertips and I will take the question under notice and bring it back to the House.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On PEI, the non-profit sector, also known as the third sector after public and private, is an economic driver, a community builder, and a job-creation engine. This sector has more employees than –

On PEI the non-profit sector, also known as the third sector after public and private is an economic driver, a community builder and a job creation engine. This sector has more employees than aerospace, bioscience and IT combined. Over 6,000 paid employees in 1,000 non-profit organizations, as well as about 53,000 volunteers. This sector is one that is growing, both in economic impact and in the number of jobs it creates.

The throne speech presented last week made specific mention of investment and support for small business and the bioscience, for example, here on PEI, but no mention or commitment for the third sector.

A question for the hon. minister: How does this government plan to support this critical, economic sector?

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

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

I was just provided with the information with regard to one of the previous questions, that our department does provide \$10 million in supports for non-profits on an annual basis.

With regard to the last question, I think of the hon. member, certainly we look at the number of NGO's that we do have across this province, all of them providing a

tremendous service. One of the one's that I'm extremely familiar with is Transportation West.

One of the things that we had in the throne speech and that we're putting forward in our platform is regarding a transportation system province-wide. But I can speak to the great work done by Transportation West. It's not only the operational, as the member has pointed out, but it's also the capital aspects that are required by NGO's and we do certainly realize that in our department and do address it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well \$10 million sounds like a lot of money until you talk about the fact that there are 1,000 organizations employing 6,000 people, in which case it sounds like a bit of a rounding error. Much of the critical work of this sector is provided by organizations that cannot plan long-term. They do not have confirmed reoccurring investment and its investment, it's not funding, it's investment and critical work.

So despite doing the essential work that cannot and should not be done by government, non-profits are working for and with, the most vulnerable and at-risk Islander's and they must use valuable resources and staff time fundraising, holding charity fundraisers, bake sales, auctions, fun nights, whatever that may be, even Tweekie drives. So they have to do this fundraising just to pay their light bills and payroll, instead of actually delivering the work that they're mandated to do.

Priorities for investing in community organizations

A question for the minister: How will your department determine priorities for investing in community organizations?

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

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

Again, thank the member for the question. Again, we certainly realize the tremendous work that NGO's do right across this province. You look at whether it's Inclusions East, whether its Community Connections, whether it's – and again as I've mentioned, Transportation West, Pat and the Elephant, we do realize the great work and the support they provide and in the majority of cases these NGO's, where is there target at? It is to most vulnerable on PEI. On a go-forward basis, certainly as we bring forward our budget, which I cannot speak in detail to obviously, but there will be certainly details with regard to funding provided to NGO's.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere, your final question.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The community sector network of Prince Edward Island was recently established as an incorporated organization, with a vision to have a vibrant, valued and collaborative community sector for PEI by ensuring that this significant sector has a coordinated voice, resources and recognition. This exciting work must be matched by commitment from government to coordinate and communicate through a single point of contact with the appropriate delegated authority.

Full-time staff member for community sector network

A question for the minister: Will you commit to a full-time staff person and adequate resources to work with the community sector network of PEI and ensure its success.

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

Mr. Hudson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do thank the member for that suggestion.

As I mentioned yesterday, our government has continuously indicated that we want to work with all sectors; we want to work with

the opposition. I do appreciate the suggestion that the member has brought forward.

I would be more than willing to have a discussion with her on that suggestion and we'll put that offer to the member.

Thank you.

[End of Question Period]

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier King: Mr. Speaker, I'm just caught trying to get the information back that the hon. leader has been asking for but it's proving a little more difficult to get so it may be Tuesday before I get it to you.

National Indigenous Peoples Day 2019

I rise in the House today, as I talked about earlier, to recognize that today is National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Every year on June 21st for the past 23 years Canadians have come together to celebrate First Nations, Inuit, Métis Peoples and their unique heritage, their diverse cultures and their achievements.

It's a day for us to join together to reflect and to recognize the distinctiveness of our Indigenous Peoples and the important contributions they have made to our communities across the country.

It also gives us a chance to think about how we can play a role individually and collectively in reconciliation.

Here in Prince Edward Island, we are fortunate. We have a special relationship with the Mi'kmaq. It's founded on one of mutual respect and the common vision of making Prince Edward Island the best it can possibly be.

I want to take a moment, as I had earlier, to congratulate Darlene Bernard as the newly-elected Chief of the Lennox Island First Nations, and Rodrick Gould Junior, the newly-elected Chief of the Abegweit First Nations.

I look forward to celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day with both as they begin their new roles. I also want to recognize, as I have earlier, the guests in the gallery: Lisa Cooper, the president and chief of the Native Council of Prince Edward Island and Jenene Wooldridge, who is representing the Abegweit First Nation and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you both for being here.

We all know that the Mi'kmaq were the first inhabitants of Prince Edward Island. They are an important part of our province and they continue to have a key role in our history.

For today's celebrations, Abegweit First Nations and Lennox Island First Nations have organized wonderful events that share a little piece of them with us.

The Native Council had some stuff, which I believe is put off until Monday now due to the weather.

You will hear drumming in the wind, see the vibrant colours of time-honoured dancing and regalia, and the taste of traditional foods that are a part of the richness and beauty of the Mi'kmaq culture.

I encourage all Islanders, young and young at heart, to take part in these events. Celebrate with the Mi'kmaq and learn from them, and with these experiences you will gain new perspectives.

Explore what you can do together to move forward on our shared path towards reconciliation.

As I've said before, having worked for a number of years with our Mi'kmaq communities, one of the surprising realizations is that people who are not Aboriginal don't feel that they are welcome in these communities and that is exactly the opposite of what is true. Everyone is encouraged to visit Scotchford, to visit Rocky Point, Morell, Lennox Island – they really want to share their culture and heritage with all Islanders, and if you're not a friend of the Mi'kmaq when you arrive, you certainly will be when you leave.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of this Legislature, Happy Indigenous Peoples Day to everyone.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I welcome the statement from the Premier, and I also want to welcome Lisa Cooper to the Legislature today.

There are many ways in which the relationships of the settles of peoples have gone wrong.

For me, there are two fundamental things that are off the rails. One of them is our relationship to Mother Earth, and the other is the relationship that we have broken with the Native Indigenous Peoples of this land.

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, it's a time to look at both of those things. They are both enormously difficult problems to reconcile.

Yesterday, we spent much of the preceding of this House talking about climate change and how we're going to deal with that. Climate change is, in many ways, a symptom of our poor relationship with the rest of creation – how we're actually changing the chemistry of the atmosphere in a way that we may make it literally impossible for future generations to be able to live well and healthily and successfully and with prosperity here on this planet.

We need to fix that relationship. We have to understand that we are part of this. We are not the owners. We are not just the stewards of this land; we are part of it. We come from it and we go to it and we have to understand that our relationship with the land is very different from how most settler peoples understand it.

However, it is exactly how native people understand it. They understand the deep connections that we have to Mother Earth, and their native traditions through spirituality and through their politics reflect that everywhere we look.

