



2020 Annual Report

Office of the Speaker &
Office of the Clerk

January 1, 2020 -
December 31, 2020



Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

Office of the Speaker
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Assemblée législative

Bureau du président
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

April 20, 2022

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of
Prince Edward Island,
Charlottetown

I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the
Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the P.E.I.
Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.



The spring 2020 sitting of the First Session of the 66th General Assembly began on May 26, 2020, and concluded on July 14, 2020. The fall session of the First Session of the 66th General Assembly began on November 12, 2020, and concluded December 4, 2020.

As the conservation project for Province House is still underway, we encourage the public of Prince Edward Island to visit our interim Assembly Chamber in the Honourable George Coles Building, Monday to Friday or take part when the Legislature is in session.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all staff for their contribution and commitment for their work in supporting the Members and operations of the Legislative Assembly on Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully,

Honourable Colin Lavie, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

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Our Values and Ethics



Democratic Values

Helping parliamentarians, under law, to serve the public interest.

Professional Values

Serving with competence, excellence, efficiency, objectivity, and impartiality.

Ethical Values

Acting at all times to uphold the public trust.

People Values

Demonstrating respect, fairness, and courtesy in our relations with the public, colleagues, and fellow public servants.



Prince Edward Island
Legislative Assembly

Office of the Clerk
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
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Assemblée législative

Bureau du greffier
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

April 20, 2022

Honourable Colin LaVie
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
197 Richmond Street, Charlottetown

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. This report outlines organizational priorities for the Legislative Assembly during the first year of the COVID 19 pandemic.

On March 18, 2020, the opening of the Legislature scheduled for April 7 was delayed. This decision was not taken lightly and was the result of the emerging public health emergency. The Assembly resumed on May 26, 2020, with operational modifications required to ensure physical distancing and other measures to meet safely. The Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly was able to meet continually during the first year of the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, we hired new staff, facilitated statutory officer appointments, and supervised major renovations to the Honourable George Coles Building. Additionally, a significant overhaul of broadcasting equipment was completed. New cameras and control systems were installed which greatly improved our broadcast. This was particularly important during a time when our public and media galleries were closed. 2020 was also a record setting year for committee meetings with over 120 meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated the support of you and of the Members of the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management in dealing with matters necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Legislative Assembly. Islanders can be very proud of their small legislature which has developed into a vibrant and professional organization that meets the modern-day expectations of a parliamentary institution.

It has been a busy year, and I am proud of what our team has accomplished together in terms of building a stronger Legislative Assembly for Prince Edward Island. We are committed to providing nonpartisan support and services to all Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Jeffrey
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and
Secretary, PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Prince Edward Island's government was not always led by one House of elected representatives; for roughly the first 120 years of Island governance, there were two legislative bodies, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. A two-body Legislature is known as a bicameral Legislature.

- 1770 The Island's civil administration takes shape with the arrival of Governor Patterson on the 19th of September.
- 1773 *The first House of Assembly was elected.*
- 1825 The House established committees charged with the discussion and analysis of particular issues, taking some of the workload off the main body of the House. Committees are still important in today's Legislative Assembly.
- 1839 The Legislative Council was separated into a Legislative Council and an Executive Council, and Members of the House of Assembly were placed on the Executive Council. This had the effect of reducing the unelected Legislative Council's power.
- 1851 *PEI's attainment of responsible government (self-government) due largely to the existence of an elected House of Assembly.*
- 1862 Responsible government was strengthened with an Act that required the Legislative Council to be elected rather than appointed.
- 1864 *In September, Prince Edward Island played host to the Charlottetown Conference, which was intended to negotiate a Maritime or Canadian Union.*
- 1866 *Premier James Pope rejects the terms of Confederation established at the Quebec Conference.*
- 1871 Railway construction begins on the Island. James Pope believed a railway network would generate employment, provide efficient transportation of goods, and benefit tourism. Widespread concern soon arose over the mounting cost of the project.
- 1873 *James Pope campaigns on a promise he can obtain better terms for Confederation. Pope won a majority and led a new delegation to Ottawa where they succeeded in gaining even better terms for the Island. The Island officially joins Confederation on July 1.*
- 1893 The House of Assembly and the Legislative Council were combined to form the Legislative Assembly. From 1893 to 1966, PEI's Legislative Assembly was made up of 30 Members, half of which were elected as Assemblymen, half as Councilors.

Our Offices

The Office of the Legislative Assembly provides nonpartisan procedural, administrative, educational and outreach services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and to the public.

Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management

The Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management deals with the administration of the House and the provision of all services and facilities to Members. Chaired by the Speaker, its mandate and membership are specified in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Speaker

The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly, and is responsible for maintaining order, and regulating debate in accordance with the rules and practices of the House. The Speaker plays a role ensuring all viewpoints have the opportunity of a hearing in debate and must cast the deciding vote

in the event of a tie. The Speaker also chairs the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management.