We would do well to learn how to conduct ourselves politically, thinking ahead seven generations in the decisions that we make here in this Legislature and the impacts that we will have in that sort of time frame. That would be an enormous step forward and also understanding our place in and on this earth. We must practice meaningful reconciliation. We have to ask forgiveness from the Indigenous people from the horrors of the past and we need to build deeper and better relationships with them

On this National Indigenous Peoples day, it's time for us all to pause for a second or longer and recognize harms that we have done, but the potential for reconciliation that lies in all of us individually and collectively to make things better.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Certainly I appreciate the Premier for bringing forward the statement today as well on National Indigenous Peoples Day. I, too, would like to welcome Lisa Cooper and Jeannine Wooldridge to the gallery today.

Obviously, this is a very, very, very important day of recognition for our Indigenous people here on Prince Edward Island. You know, as somebody who grew up in Fort Augustus, which is directly across the Hillsborough River from Scottfort Reserve, I spent lots of time in my early days over there playing ball and hockey, either with the Jadice's the Bernards or Goulds.

I always felt connected to the Scotchfort Reserve. Actually I mentioned this to the Premier earlier, that I did miss the cancellation notice for the Salmon Celebration this morning. I was able to spend some time on the Hillsborough River by myself, reflecting on just how beautiful it is in that region.

Although I missed that, I was very appreciative to be able to go out this

morning and be there and be part of nature as the Leader of the Opposition said: It's very important to the Indigenous people and to me as well. This is very important, too, that we celebrate and recognize the heritage of our Indigenous people in Prince Edward Island.

I do want to reference the conversation this morning, as the government's moving on recommendations from the report and opposition, we'd like you to remember the third Party, we'd like to be part of those discussions moving forward as well, Mr. Premier. I look forward to that in the coming months.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Canadian Agriculture Partnership

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This morning, I'd like to make a statement on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership has been an incredible initiative which has been a major impact, not only to the agriculture community, but the entire Province of Prince Edward Island.

We are in year two of this important five-year federal/ provincial/territorial/ partnership. Over the life of the partnership, \$37 million will be available to the agriculture community. Through the CAP, the Department of Agriculture and Land has programs to increase competitiveness, productivity and profitability, expand domestic and international markets and improve mitigation and response to risks.

As we move forward our new focus areas include; activities to promote community, food security and food education, activities to promote environmentally sustainable perennial crops, activities to promote public trust in PEI's agricultural agri-food sectors and activities to encourage participation under the representative groups, which as

Indigenous peoples, women, youth and persons with disabilities.

These programs are valuable programs that will create efficiencies within their operation, implement innovation technology to become more cost-effective, control soil erosion and improve soil health, protect water sources for sustainable future.

CAP also provides support to farmers during difficult times through the business risk management stream. AgriInvest is a savings account for producers which provides coverage for small income declines and allows for investments to help mitigate risks and improve market income. AgriInsurance is an insurance program for protection, losses and specified perils, weather, pests and disease.

AgriStability Provides support when producers experience larger farm income losses.

I encourage all farmers to participate in these programs. They are important tools for your farms, your competitiveness, and they will help you protect against risks your farm community faces every day.

As a farmer myself I recognize the difficulties of running your own business. These programs can help us out in the harder times and in times of growth.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with the federal government to support the important driver of the PEI economy and we will continue to work collaboratively with the industry and our government colleagues for betterment of the agricultural sector.

The program's value will only continue to grow and I look forward to see great progress of the industry with the help of programs contained in the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Mermaid-Stratford.

Ms. Beaton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to recognize CAP as being a very, very important program for our farmers. I'd just like to add that the new initiatives that have been included to promote food security is extremely important, as recent numbers tell us that 22% of children are living in households that are experiencing insecurity in food and that's not something that we're prepared to live with.

It promotes environmentally sustainable perennial crops, which is something that we definitely need to continue to look in and investing in. As our climate changes, we need to assist our farmers to look at different crops to add into the rotation so that they can be sustainable in the years to come as our growing periods get longer, we experience drought periods. It promotes public trust, and I've spoken to this quite a bit.

Our farmers are our allies. We would be lucky to have a farmer living next to us and that we need to recognize that and so I think initiatives around promoting that trust, hugely important. Promoting and making agriculture more accessible to underrepresented groups. Just to have that in there shows how much of an issue that is. To have women farming, to have Indigenous peoples farming, people with disability, youth, so we really need to focus on and ensure that we are putting in the right measurements to make sure that this money is being used most effectively to ensure that those people do have the ability to actually engage in farming.

I'd like to touch on a little bit the AgriInsurance. We spoke about that a little bit in Question Period yesterday. Overall CAP is \$37 million. I'd like to point out that AgriInsurance paid out \$53 million last year and we can assume that, with climate change we're going to see more issues with farmers not being able to get their crops out of the ground and extended springs of having problems to get the ground the land planted.

So this is an extraordinary program, but I question the measurements put in place to ensure that those funds are being used to its most efficient use.

I think that might be something that we need to look at a little bit more just to give the measure of success. Having actual numbers in there of what you're trying to achieve so that we have something to measure to when we're talking about success, that is just good governance, and so we need to ensure those numbers are put in place what we're trying to achieve.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker

That's great news. \$37 million coming into our province to one of our primary industries is extremely important.

I think sometimes we take farmers for granted with what they do and what they possess in the way of food for Islanders and right abroad.

Sometimes Mother Nature's not very kind to them.

It's certainly a challenge for some farms and diversifying of crops is extremely important. We're starting to see that with – I can't remember – New Leaf Essentials outside Summerside, which now has a diversified crop of peas, about 5,000 acres right across the province.

But sometimes farmers are affected by global issues, too, and what we're seeing with canola going into China, and what Trump is up to the odd time. You know, it really – When we look at NAFTA and CETA and what took place there with dairy, it's sometimes out of our control and out of our dairy farmers' control, as the hon. minister would surely recognize.

So these programs are extremely important for the success of our farmers, and kudos to the federal government for making this happen.

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

Electricity Costs

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe in open and transparent government. I believe in facing issues head on, and I rise today to discuss one of those issues. Maritime Electric submitted an application to IRAC to increase energy prices for all Islanders.

The provincial government does not have direct control over electricity prices, but our government knows the importance of ensuring Islanders can afford to pay their bills. There will be public hearings on the rate increases this summer. The PEI Energy Corporation will intervene in these hearings when necessary.

Our primary concern is that this rate increase is how it will affect the farmers. Farmers are charged at residential electricity rate rather than the industrial or general service rate. Electricity and consumption of 2,000 kilowatts, known as second block, is charged at a lower rate. Many farms consume electricity in the second block.

A consultant hired by IRAC has recommended that a phase-out of the second block rate start immediately to discourage excess use of energy. Abolishing the second block immediately will have an unfair impact on farmers.

We will be expressing our concern about the potential rate shock of this drastic change to the second block energy prices. As a first step, we will be advocating that any changes to the second block rates be phased in over a longer period of time. In the meantime, we are also working with farmers to help them save money and reduce GHGs through efficiency programs that will help farmers reduce energy use.

New electric rates will not come into effect until after the hearings are held and the commission has issued an order. The increases may be retroactive.

Our government is closely examining existing provincial legislation and regulations. We are committed to optimizing and reducing the regulatory regime to ensure government is best serving the people.

While we do recognize that electricity costs money and we are willing to pay fair rates,

we are also going to fight for Islanders on this important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Howard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's excellent to hear that the minister's going to be having a close eye on what's going on with electric rates here on PEI.

You mentioned the concerns you have about the burdens that the rate structure might put on farmers, but we do have a rate structure in place right now that places an unfair burden on the most vulnerable on Prince Edward Island.

People who have less, use less. So right now, you pay more for that first block of power, as you indicated. So I mean, you could shift that to a complete flat rate block and have no blocks of power whatsoever where everybody pays the same and that would tilt the scale in the right direction.

However, what we should be trying to do is encourage people to use less, and it's the high users of that power that drive the expensive upgrades that Maritime Electric needs to put in place.

So it's really, the onus is on those folks who use high power to pay for those infrastructure upgrades. They tend to also be the people who are more deep pocketed and have the ability to pay more.

So I would put forth that switching around our rate structure in a consultation with Maritime Electric and the public of course, and experts, but we should be able to put this in place such that those who have less pay less or use less so we're incentivized to use less and we remove the burden from the Island's most vulnerable.

As far as farmers go, there are a great deal of small farmers out there as well. I've spoken with hundreds of them over the years. Some are very large and have vast energy expenses. Some are very small and don't have much more than a large household expense would have.

So there's a sweet spot there that we can find with rate structures that will encourage what we want to see as far as behaviour goes and relieve the burden on the Island's most vulnerable.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We just talked about 37 million coming into the province and I believe the hon. member stated that innovation technology is part of that. So that looks good for farmers.

I think it's extremely important to review these types of things from time to time to ensure that all parts of society are valuable and all parts of society are being looked upon as users and how much they use and what have you.

But I must say, that if we're willing to do this, these types of things, then the government of the day has to be willing to support those industries that may need monies to initiate some of these safe well-beings.

We just talked about the vulnerability of farming, or fishing and we got to be sure that our government of the day can stand behind them, and put programs in place that will actually adapt to ensuring that that innovation is created in those farms without breaking the bank of those farms.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Delta Waterfowl

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to rise to recognize the important work of Delta Waterfowl, a nonprofit registered Canadian charity that represents and is supported by the interests of the waterfowl hunting community. Thanks for hanging out you guys.

The organization focuses on research, habitat, conservation, duck production, hunting advocacy, and hunter recruitment.

Today, I have the pleasure of welcoming guests from the Delta Waterfowl to the gallery. Please join me in welcoming Eric Paynter – maybe you can give a little wave – Ben Bain, Linda Roach, Jim Fisher, who is the Senior Director of Canadian Conservation and Hunting Policy, and John Clements, who is the Regional Director for Quebec and Eastern Canada for Delta Waterfowl.

In addition, I'd like to recognize Kevin Arsenault, Lenny Murphy, Ryan Pineau, and Jolene Profit.

In Prince Edward Island, Delta Waterfowl has 335 members and three chapters. Their first chapter was founded in Summerside 20 years ago, and they have a second chapter in Mount Stewart. They have a new chapter for women in Kensington; the very first of its kind in all of Canada.

Delta Waterfowl membership has more than doubled in the last two years. And the Summerside PEI Delta Chapter has been a key supporter of the Youth Waterfowl Workshop, in partnership with my ministry and others. These workshops are attended by 100 youth participants and have provided a tremendous introduction to hunting for young Islanders.

Delta Waterfowl supports the efforts of the forest, fish, and wildlife division to recruit new hunters by waving the fees for both hunter safety and first-time licenses. In fact, I may have to get a first-time license, and head out to a blind with some of the folks there.

They encourage regulation changes that remove barriers to the point of entry for hunting and additional opportunities for hunters. They also attend the minister's breakfast each year as key stakeholder in hunting activities and initiatives.

For those not aware, Delta Waterfowl is one of the founders – one of the founders – of Alternative Land Use Services Program known as ALUS. They worked with the provincial government to launch it in PEI over a decade ago.

ALUS provides annual incentive payments to agricultural producers for environmental

improvements. A very, very fantastic program.

The volunteer efforts of Delta Waterfowl's members are extremely important to the Island. In addition to participating in a healthy outdoor activity, hunters contribute significant time and money directly to conservation. Their time can be seen in habitat and wildlife projects. Their money supports license and conservation fees, such as the Provincial Wildlife Conservation Fund and the national duck stamp, as well as donations to non-governmental groups.

So please join me in recognizing their work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to congratulate Delta Waterfowl on the work they do in conservation and particularly, in preserving nesting grounds. It's quite admirable to see them working with landowners to ensure the viability of this into the future.

I think the more time any of us spend in nature, the more we understand the need of ensuring that these ecosystems are well maintained.

So welcome to the gallery today, Delta Waterfowl group.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister for recognizing Delta Waterfowl, and all the important work that they do. I want to commend all the members of this organization for the great work that they do, the conservation in the waterfowl research and the protection and promotion of the tradition of waterfowl hunting here on Prince Edward Island and right across Canada and North America.

I want to thank them for the work they do with young hunters, taking them in, educating them and mentoring them. I want

to wish them all the best in the upcoming season and again thank them for all the wonderful work they do.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Ms. Lund: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table a Summary of Canada's Social Costs of Greenhouse Gas Estimates from the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, by Command of her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the 2016-2017 Prince Edward Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission Annual Report and by command of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the 2017-2018 Prince Edward Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission Annual Report for 2018. This is the 2017 report and this is the 2018 report, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table a document that is called Presenting to build Committees. This is a synopsis of the Nova Scotia work that I spoke about yesterday in my resolution of how it's handled over there, where the public can come in and have input on bills. It's a good document, it's very short, it's very brief, but it explains how it goes in Nova Scotia, that does not mean this is what we have to follow on P.E.I., we can develop our own made in P.E.I. solution so that Islanders can become

involved in the process of legislation. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Cornwall-Meadowbank, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty.

Mr. McNeilly: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table three documents; first one, the new Hillsborough Hospital coming soon, Hansard June 19th, 2019, as well the CBC news March 28th, Hospital part of the PC Platform and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Summerside-South Drive.

Mr. Howard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table a report from IRAC on our current demand site management plan and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Summerside-Wilmot, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land.

Mr. Thompson: I don't have the speaking notes on that.

Government Motions

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic

Development, Tourism and Culture, that the 6th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act*, Bill No. 9, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move seconded by the Hon. Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move seconded by the Minister of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration this said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll ask the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Belvedere to Chair the Committee of the Whole.

Chair (Bell): 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 Summary Proceedings Act*.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that this bill now be read clause by clause?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Chair: Permission to bring a stranger onto the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Perhaps before we begin clause by clause, would the stranger like to introduce

himself for the microphone, then give us an overview of the bill please?

Blair Barbour: My name is Blair Barbour; I'm the Manager of Policy, Planning and FPT relations at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Chair: Thank you.

Blair Barbour: The intro here, this bill amends the Summary Proceedings Act to modernize the provisions related to court administration of fines and issuing of tickets. In particular, the act is amended to clear the outline of consequences for defaults in payment of a fine, to enable a person in default to have their license or registration reinstated upon making satisfactory fine payment arrangements with the courts and to enable electronic issuance of summary offence tickets.

Chair: Thank you.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill will now be read clause by clause?