Office of the Clerk

Members are supported in their parliamentary functions by services administered by the Clerk, the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities, and oversees the delivery of nonpartisan services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk advises the Speaker and Members on parliamentary procedure, traditions, and precedents, and presides over the election of the Speaker.

Committees

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island enjoys flexibility available through its standing committees. Committee work provides topical information to Members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate.

Committees provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders. In 2020, the standing committees completed a busy and productive schedule of 122 meetings and presented a total of 18 reports to the Legislative Assembly.

Communications & External Relations

Communications and External Relations provides proactive strategic corporate (internal and external) communications planning, implementation, and advice for the Assembly. The position is responsible for the development and implementation of communications, marketing strategies, public engagement and special projects, and their compliance with Assembly priorities. This position also serves as Secretary to the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council.

Corporate Services

This office supports the work of the Speaker, Members and Office of the Clerk by assisting with financial, administrative and human resource management services.



Hansard

Hansard first started transcribing the daily debates of the Legislative Assembly in February 1996. As of the end of 2020, Hansard has published 1053 transcripts. In 2006, Hansard took over the responsibility for transcribing committee proceedings. Since 2007, Hansard has produced detailed indexes to both the daily debates and committee meetings.

Library & Research

The Legislative Library and Research Service is a nonpartisan and confidential source of information, news, and reference services to Members of the Legislative Assembly, their caucus staff, standing committees, and staff of the Legislature. The librarian maintains the Assembly's website and assists with print publication design. The research service undertakes jurisdictional scans on legislative and policy issues and other current issues for Members.

Multimedia & Broadcast Services

Multimedia & Broadcast Services is responsible for producing the television broadcast and webcast of parliamentary proceedings, as well as maintaining a video archive of all legislative proceedings. The team provides audio, video and technical support to Members of the Legislative Assembly, media, and presenters to standing committees.

Parliamentary Counsel

A new position of Parliamentary Counsel was created in 2019. The Parliamentary Counsel position serves as the legal advisor in the Office of the Clerk and provides legal and procedural advice to the Clerk of the House and to the Legislative Assembly as a whole, including the Speaker and Members in matters of parliamentary law, procedure and privilege.

Security

The Sergeant-At-Arms is part of the office of the Legislative Assembly as defined in the *Legislative Assembly Act, RSPEI 1988 Cap I-7*. The position is steeped in parliamentary tradition; with the Sergeant-At-Arms and the mace, the House may exercise its considerable rights and privileges, and carry out various functions assigned to it. Today, the Sergeant-At-Arms is also responsible for the operational security of the Legislative Assembly. The objective is to provide a safe and secure environment for MLAs and Assembly staff to conduct their parliamentary responsibilities.

Sessional Administration

During the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, additional administrative support is required. The Sessional Administration Office supports the Clerk with regard to the production, dissemination and safekeeping of documents.

Independent Officers

The **AUDITOR GENERAL** conducts independent audits and examinations that provide objective information, advice, and assurance to the Legislative Assembly. The Office promotes accountability and best practices in government operations.

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The **CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE** promotes and protects the rights of children and youth and provides oversight of government funded programs and services to children and youth.

.....



The **CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER** assists Members and Ministers in reconciling their private and public interests to enhance public confidence in the Legislative Assembly.

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ELECTIONS PEI's mandate is to administer Provincial General Elections, By-elections, Referendums and Plebiscites. Elections PEI assists with Municipal Elections as they are hired by four municipalities to administer their elections and by-elections along with the School Board Elections on PEI.

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The **INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER** accepts appeals from applicants, or third parties, who are not satisfied with the response they receive from public bodies as a result of an access to information request. The Commissioner also investigates privacy complaints.