Some hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Chair: Yes?

1. Section 1 of the Summary Proceedings Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. S-9, is amended

(a) by the addition of the following after clause (a.2):

(a.3) "issuing officer" or "officer" means

(i) a police officer as defined in the *Police Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-11.1, or

(ii) a person authorized by an enactment to enforce an enactment; (b) by the addition of the following immediately before clause (b):

(a.4) "judicial justice of the peace" means a judicial justice of the peace appointed under the *Justice of the Peace Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. J-6;

(a.5) "justice of the peace" means a justice of the peace appointed under the *Justice of the Peace Act*;

2. Clause 2(a) of the Act is amended by –

I'm about to get interrupted.

(Indistinct)

Thank you, Clerk.

So, are there any questions on Section 1?

Mr. MacDonald: Just curious, do we have any record of annual amounts that are in arrears year after year?

Blair Barbour: I don't have that information with me, but that's certainly something we can follow up with the Court Services Division to find out for you.

Thank you.

Chair: Any further questions?

Shall the section Carry? Carried

Is it the pleasure of committee that we go section by section?

Some Hon. Members: Yeah. Sure.

Chair: Section 2. Clerk, does the clause need to be read in its entirety for the sections?

Clerk Assistant: (Indistinct)

Chair: Okay, would the committee prefer just a question for each section?

Yes?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Chair: Section 2: Is it the will of the committee that this section carry? Carried.

Section 3: Is it the will of the committee that this section carry? Carried.

Section 4, shall it carry? Questions?

Leader of the Opposition: Question.

Chair: Question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

Blair, in 4.2b) the deletion of the words "any such person" and the substitution of the words "that person". Is that person you're referring to, the prosecutor there?

Blair Barbour: This was a suggestion, it's a technical amendment. Yes, that would be a reference to the prosecutor.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you, Chair. That's all.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Section 5.

Leader of the Opposition: Question.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Section 5.2, 6.1 and 6.3, that's (g) and (h), that they be in prison for not more than 60 days. I'm just wondering whether that happens in other jurisdictions.

Blair Barbour: Yes, typically in other jurisdictions, there are some exceptions but typically in other jurisdictions there are provisions ultimately for imprisonment for a limited period of time and the idea there is that you need to have ultimately some sort of penalty for people who are able to pay a fine but unwilling to do so. So you need to have some sort of, last resorts penalty that you can impose on someone to make sure that the rules are followed.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition?

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

Do you know if that has ever been enforced here in the province, or how frequently it's been enforced?

Blair Barbour: Anecdotally from discussions within the department, it used to be more common for people in default to do weekends; perhaps, in custody. But, it's rare and to my knowledge it hasn't happened recently. Part of the problem is the current Summary of Proceedings Act requires the clerk, before committing a person, to be able to reach certain conclusions and the clerk doesn't have a mechanism under the current

act to get the information to reach those conclusions.

So, part of what we're doing here and you'll see it in the act, is providing a mechanism to force the offender to bring forward information for the clerk to make a determination and where that's not done, there's the ability for the provincial court judge to commit the person to custody, to make them show up and provide that information to the court.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition?

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

Was there a reason why 60 days was chosen? It seems to me that a weekend in custody is a long way from 60 days.

Blair Barbour: Sixty days would be the maximum and 60 days is where we are under the current act. So the decision was to maintain the status quo, not to change the status quo.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition?

Leader of the Opposition: I have a question on 6.1, sub 6.4, I was just wondering if you could explain that section to us.

Blair Barbour: Sure, one second.

Leader of the Opposition: It's about no effect on arrears.

Blair Barbour: Oh yes, so, that section reads in order under clauses 6.3 (c) (g) or (h) does not affect the occurring of arrears. So, (g) and (h) talk about imprisonment if that's where the focus is. Just because you go to jail to spend the time, does not erase your arrears. You arrears continue to be there, you still have a responsibility as an offender to pay those arrears.

Leader of the Opposition: Question again chair.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: This is again in section 5, although its section 5, 6.16 further on.

Under the previous version of the legislation, how common was it to see people in prison? You mentioned that it has happened but is that, a relatively common thing to have?

Chair: An intervention from the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

Mr. Fox: Knowing in my past experience, it's one of the last resorts and what the courts usually do are probation services, or the prosecutor's office, they try to work with the person, the individual, to try and come up with some kind of solution to make sure that the court imposed sentences is paid and as a last resort, sometimes, yes, there is times when an individual cannot, and he agrees in some (Indistinct) or she agrees that a term in custody is a way of paying off that debt to the Crown, or in regards to the offence. It doesn't happen very often though, hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

One final question on this section and it's 6.1 sub 7 where it says: by deletion of the word "thereof" and the substitution of the words "of a day", can you explain that?

Blair Barbour: Just one second, which section was that?

Leader of the Opposition: Section 5 sub 3 and 6.1 sub 7. It's at the bottom of page 5.

Blair Barbour: So you're asking?

Leader of the Opposition: I'm wondering, I just don't understand it. It says by the deletion of the word "thereof" and the substitution of the words "of a day", I just wondered if you could explain what that is.

Blair Barbour: So where it says the deletion of the words "a warranted under subsection 6". So this was to align the wording of this section with the new subsection 6.3 and I appreciate in the form, it is in a bill, it's difficult to read. I can certainly read what it was to you, and what it is after the change if that will be helpful.

Leader of the Opposition: Well I'll tell you the thing that triggered it is I thought thereof is referring to the amount of money in arrears, not the days. So that's what didn't quite add up for me.

Blair Barbour: I think the thereof in the current act refers to a part of the \$100 fine. So if you had a 120 it would be three days, plus one day for each 100 or part thereof. So you'd have five days.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, all right.

Blair Barbour: That's what the old versions are.

Leader of the Opposition: Now I get it, so this is a relationship between the days. Between the fine levied and the days associated with that. I'm fine with that section, thank you.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: So, as I go through section 5 and into section 6, I see where if there is a fine imposed, I guess and they are in arrears, the defendant person has to provide a lot of information so that it can be determined that they actually have the means to be able to pay, correct?

Blair Barbour: That's correct. If they are in default of paying their fine, then the clerk can request that information and that person is compelled to provide that information to them.

Mr. Mitchell: So I guess if all the (Indistinct) information indicates that they do have the ability to pay, but choose to not pay, was there any provision or any thought towards, rather than putting them in jail, garnishing wages, or garnishing their income so that it would be, you know, less burden to the judicial system if you're going to jail, when you can just simply guarantee wherever their income is coming from and (Indistinct) it that way.

Blair Barbour: Certainly and our court staff would, to my knowledge, do everything possible to work out a payment plan and as long as the offender is willing to work toward paying his or her responsibility, his or her fine, it wouldn't proceed. But, if a person was able to pay and simply refused

to, then that would go to the next step, which would be, they would be before a provincial court judge and if you look at the proposed subsection 6.1, subsection 6.3, it provides a number of remedies. Short of having the person go to jail, there's also the ability to do civil enforcement, which you're referring to in terms of garnishment processes.

We also have the ability to put a freeze on their ability to get drivers license, car registration, that sort of thing. So the imprisonment piece, is really the worst case scenario, the most extreme example of what might happen, it's where someone has the ability to pay and simply says: I'm not going to do it, I don't care what the judge says, I'm simply not going to do it.

Mr. Mitchell: It sounds like the only brokering being done here is between the court system and the defendant that's in arrears, but nowhere is the ability to say: Oh, we're going to talk to your lawyer. But anyways, that's fine. That's the (Indistinct)

Chair: Do you have any further questions, minister?

Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Chair.

In the past, Leader of the Third Party, I know that sometimes community service work is brought into play. You know, I can't pay you that, but the court will impose community service work. Willing to do so many hours to pay off that debt, but as the expert says, I think the last resort has always been that 60 days of that term.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: I guess I'm just using the example of somebody who does have the ability to pay. All the records, all the information indicate that, yet they still choose to not pay. If you do not have the income, then yes, community service would be a great way to pay your debt to society. I'm just thinking of the other case where they have a job; they have the ability but choose not to do it.

Chair: Are there any further questions on Section 5?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Section 6? Does Section 6 carry? Carried.

Section 7?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: So it seems to me that this amendment removes the report of a conviction in the police record from the previous act and I'm just wondering why.

Blair Barbour: Yes, so this was meant to facilitate electronic ticketing. So, you're correct under the current act there are four pieces that have to be filled out and there's actually a form that they do fill out, so that you only have to write once and it shows up on the other pages. The idea here is with an electronic ticket, the police department will receive an electronic version of the report, also, the court will receive an electronic version of the report. So we don't need those two pieces to be part of a paper record, we just need the summons piece that goes to the person whose alleged to commit the offence and we need the information piece, which is the formal document that lays the charge.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you for that, great explanation Blair.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Another question.

This is on Section 7 sub 6. 6.1(a): leaving it for the individual at his or her residence, with a person on the premises. This seemed a little loosey goosey to me, who appears to be at least 18 years of age and I'm just wondering why that wording and why wouldn't it be more definitive?

Blair Barbour: Sure, in my research I would have taken this from another jurisdiction. Off the top of my head I can't think of which jurisdiction it was but it doesn't get any more complicated than that. That is where the wording came from.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I don't think I've ever come across that piece of legislation before and I'm wondering if that's unusual to have that sort of wording?

Blair Barbour: I would suggest to you it isn't. I obviously found it in other language in another provinces' statute.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Are you aware of other statutes in P.E.I. that use something not as definitive as that?

Blair Barbour: Not off the top of my head, currently. If I had time, I could probably do a search and see what I could find, but it strikes me that it's probably not as unusual as you might think it would be. When there is service, if somebody wants to contest it, they could certainly go to the court and say, I didn't receive proper service and the court would assess whether or not there had been and if there had not been proper service, then the person's responsibility, they wouldn't be found to proceed service. Trying to explain this in a clear way, but they wouldn't be held responsible as they would if they had been served.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay I understand. Why would you not require for example, an ID check? I don't want to belabor this point, it interests me as to why it would be in legislation.

Blair Barbour: I have never seen a requirement for an ID check on age when serving a paper.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, because it's just not particularly important to the process?

Blair Barbour: I have just not seen that in legislation.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you Blair.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: In the same Section 7, 9.1., I'm wondering if you can clarify what that – I'm sorry, I'm in a different section I believe, sorry Chair.

Chair: That's ok.

Leader of the Opposition: I'll take that back.

Chair: Shall Section 7 carry? Carried.

For clarity, Section 8, begins with the act is amended by the addition of the following after Section 10. The numbering is a little complex; I just had to look for it myself. So on page 7 is Section 8.

So, no questions on Section 8?

Shall section 8 Carry? Carried.

Section 9?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Section 9 sub 1.11, sub 1. I was just wondering if you could clarify what that means but it seems fine, but I just wondered if you could explain that.

Blair Barbour: So the section reads: A summons portion of a ticket may be endorsed with a notice that the person to whom the summons is directed may pay a specified penalty out of court.

So on the current hard copy form there is information on a summary offense ticket, about where or how a person may make the payment of their fine. So typically, you can go to the courthouse to pay your fine at location, or you can mail in your fine.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

In the same, just a little bit further down, section 9(3) 11.(3)(b). I'm just wondering what the effect of that change is by the one that starts by the deletion of the words and the substitution of the words "proof in the absence of evidence to the contrary".

Blair Barbour: Sure, and this, there is no legal change affected. We're just trying to make the language easier to read and understand.

Leader of the Opposition: I appreciate that.

I have one question on 10. No, this is in section 9 sub(11)(3) part (b).

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I think I'm done on Section 9 and I have one question on Section 10.

Chair: No further questions?

Shall Section 9 carry? Carried.

Section 10.

Leader of the Opposition: Question, Chair.

I am looking at 12 here: Failure to appear.

I am just wondering how that is different from the previous version of the act, or is it?

Blair Barbour: Just one second. These changes, again were made, there's no legal change affected. It was a grammatical change and terminology change to make the text easier to read.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I love the easier to read, and I'm good.

Chair: Shall the section carry? Carried.

Shall this bill carry? Carried.

Mr. Thompson: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings Act.*

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled, *An Act to Amend the Summary Proceedings 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. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that the 7th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 7, *An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act* Bill No. 10, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act*, Bill No.10, read a second time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll call on the Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to Chair.

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 Trespass to Property Act*.

Promoter do you have a request to bring a stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Would you please introduce yourself and give your title?

Blair Barbour: Blair Barbour, Manager of Policy Planning and FPT Relations with the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Chair: Thank you very much, and the promoter is requested to do a general statement.

Mr. Thompson: This bill amends the *Trespass to Property Act* to change the minimum penalty for prohibited entry or activity on premises that is aligned with the penalty under the *Off Highway Vehicle Act* for prohibited operation and off-highway vehicle on the Confederation Trail.

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

Chair: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill now be read clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: No.

Chair: Okay, do we have questions on Section No. 1?

Leader of the Opposition: Okay on Section No. 1 I'm just wondering what the rational was for raising the minimum number, the minimum in this act is 200 and maximum is I believe is 2,000?

I am not sure about that. Why would you change the floor rather than the ceiling?

Blair Barbour: The request that we had from the PEI Snowmobile Association was to align the fine amount with the – as the minister said – the *Off Highway Vehicle Act* which applies to the Confederation Trail.

What we were going for was just consistency on a minimum amount of fine between those two areas, because you have two different pieces of legislation that apply.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition. I thank you for that, Blair I and believe here you are talking just about snowmobile use, is that correct?

Blair Barbour: No. It applies to any motor vehicle that would trespassing on land where the owner hasn't agreed to entry or to that activity.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thanks. So you talked about consistency and I know there are other parts of the *Trespass to Property Act* where the minimum fine will remain at \$200, in places such as disturbing an occupier of the premises, the unreasonable operation of a motor vehicle for recreational purposes, and there are a few others.

So, I'm wondering what the reason for the variance in fines within the act is? You talk about consistency between acts but within this act there will be a discrepancy.

Blair Barbour: What we were trying to do is deal specifically with the activity that was the subject of the request, which was people who – we have people who are operating off-road vehicles on trail, either snowmobiles or ATV's, and the equivalent type of activity on farmland and private land.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Was there any thought given to making it consistent throughout this act so that minimum fine is 500 everywhere, or what was the rationale for not doing that?