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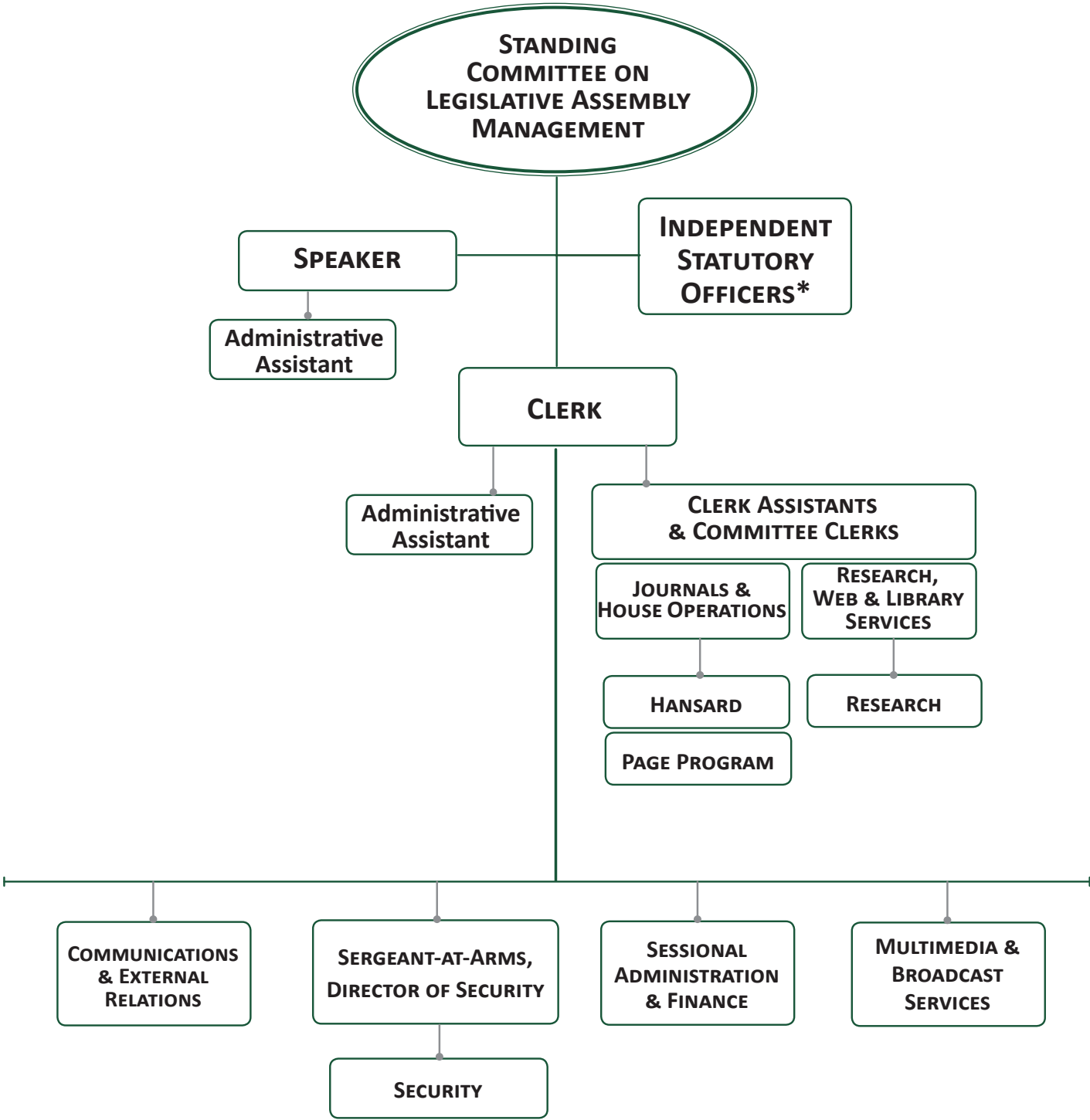


The **INDEMNITIES AND ALLOWANCES COMMISSION** is a non-partisan body that reviews and establishes salaries and benefits for the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

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Offices of the Legislative Assembly



*Independent Statutory Officers – Auditor General, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elections PEI, and Child and Youth Advocate.

Events

Building a Strong Foundation: Renovations at the Honourable George Coles Building

When structural problems at Province House forced it to close for major repairs in 2015, the Legislative Assembly's sittings and House operations moved into the Coles Building. The Pope Room in Coles building was reconfigured as the temporary Legislative Chamber. All legislative sittings and most legislative committee meetings since 2015 have happened here.

As part of the overall renovation plan for the Parliamentary Precinct, in 2020 the Public Archives of Prince Edward Island (occupants since the 1970s) departed their fourth floor home and a portion of the

ground floor for new offices at the nearby Atlantic Technology Centre.

Designed by Thomas Alley, the Law Courts Building opened in 1876 as the original home of PEI's Supreme Court. Guttled by fire in 1976, the building was restored and renamed the Hon. George Coles Building after PEI's first Premier. The building's Italianate brick exterior and sandstone trim makes it one of Charlottetown's Heritage Buildings.

HVAC system. Other renovations completed in 2020 included new energy-efficient lighting, accessibility upgrades for the tunnel connecting Coles to Province House, and upgraded washrooms.

During these renovations, the fourth floor was reconfigured to house two separate parties: new Third Party offices, plus space for a Fourth Party presence, should the Legislature have one in the future. The floor can be divided into two separate areas, each with its own washroom and kitchen facilities.

The second and third floors and the basement also went through additional modifications, including a modern



Renovations to the fourth floor of the Honourable George Coles Building began when the Public Archives and Records Office relocated.

Lights, Camera, Action! Broadcasting the House

Also during 2020 broadcasting equipment in and around the legislative chamber was upgraded.

Broadcasting picture quality was improved from standard to high definition; the number of cameras in the chamber increased from three to five; and control equipment was modernized.

Getting the chamber camera-ready under renovation and pandemic conditions was completed in time to record and broadcast 2020's fall House sittings.

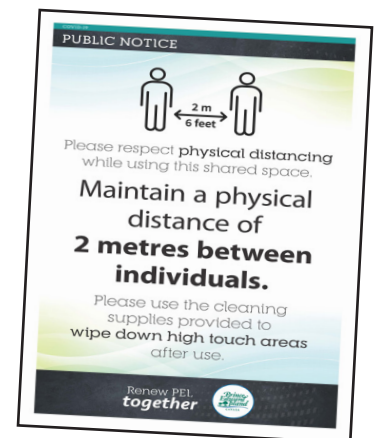


COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Prince Edward Island had its first officially reported case of the new coronavirus COVID-19 on March 14, 2020. The arrival of the virus and news infections in other jurisdictions prompted waves of shutdowns and closures in PEI.

The spring sitting of the Legislature scheduled for April 7 was postponed until May 26, 2020, by the Speaker. This suspension arose in keeping with the Chief Public Health Officer's (CPHO) recommendations of precautionary measures regarding gatherings, to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.

At the time the Speaker stated "This was done out of an abundance of caution. Should the Assembly be required to meet to pass emergency legislation or for any other reason, it can be recalled on short notice."



Safe Operation of the Legislature

After shutting down due to the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March, the Office of the Legislative Assembly devised a reopening plan while respecting the CPHO's guidelines.

In order to accommodate all 27 Members, the public gallery and media gallery were temporarily closed, and MLA seating was pushed out to the far edges of the Pope Room to allow for physical distancing six feet apart. Areas in the room with less than six feet of distance between desks had plexiglas barriers set

Members and support staff of the Legislative Assembly are listed as essential workers to ensure the Assembly can meet at any time.

up between them. Legislative Assembly buildings were closed to the general public during the pandemic and journalists reporting on the Assembly were provided with a structure just outside Coles during the spring sitting, and following the completion of Coles Building renovations in the fall, a new space within the building on the ground floor.



Desks in the Chamber were moved outside the railing and plexiglass was installed around desks as part of pandemic safety measures

New signage was posted regarding other COVID-19 safety protocols. MLAs had hand sanitizer supplied for their desks, and the legislative chamber was now subject to extra cleaning and careful handling of documents and other objects. All of



A media tent was set up on the front lawn of the Hon. George Coles Building to ensure safety protocols were adhered to for the media and those being interviewed.



Plexiglass dividers were added between desks.

the Assembly's pandemic modifications were the result of consultations with the Chief Public Health Office.

No student pages were employed during the spring 2020 sitting; however, a limited roster of pages did join the less restrictive fall 2020 sitting, while the media had regained in-person access to committee meetings by the fall.

Independent Officers Appointed

On May 26, 2020, the House unanimously approved motions for three appointments for independent statutory officers by consensus in the House. These positions included the Auditor General, Child and Youth Advocate, and Information and Privacy Commissioner. These independent officers are non-partisan and serve important roles in assisting the Legislative Assembly in providing government oversight.

JUDY BURKE was appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner under the *Conflict of Interest Act*, effective January 1, 2020, following a November 22, 2019 resolution acting on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management. Having recently moved to PEI after a law career in Alberta, Burke replaced former Commissioner John McQuaid, who had retired.



DARREN NOONAN was endorsed for the position of Auditor General of Prince Edward Island under the *Audit Act*. He was subsequently appointed to the position by Order in Council, effective May 27, after a career including public accounting practice, private business partnership and experience as President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of PEI. Mr. Noonan replaces former Auditor General B. Jane MacAdam, who retired in the spring of 2020.





DENISE DOIRON was appointed Information and Privacy Commissioner under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, effective June 23. Previously legal counsel for the provincial government for more than two decades, she replaced former Commissioner Karen Rose, who was appointed Prothonotary of the Prince Edward Island Courts.



MARVIN BERNSTEIN was appointed the province's first Child and Youth Advocate under the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, effective July 15, having previously served as the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth. He is the first person appointed to this newly created independent officer position.

Staffing Changes

Several Legislative Assembly employees changed jobs over the course of 2020, partly due to the rapidly increasing number of legislative committee meetings at the Assembly (spraking the creation of a new Committee Clerk position), and to expand the Assembly's research services.

SHANE CARR, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, retired after the spring 2020 pandemic shutdown.

JUNE RAMSAY, Security Officer at the Legislative Assembly, was selected as the new Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

LAURA LODWICH, employed by the Legislative Assembly since 2015, worked in the legislative broadcast control room until she transitioned into a new position as

Broadcast Technician/Finance Assistant.

SEAN MCQUAID, employed by the Legislative Assembly since 2012, served in the Hansard Office as Assistant Manager - Technical Services. He took on the role of Committee Clerk in early 2020, and was transferred to take on the new position of Research Officer later the same year.