Blair Barbour: No, when we looked at the scope of the amendment, we really did focus on that and particular activity and the desire to align with the similar activity under the other legislation.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Final question, Chair, thank you.

When do you expect the act to come into force?

Blair Barbour: We do have it. In the bill it provides it comes into force on proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor. The reason for that is that we need to amend the ticket regulations under the *Summary Proceedings Act*, we have that drafted. We just need to put that through Executive Council.

The idea is very shortly we will bring both the regulation amendment for approval and the request for the proclamation order on the same date.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I did say last one, I mean it this time.

So, Blair you said in short time, within this calendar year you expect to have this bill in effect?

Blair Barbour: I fully anticipate that, yes.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay great.

Thank you Chair.

Chair: You're welcome.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Mitchell: Just a quick question Blair.

In the result of this \$300 increase and say, for instance, there was damage to the private property, none of that goes to a victim surcharge, it's all – none of that is part of that is it?

Blair Barbour: Under the *Summary Proceedings Act*, if you are convicted of a provincial offence, there is the surcharge, we discussed this last night.

Mr. Mitchell: Yes that's why I'm coming – does that become part of that?

Blair Barbour: The surcharge would be optional for the judge to impose on top of that \$500 –

Mr. Mitchell: So they may or may not, depending on whether there was private property damage or not.

Blair Barbour: That's correct.

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

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Chair.

You had mentioned that the PEI Snowmobile Association had requested these changes. I was just wondering if you had consulted with any other groups who regularly use the trails as well?

Blair Barbour: No, but we understand the snowmobile association was also in discussions with, and had the support of, the PEI ATV Federation and the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture.

Ms. Altass: Ok, thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke?

Ms. Altass: No, that's fine.

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-West Royalty?

Mr. McNeilly: I'm just wondering if you have any information about how many times, like for example last year that this fine was given out.

Blair Barbour: I do have some statistics. So talking about section 2.1, the *Trespass to Property Act*, which is where we were. January 1st 2017- March 2019 we had 18 violations.

Chair: Charlottetown-West Royalty?

Mr. McNeilly: Is there any thoughts about maybe, we're close to almost, potentially, eradicating that? Is there any chance of it going higher? I know it's a big issue in our area with people on private property and trails.

Blair Barbour: You're talking about the fine level?

Mr. McNeilly: Yeah.

Blair Barbour: It's not something that has come to my attention. But, I can certainly take it to the department to see if that's something that we need to consider.

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown- West Royalty?

Mr. McNeilly: No, I'm good.

Chair: Shall this section carry? Carried.

Section 2, shall this section carry? Carried.

Ok, shall the bill carry? Carried.

Mr. Thompson: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Trespass to Property Act.*

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 the Chair report the bill agreed to 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 Trespass to Property 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 Morell-Donagh, that the 8th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 8 *An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act*, Bill No. 13, ordered for a second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, 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 call upon the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to chair the meeting.

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 Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act*.

Promoter, you have a request to bring a stranger to the floor. Shall it be permitted?

Leader of the Opposition: Granted, yeah.

Chair: Could you please state your name and title?

Blair Barbour: Blair Barbour, Manager of Policy, Planning and FPT Relations at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Promoter.

Would you please give us a general statement?

Mr. Thompson: This bill repels the *Gulf Trust Corporation Act*, which is originally

enacted in 2000, to remedy the intentional disillusion of the Gulf Trust Corporation by earlier private members bill. The department has determined the act is fulfilled; its sole function of continuing the Gulf Trust Corporation under the *Companies Act*, therefore the purpose of that it shall be repealed.

Chair: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill now be read clause by clause?

Some hon. Members: Yeah.

Chair: Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Mr. Thompson: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation Act*.

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 the Chair report the bill agreed to 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 Repeal the Gulf Trust Corporation 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.

Now I'll call on the hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, that the 9th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 9, *An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*, Bill No. 13, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: I call on the hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Donagh, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration this said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll call on the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road to Chair the meeting.

Chair (Perry): The House is now in the Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled, *An Act to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*.

Permission to bring a stranger onto the floor?

Some hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Can you please state your name and title?

Blair Barbour: Blair Barbour, Manager of Policy, Planning and FPT Relations at the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

Chair: Thank you very much and would one of you like to start with a general statement of the bills intent?

Blair Barbour: Sure. This bill *Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*, which was originally enacted in 1939; it provides authority for the imprisonment of absconding debtors.

This vestige of Island legislative history is no longer functioning on modern civil enforcement practice on Prince Edward Island. Accordingly, the department is purposing that the act should be repealed.

Chair: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill now be read clause by clause.

Section 1, any questions?

Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Mr. Thompson: I move the title.

Chair: *An to Repeal the Bailable Proceedings Act*.

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 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 Repeal the Bailable Proceedings 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 Montague-Kilmuir, that the 4th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 4, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act*, Bill No.7, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the 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 Highway Traffic Act*, Bill No.7, read a second time.

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 this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll ask the Leader of the Official Opposition to Chair the meeting.

Chair (Bevan-Baker): 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 Highway Traffic Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Do you have a (Indistinct)

Can we have permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: Hi, Graham.

Mr. Myers: Do you want to introduce yourself?

Graham Miner: Graham Miner, I'm the Director of PEI's Highway Safety Division.

Chair: Do you want to give an overview of the bill, minister?

Mr. Myers: Sure, so basically this has to do with what I talked about yesterday or a couple of days ago when I tabled this. It's a change to the B-Train lengths that we have here on Prince Edward Island from 25 metres to 27.5 metres to meet the national MOU and to bring us in line with other jurisdictions.

An Hon. Member: Carry the bill.

Chair: Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Mr. Myers: No questions at all.

Chair: Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Well done.

Mr. Myers: Mission accomplished.

Chair: I move the title of the bill. Oh sorry, Steve.

Mr. Myers: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Myers: 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.

An Hon. Member: It's worth it.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to*

Amend the Highway Traffic 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 that we bring on Motion No. 10.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land gives notice that tomorrow, he will move second by the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities the following motion:

WHEREAS first responders are the men and women who are the first to respond to protecting and preserving life, property and the environment, often at their own personal risk;

AND WHEREAS they work closely with many government agencies such as the Coast Guard, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Joint Rescue coordination;

AND WHEREAS ground search and rescue, civil air search and rescue, amateur radio operators, other community groups also provide lifesaving services in times of crisis, often along with civilian ground support;

AND WHEREAS they all work collaboratively together every day and in emergency situations to assure Islanders' safety;

AND WHEREAS these members' mental health can be gravely impacted by crisis and emergency events;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this assembly encourage all Islanders to recognize the mental health toll to our first responders and that government begin a jurisdictional scan of available first responder supports.

Speaker: I now call upon to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety and Attorney General.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm proud to talk about mental health, especially for our Island first responders.

Mental health is an important topic of our times. It challenges, it can touch every single one of us, directly or indirectly. It does not discriminate.

It's so important for us to talk about mental health for individuals facing mental health challenges to reach out for help, for family, for friends, and the supports to listen and understand. Because I want our communities to be the best they can be, and I want everyone to be their very best. I want to make that a reality.