ALYSHA CAMPBELL, employed by the Legislative Assembly since 2018, started as a Hansard transcriber and annotator until she took on the role of Committee Clerk in 2020.

Summer Sitting

Opening on May 26 and closing on July 14, the spring 2020 sitting lasted seven weeks and featured a report on the government's COVID-19 response, an assortment of government bills and private members bills (some of them related to the pandemic), the 2020-21 operating budget for the province, permanent changes to the Assembly's sitting hours and calendar set to take effect in 2021, and the appointment of several new independent officers.

Fall Sitting

The fall sitting of the legislature began on Thursday, November 12, 2020 and ended on December 4, 2020. The page program was restarted for the fall sitting.

This was the final session to occur with evening sittings as a result of a recommendation by the Standing Committee on

Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges; in the spring session, MLAs voted to end evening sittings starting in the winter of 2021. The four evening sitting hours were added to the daytime schedule, extending each sitting by one hour per day. The House also adopted a new parliamentary calendar.

The session also featured several government and private members' bills, consideration of the capital budget estimates, and the adoption of virtual hybrid proceedings





Two special committees presented their final reports to the Legislative Assembly. The Special Committee on Poverty was tasked with defining a living wage on P.E.I. and providing a costed recommendations about the creation of a basic income guarantee. The Special Committee on Government Records Retention was tasked with missing records referred in the Information and Privacy Commissioner’s Order No FI-20-007 and the current practices related to electronic records and security.

The fall sitting also witnessed the passing of the *Legislative Assembly Act* which modernized the previous statute.

New MLA for district 10: Charlottetown-Winsloe



Elected November 2, 2020, Zack Bell was sworn in on November 19, 2020, as the MLA for District 10 Charlottetown-Winsloe. Bell was accompanied by his wife Ashley, nine-year-old daughter Sophia, and six-year-old son Harrison, and his parents Cindy and John Bell, as he took the oath of office administered by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Joseph Jeffrey.






















The by-election for District 10 was called following the resignation of Robert Mitchell. Mr. Bell swore the Oath of Allegiance, as required pursuant to the *Constitution Act 1867* and sought his permission to take his seat in the House during the fall sitting.



Members of the Legislative Assembly

Fall 2020 Sitting

1st Session, 66th General Assembly

 Tyne Valley Sherbrooke <i>Trish Altass</i>	 Charlottetown Victoria Park <i>Karla Bernard</i>	 Mermaid-Stratford <i>Michele Beaton</i>	 Hon. Colin LaVie <i>Speaker</i>	 Georgetown-Pownal Transportation & Energy Infrastructure <i>Hon. Steven Myers</i>	 Alberton-Bloomfield Social Development & Housing <i>Hon. Ernie Hudson</i>
 Summerside-Wilnot Opposition Whip <i>Lynne Lund</i>	 Summerside-South Drive <i>Stephen Howard</i>	 New Haven-Rocky Point Leader of the Opposition <i>Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker</i>	 The Table The Mace	 Brackley-Hunter River Premier <i>Hon. Dennis King</i>	 Rustico-Emerald Education & Lifelong Learning <i>Hon. Bradley G. Trivers</i>
 Charlottetown-Belvedere Opposition House Leader <i>Hannah Bell</i>	 O'Leary-Inverness Third Party Whip <i>Robert Henderson</i>	 Evangeline-Miscouche Leader of the Third Party <i>Sonny Gallant</i>	 Stratford-Keppoch Health & Wellness <i>Hon. James Aylward</i>	 Kensington-Malpeque Economic Growth, Tourism & Culture <i>Hon. Matthew Mackay</i>	
 Charlottetown-Brighton <i>Ole Hammarlund</i>	 Charlottetown-West Royalty <i>Gordon McNeilly</i>	 Cornwall-Meadowbank Third Party House Leader <i>Heath MacDonald</i>	 Hal Perry Deputy Speaker	 Belfast-Murray River Finance <i>Hon. Darlene Compton</i>	 Stanhope-Marshfield Agriculture & Land Justice & Public Safety & Attorney General <i>Hon. Blyce Thompson</i>
 Morell-Donagh Government House Leader <i>Sidney MacEwen</i>	 Montague-Kilmuir Government Whip <i>Cory Deagle</i>	 Zack Bell Charlottetown-Winsloe	 Borden-Kinkora Fisheries & Communities <i>Hon. Jamie Fox</i>	 Charlottetown-Hillsborough Park Environment, Water & Climate Change <i>Hon. Natalie Jameson</i>	

The Members's desks in the Chamber were spread out to comply with COVID safety measures and plexiglass screens were installed between desks.

Indemnities and Allowances Commission

The Indemnities and Allowances Commission was established by legislation in 1994 as an independent body with the authority to review and assess remuneration provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly, and to present binding decisions on same to the Legislative Assembly. The Commission's authority arises from Sections 53 and 54 of the *Legislative Assembly Act RSEI 1988, Cap. L-7.1*.

The Commission's 2020 report was tabled by the Honourable Speaker on December 8, 2020.

Province House Conservation & Restoration Project

On February 5, 2020, the Government of Canada announced a further investment of an additional \$30.7 million to complete this landmark project to conserve Province House National Historic Site and home of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. Funding for the Province House conservation project has been allocated incrementally, ensuring that investments are made only after layers of the building have been removed or assessed and there is a full knowledge of the building's condition. The total investment for the conservation of Province House is \$91.8 million.

This additional funding of \$30.7 million is for the final phases of the project. Phase three will involve the reinstallation of the building's electrical and mechanical systems, interior finishes (such as painting and flooring), fire code compliance, and universal accessibility upgrades. The final and fourth phase of the project will centre on the design, development and installation of new interpretive materials, as well as the reinstallation of furniture, fixtures and equipment to ready the building for occupancy.



The project team is actively moving forward on these final phases, with the design work for phase three now

well underway, and an interpretive consultant was recently hired as part of phase four. An interpretive plan for the site will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders in early 2020.

Phase two of the Province House conservation project began in May 2018, with a focus on conservation of the exterior walls, and work related to the foundation, structural interior walls, porticos, floors, and roof. Work on this phase is progressing well. During this phase of work, there have been direct benefits to the local economy through the use of local sub-contractors and using locally sourced sandstone for the interior wythe of the exterior walls. Local students have also been involved in multiple training opportunities, thanks to ongoing partnering agreements with Holland College.



The Province House Conservation project team reached a significant milestone with the completion of work to the porticos. The porticos are temple-like porches that shelter the central entrances on both sides of the building. One of the more intricate components of the project, the north and south porticos were worked on simultaneously throughout 2019. The eight columns were braced and lifted individually in order to replace the foundation. This work was completed in early January 2020.



Now that work on the porticos has been completed, the staging and white sailcloth that covers the ends of Province House will soon extend over the porticos as well. Masonry work will move to the central part of

the building and this covering will provide an ambient temperature of at least 10 degrees Celsius during the colder months, which will allow the mortar to cure properly.



In the 1840s, a quarry in Pictou, Nova Scotia, provided the exterior stones for this building. This quarry was exhausted many decades ago, but fortunately, a nearby quarry in Wallace, Nova Scotia, has been able to provide a very similar grey sandstone for the project. This stone is similar in colour and texture, allowing it to be tooled and

finished to fit with the original blocks.

RJW Stonemasons specialize in the conservation and restoration of heritage buildings in North America.

Other projects they have worked on include Calgary City Hall and West Block on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

RJW Stonemasons have begun replacing exterior Pictou sandstones with sandstones from the Wallace quarry. Exterior masonry work on the west end of the building is nearing completion. The wall was cleaned in a conventional manner and augmented in some areas with a new process of laser cleaning. Stones in poor condition were repaired where possible and 280 stones required replacement.

It is projected that 25% of the exterior stones will be replaced and, because they are new stones, there will be a difference in colouration between them and the older stones. Over time, the stone will weather through a process called oxidation and blend in with the original stone.



Above images provided courtesy of Parks Canada

Community Engagement

Legislative Pages

Legislative pages are Grade 11 and 12 honour students who have shown an interest in the Legislative Assembly and public affairs. Active members of their schools and communities, their pursuits often include such things as 4-H, music, Rotary Youth Parliament, sports, student council, volunteering and writing. The Legislative Page Program gives them a unique chance to see the Legislature's work firsthand. Pages are responsible for delivering documents, making photocopies, serving refreshments to Members, and other general responsibilities as assigned by the Speaker and Clerks. Their work term follows the academic year, commencing with the fall sitting in November, and ending with the close of the spring sitting.

The Legislative Page program started in 1964 with four pages appointed and has seen more than 336 students serve in the Chamber.

The spring/summer legislative sitting in 2020 was conducted without pages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, part of then-current efforts to maximize physical distancing in the legislative chamber; however, a modified version of the page program with smaller shift rosters and altered duties did go ahead during the fall 2020 sitting.



The pages pictured with Honourable Colin LaVie, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

*Front row, L to R: Christina O'Hanley; Ifra Zaidi; Erin Viger; Brooklyn MacInnis
Middle row, L to R: Sophie Peterson; Nicole Lawlor; Lucy Liu; Patience Smith
Back row, L to R: Maiya Schmidt; Alexis Kelly; Keaton Bushey; Ryley MacWilliams*

During this sitting, pages were required to wear masks while in the legislative chamber and hallways of the Coles Building, and they took on new cleaning and sanitizing tasks. As always, pages delivered documents to clerks in the chamber, passed notes between MLAs, and assisted clerks with tasks like filing and photocopying, all while getting a chance to see the legislative process up close.