I think about what happened recently out there on the Island. We lost Josh Underhay, and his son, Oliver. We lost a young fisher, Jordan Hicken. The first people on the scene were our first responders.

Individuals like yourself are the first on the ground; the police agencies, the RCMP, the Coast Guard, the fire fighters, the Ground Search and Rescue. You all show up. The community shows up.

Those first few hours are critical. It can be a matter of life and death. It can be over the matter in moments and it can go on for days, but their dedication never waivers. They all work so hard and so quickly that instinct and training can take over. And the days go on; the mental toll takes finally starts to sink in, to show up, we need them to know it's okay. It's normal and there's help out there.

The RCMP has led the initiative like Road to Mental Readiness. The fire departments have access to Canadian Mental Health Association Resilient Minds Program, which the Department of Justice and Public Safety funds. These are all great core programs that we will support.

I want to thank them for their work, their dedication, for personal risk they take so Islanders can feel safe. I know that the work you do is tough – the mental toll it can take

on something, we all need to reorganize and to address.

I will be a champion for you. That's why I have asked my staff to look at other jurisdictions to see what supports are available for responders.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Fisheries and Communities.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm very pleased to second this motion today on the floor in regards to mental health.

First responders are something that are very close to my heart and something that I've dealt with for 25 years and even today, when I see a first responder, like you are, it brings back memories and it triggers things in my mind. I look back and I see the young constable sitting there and he's a fixture here, him or others, and watching what we do in this House.

What is his job? His job is here to protect us. I think we have to think about that. His job is to protect us and make sure we're safe in this house and that triggers mental health memories with me.

Police officers, fire fighters, as a minister alluded to, DFO Officials, people with the Rescue Coordination Centre – all these first responders, they are there behind the scenes making sure that we live in a safe society. They're well qualified. They're well trained. They have supports by their families and I don't think there's ever a time when we cannot provide the services and the supports to them that they need.

They have a continued dedication to their job and their role and as I said a second ago, I walked in those shoes for close to 25 year. You get calls at all hours of the day and night. I remember when I was in Halifax working when I policed over there, I did undercover drugs, and a lot of times we were by ourselves and we were doing things that – we knew we had no backup.

It plays a toll on you mentally and you end up going to things by yourself. Or

sometimes you were there waiting for someone to get there and minutes seem like hours.

I remember a call one night, I was sound asleep in bed and I was in Borden. I think it was like four o'clock in the morning or something like that, and there was a stabbing in Downtown Charlottetown.

I got a call from Charlottetown dispatch and they said: Here's the description of the vehicle. The vehicle – there were two men and a woman in it and they were just involved in a stabbing in Downtown Charlottetown and they were at the toll plaza at the bridge. Charlottetown was asking us to apprehend.

So, people at the office, they joke about how fast I can get changed. I go in the office in my jeans and a golf shirt, and come out of the bathroom in minutes and I'm in a suit. Well that, it triggers that memory of the phone ringing, and it's dispatch – it's Charlottetown police or whoever it is and it's get up and get dressed. Grab your gun belt. Put a vest on and you're out the door.

I remember calling the bridge that night and saying: Where's the vehicle at? They said it was at mile marker whatever on the bridge and they had the gates open and you're through the gates.

You're not thinking about your life. You're thinking about other people's lives. I remember flying across the bridge and pulled the vehicle over at the other side and all the way over I knew that there were cars coming from Charlottetown, but they were at least 35-40 minutes away. I knew there was no RCMP available in New Brunswick; the closest car was in Sackville.

I remember stopping that vehicle; finally, on the other side and taking the individuals out at gunpoint and you're all by yourself. It plays on your mind. Nobody can compare or prepare us for that. I will never take for granted what's behind closed doors.

I remember back when we debated with the help of, at that time, the Member from Evangeline-Miscouche. We debated Bill No. 102, on PTSD coverage's and it triggers things. I remember what the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy

said one night, we were somewhere and he spoke about heart.

I think there was a time in my life when I lost heart. I lost being able to think about having heart when we apply it to decisions or when we deal with matters today, and ever since the minister said that statement that day, I think about it.

Mental health support services are needed by these individuals and this motion will help that. I think we need to be very aware of our mental health. We must talk about things. We must not be scared to seek out and get supports.

I live now with the fact that I admitted in this House that I do think I suffer from PTSD and I think a lot of times in my past I held things in and never let it out. Sometimes I get emotional. I think it's positive. I think it's a step in remembering and dealing with and coping with what has happened in the past.

I think that anytime we can talk about our mental health and wellbeing and provide supports to our police officers and our firefighters and our EMO personnel and our paramedics, the tow truck driver that goes out on a call and has to clean up the mess; the road crews from TIE that have to deal with things on the highways – I think mental health is an issue that we can't turn a blind eye on.

I am pleased with this caucus and members of this House who have acknowledged that in the past. I think that the minister of health, I think it's key to him. I think it's very something true to his mind and his heart that we want to provide people in this province the best service possible when it comes to mental health.

I think it's very important that we find out what other provinces are doing and what other territories are doing, what other countries are doing. I think the Mi'kmaq people have a role to play in that. I think they can be a resource for working on these issues going into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues and the department and the staff

on their recommendations for our first responders.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Bernard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you for bringing forward this motion. I could talk to this for hours and hours, but I won't.

I just wanted to start by saying thank you so much to our first responders. The work they do is crucial and they really are ordinary humans doing extraordinary things, and I appreciate that deeply.

Mental health does not discriminate. Sometimes we're born with mental health issues. Sometimes we have an experience or a layering of experiences that contribute to poor mental health, and it almost bothers me that we call it mental health because it's part of our general health. I think we're starting today to understand that more and more in society today.

I've had a lot of friends – my ex-husband was a police officer and I can remember those phone calls in the middle of the night. I can remember several of them at the time trying to access mental health services and the stigma that was attached to that.

As a mental health professional myself, I found that so devastating that in these roles, where they are truly doing extraordinary things, just as the hon. Minister of Fisheries of Communities just shared with us some examples of what they do, and imagining putting ourselves in their shoes is just unimaginable when you actually think about what some of those calls look like and what some of the aftermath of those calls look like, so I appreciate that.

On Prince Edward Island, we are and suffering from the mental health crisis. We have families waiting for far too long for services. Sometimes, in some cases, there are no services to support their needs. I look forward to helping to work towards changing that.

Further onto this, these mental health issues leads to our addiction issues on Prince Edward Island and around the world. Oftentimes, addictions are a result of the trauma on the brain, a way of self-medicating and a way of the feeling better. Our mental health problems on PEI lead to that. There's no – what came first the chicken or eggs?

There are so many factors that lead the mental health: Poverty, you know, not having a secure, safe place to live or access the food. We have so many families living like that.

I appreciate the spotlight being shown on first responders because we often don't consider that as we consider mental health.

I look forward to helping in this in any way that I can, and I very much appreciate the motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Next speaking to the motion is the Leader of the Third Party.

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

It is a pleasure to rise to make a few comments on this important resolution. I do want to thank minister of agriculture for bringing it forward and committing to doing a jurisdictional scan to see what other areas – what other provinces, what other countries, in fact, are doing to help first responders in regards to the best mental health that they can have.

I'd also like to thank minister of fisheries who, once again, shared with us his experiences he's had as a police officer on Prince Edward Island. I always appreciate when he takes the opportunity to do that because it really nails home exactly what our police community as first responders see and experience on a daily basis.

In the past we've had other member of the Legislature – and I'll name them: Al Roach and Bush Dumville, who have often shared their times during their previous careers where they had to show up as a first responder and what they saw would have a tremendous toll and affect.

I know during the recent campaign, my district had changed significantly. I probably have nearly 60% new district, which meant I got to meet 60% of my district for the first time. As part of that, you spend a little more time at the doors and the doorsteps and kitchen tables, and I actually was surprised of how many of my new residents are actually volunteer fire department members with the City of Charlottetown.

I had an opportunity to discuss with them things of this nature and as at first responders just exactly how that affects their daily lives. I really appreciated the opportunity to do that as I was going door to door during that recent campaign.

When I was minister of health, I also – mental health issues were part of what I was dealing with in that portfolio and I had an opportunity, probably about a year ago or so to attend, it was a symposium for Island EMS/EMTs and a lot of those EMTs – when you're talking about across Prince Edward Island – they're also volunteer firemen. So they see double exposure in a lot of cases.

They brought in a couple of guest speakers that day and it was – it just hit right to the heart, the messages they were portraying, and actually one of them has been off work for some time and unable to work because of the affects of PTSD, which they experience from showing up at these accident scenes time after time; showing up at these fire scenes where young children were not surviving. These things have a tremendous affect on a person's life. There's a tremendous affect on the family's life when that individual can't function on a daily basis as they should and deserve to.

So that really resonated with me, and as the Minister of Fisheries and Communities did state, I'm very pleased and proud that we as a government and during the last sitting was able to put forward by my good friend the member from Miscouche where now workers compensation coverage for those experience PTSD as first responders – and that is a really big accomplishment from the floor of this Legislature, one of my most proud moments.

I do thank you for bringing this motion forward, it's very encouraging to hear

you're going to reach out and examine what's going on all across the world, basically. I look forward to the results that you find, I look forward to supporting anything that can be brought forward to, I'll say, enhancing these measures that may not be looking fully toward because as I said, it's not only the affect on the first responder, but their entire family and I think we need to do all we can do to strengthen and build with these families.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: Next speaking to the motion hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke.

Ms. Altass: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today in support of this motion.

As I had mentioned previously, I used to work as a child and youth worker in residential facilities and when situations would come up when we needed additional support where youth were experiencing suicidal behaviours or violent behaviours, we needed to call on first responders. They were always there.

They are called on to come into the most difficult situations. They are called on to enact emotional labour. They experience vicarious trauma and many times, direct physical or emotional trauma when called to a crisis.

I was pleased to hear we would be doing a jurisdictional span for best practices the support our first responders. Their individual lives are impacted, but the lives of their families, as well; many first responders are leaders in our communities.

So we must do everything we can to support their mental health, and wellbeing and I hope I can be leaders in enacting the best supports to reduce stigma who are seeking support or who may be resisting or are uncertain if it's okay to seek out these supports.

I think that's a lot of work to do. I am glad that we are taking these first steps.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I want to thank the minister for this motion and I stand to support it.

A couple of things happened most recently around my life that have brought home the weight of the work that our first responders do.

The first was a conversation that we had following the loss of the young fisherman on the North Shore here on Prince Edward Island. I remember many comments you made in our conversation, but one thing you said was: I hope the right person finds him.

By that, I took it to mean that when you're faced with recovering a body in that situation the emotional trauma is profound and not everybody has the same level of the resilience to deal with that.

The second incident was a loss of life on the Union Road here in a car accident just a couple of weeks ago when a man lost his life and a friend of mine, a coworker, actually, from my previous life, was the first on the scene. Not a first responder, but an Islander who just happened to be there just after the accident happened.

I spoke to him a week or so later. He was still clearly deeply disturbed and shaken up by the incident. I remember thinking afterwards for this friend of mine, that was the first time in his life he had ever been put in that situation. I could see how deeply it affected him.

Then, of course, your thoughts go to the first responders who have to deal with that on a regular basis and the accumulation of those sorts of the traumatic experiences just must be, and are clearly, for many of them, literally unbearable.

So providing support that those individuals who have to cope with those sorts of the experiences on a regular basis is absolutely critical.

Another constituent of mine, Dennis Mackenzie, heads up an organization called

the Brave and the Broken – Canadian Armed Forces individuals. It's a peer support group, but of its membership, two of them died by suicide in the last year and of course that's the ultimate expression of not being able to bear the results of traumatic experiences in your life.

I know that we're talking about Armed Forces here and the motion is regarding first responders, but the things they have to see and the things they have to deal with during their work lives are very similar.

So, of course, I stand here in complete support of this motion.

I'm very glad that the minister is looking into providing supports that these people need, and we should never forget the service that they provide and the trauma that they sustain in their everyday lives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Next speaking to the motion is the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

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

I certainly would like to rise today in support of this motion. This is a very important motion and I thank the minister for bringing it forward.

I had the privilege as minister a few years ago to bring Legislation forward with the help of the hon. minister of fisheries and communities and some leaders in my community and the community of Miscouche. You know, we must never forget our first responders need our support, because they are there every day to support us.

These people are special people. It's a calling just like a lot of professions, and as different members have said in this House, they deal with this trauma sometimes on a weekly basis, sometimes maybe on a monthly basis. They need to be able to have a mechanism to cope with it.

I was at a conference one time when someone said we all have mental health. Some people have good mental health, and some people have not-so-good mental

health. If someone is suffering with a mental health issue, we need to be there for them.

With that, I truly support this motion. I thank the minister for bringing it forward.

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

Mr. McNeilly: It gives me great pleasure to talk to this motion.

Just listening here this morning is really impactful about how first responders affect all our communities and all our districts. I do believe that they are – sometimes they treat this as just another day. They're so focused on their task and helping others.

It's not just another day; it's everything to the community. They're a backbone of our communities. I do believe today is a good day if people are watching out there. I encourage all the other members to get out there, and pick up the phone and call some first responders to just thank them, and to let them know that we are here for them through good times and bad times.

I think about my brother-in-law who did three tours in Afghanistan. He talked about various stories that were just stories, but reflecting on them afterwards, I saw that they were not just stories. He just made them into stories to get through the pain.

I want to send a big thank you out for him for serving, and all our first responders here in Prince Edward Island.

The last thing I want to say is that the headquarters for the Department of the Veterans Affairs is in Charlottetown, and we are lucky to have them here. I know, the hon. Charlottetown-Parkdale has worked in that environment, as well as myself. It's been a few years, but I understand how hard they are working towards finding solutions towards PTSD right here, about 50 metres away from this building.

It's up to us to reach out to them, because they are performing the best practices and they do have a lot of the answers because years and years and years of research has gone into PTSD, which is formally known as shellshock. That has affected our first responders.

Again, like everyone else, this is a great motion, and I am excited to speak about it.

Thank you very much.

An Hon. Member: Call the hour, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hour has been called.

I'll now call on the Government House Leader.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move seconded by the Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, June 25th at 2:00 in the p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry. Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until Tuesday, June 25th at 2:00 p.m.