Legislative Pages during the Fall 2020 sitting (listed by school) included the following students:

- *Bluefield High School* - Patience Smith
- *Charlottetown Rural High School* - Ifra Zaidi
- *Colonel Gray High School* - Sophie Peterson
- *École François-Buote* - Erin Viger
- *Grace Christian School* - Lucy Liu
- *Kensington Intermediate High School* - Maiya Schmidt
- *Kinkora Regional High School* - Ryley MacWilliams
- *Montague Regional High School* - Keaton Bushey
- *Morell Regional High School* - Christina O'Hanley
- *Souris Regional High School* - Brooklyn MacInnis
- *Three Oaks Senior High School* - Nicole Lawlor
- *Westisle Composite High School* - Alexis Kelly

Legislative Internship

The Legislative Internship Program is run in partnership with the Department of Political Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. Each year, a third or fourth year student majoring in history and/or political science is selected by their faculty to participate in a paid internship at the Legislative Assembly in each of the fall and winter semesters. The Internship promotes a deeper understanding of the functions and processes of the Legislative Assembly within the university faculties and provides students with an opportunity to work in their field of study while gaining real-world, practical knowledge of the provincial institution that governs the Island. Students are also encouraged to pursue projects within their areas of academic interest while they put their research skills and political studies knowledge to use.

The Legislative Assembly was able to accommodate two university interns in 2020 despite pandemic changes and restrictions. The Legislative Internship has had 25 successful placements since being launched.

In 2020, Malak Nasser participated during the winter term and Liam Carter participated during the fall term.

Visitor Services & Rotary Youth Parliament

Given public health recommendations on limiting group sizes and continuing social distancing requirements, the buildings of the legislative precinct were closed to the public for most of 2020 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, no visitor services were offered as the Chamber was closed.

With the Chamber closed due to the pandemic, the Rotary Youth Parliament was, unfortunately, canceled.



In early 2020 a team was set up to discuss the interpretation program for Province House once the conservation work is completed.

Parliamentary Matters

Unparliamentary Language

“Gaslight” was used in the Legislative Chamber on July 7, 2020.

Committee Activities

Committees are a key aspect of the Legislative Assembly. Committee work provides topical information to Members of the Legislative Assembly on issues of concern and often provokes important public debate. In addition, because committees interact directly with the public, they provide an immediate channel between elected representatives and Islanders.

Standing and Special Committees have equal membership from all recognized parties in the House, with each party having an equal number of Members on each committee. Committees investigate matters according to their mandates.

Standing and Special Committees in 2020 included:

- Standing Committee on Education and Economic Growth
- Standing Committee on Health and Social Development
- Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
- Standing Committee on Public Accounts
- Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges
- Special Committee on Climate Change
- Special Committee on Government Records Retention
- Special Committee on Poverty in PEI

Work of the standing and special committees of the legislature is an important part of the parliamentary process, allowing Members to investigate issues of public concern and make recommendations to the Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management, chaired by the Speaker, is responsible for policies for administration of the Legislative Assembly, for approving the Assembly budget, for providing facilities for the operation of the Legislature and its offices, and for other matters relating to the efficient and effective operation of the Legislature.

A Record Year

Committee activity has grown immensely at the Legislative Assembly. Staffing has changed to accommodate this, with new positions such as a full time committee

clerk and an additional broadcast technician, helping facilitate a record number of committee meetings during the year.

By the end of 2020, the Legislature's various standing and special committees (not counting the Standing Committee on Legislative Management) had held a combined 122 meetings and tabled 18 committee reports. During the previous decade of 2010-2019, the Legislative Assembly held an average of 51.8 committee meetings per year, ranging from a low of 28 meetings in 2011 to a high of 80 meetings in 2016.



The Standing Committee on Health and Social Development held 28 meetings, thanks in part to a series of consultations held during the spring/summer house sitting to consider Bill No. 37, *An Act to Amend the Emergency Measures Act* (referred to the committee by Motion No. 75). This bill would have granted the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to suspend or modify the application or



operation of any enactment if a state of emergency or local emergency were declared. The committee ultimately recommended against passing the bill.

The next highest total of meetings for 2020 came from the Special Committee on Climate Change (17 meetings), thanks in part to a series of public consultation meetings held in various communities around the province. The Climate Change committee's total is typical of the numbers from other committees in 2020, with an average of about 15 meetings per committee.

The special committees covering Climate Change and Poverty in PEI formed in 2019, and the Special Committee on Government Records Retention formed in 2020. These three special committees accounted for 46 of 2020's 122 meetings, over a third of the year's committee output.

First Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Note: (ic) indicates an in camera meeting

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

MEMBERS

Sidney MacEwen, Chair
 Hannah Bell
 Corey Deagle
 Sonny Gallant
 Hon. Steven Myers

MEETING DATES

REPORTS

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH STANDING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Karla Bernard, Chair
 Hon. James Aylward
 Sonny Gallant
 Ole Hammarlund (*until Mar 10*)
 Robert Henderson (*as of Sept 9*)
 Hon. Ernie Hudson
 Lynne Lund (*as of Mar 10*)
 Robert Mitchell (*until Sept 9*)
 Heath MacDonald

MEETING DATES

Jan. 7	Sept. 29
Jan. 14	Oct. 13
Feb. 25	Oct. 27
Mar. 10	Oct. 29
Aug. 11	Nov. 3
Aug. 25	Nov. 12
Sept. 15	Nov. 19 (ic)

REPORTS

Committee Activities
 (November 24, 2020)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Gordon McNeilly, Chair
 Trish Altass
 Hannah Bell
 Hon. Jamie Fox
 Heath MacDonald
 Hon. Bradley Trivers

MEETING DATES

Jan. 15	Jun. 30 (ic)
Jan. 22	Aug. 19
Jan. 29	Sept. 2
Feb. 12	Sept. 9
Feb. 19	Sept. 16
Feb. 26	Sept. 30
Mar. 4	Oct. 7
Mar. 11	Oct. 9
Jun. 18	Oct. 14
Jun. 19	Oct. 21
Jun. 22	Oct. 28
Jun. 23	Nov. 4
Jun. 25	Nov. 26 (ic)
Jun. 26 (ic)	Dec. 1 (ic)

REPORTS

Motion No. 75:
 Referring Bill No. 37
 to Committee
 (June 30, 2020)

Prince Edward
 Island Human Rights
 Commission
 (July 8, 2020)

Committee Activities
 (Dec. 1, 2020)

Prince Edward
 Island Human Rights
 Commission
 (Dec. 3, 2020)

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
STANDING COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS

Cory Deagle, Chair
Hon. Darlene Compton
Robert Henderson
Stephen Howard
Lynne Lund
Hal Perry

**MEETING
DATES**

Jan. 16	Oct. 1
Jan. 30	Oct. 15
Feb. 20	Oct. 22
Jun. 18	Nov. 5
Sept. 10	Nov. 19 (ic)
Sept. 17	
Sept. 25	

REPORTS

Committee
Activities
(Nov. 20, 2020)

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
STANDING COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS

Michele Beaton, Chair
Cory Deagle, Vice-Chair
Karla Bernard
Robert Henderson
Sidney MacEwen
Gordon McNeilly

**MEETING
DATES**

Jan. 21	Sept. 1
Jan. 28	Sept. 15
Feb. 11	Sept. 29
Feb. 18	Oct. 20
Mar. 10	Oct. 27
Jun. 16	Nov. 10
Jul. 7	Dec. 3 (ic)
Jul. 14	

REPORTS

Committee
Activities
(Jun. 16, 2020)

Committee
Activities
(Dec. 3, 2020)

**RULES, REGULATIONS, PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVILEGES
STANDING COMMITTEE**

MEMBERS

Hannah Bell, Chair
Sonny Gallant
Lynne Lund
Sidney MacEwen
Hon. Matthew MacKay
Gordon McNeilly

**MEETING
DATES**

Feb. 14 (ic)
Mar. 3 (ic)
May 19 (ic)
Jun. 23 (ic)
Sept. 18
Oct. 8
Oct. 30 (ic)
Nov. 17 (ic)
Nov. 24 (ic)

REPORTS

Changes to the
parliamentary calendar
and sitting hours
(Jun. 3, 2020)

Bill No. 200 and Motion
No. 71
(Jun. 26, 2020)

Motion No. 71, Virtual
Hybrid Proceedings
(Nov. 13, 2020)

Rule 22. (2) Order
of Business and
housekeeping rule
changes
(Nov. 20, 2020)

Bill No. 201
(Nov. 26, 2020)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

MEMBERS

Lynne Lund, Chair
 Sonny Gallant
(as of Jan. 13)
 Stephen Howard
 Hon. Natalie Jameson
(as of Jun. 2)
 Sidney MacEwen
 Robert Mitchell
(until Jan. 13)
 Hal Perry
 Hon. Bradley Trivers
(until Jun. 2)

MEETING DATES

Jan. 16	Oct. 15
Jan. 23	Oct. 22
Jan. 30	Oct. 29
Feb. 13	Nov. 5
Feb. 20	Nov. 26 (ic)
Mar. 5	Dec. 1 (ic)
Mar. 12	
Jun. 11 (ic)	
Jun. 18 (ic)	
Jun. 25 (ic)	
Sept. 3	

REPORTS

Committee Activities
(Jul. 2, 2020)

Committee Activities
(Dec. 2, 2020)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON POVERTY IN PEI

MEMBERS

Michelle Beaton
 Peter Bevan-Baker
 Cory Deagle
 Sidney MacEwen
 Gordon McNeilly
 Hal Perry

MEETING DATES

Jan. 9	Jun. 10 (ic)
Jan. 22	Jun. 24 (ic)
Jan. 29	Sept. 9 (ic)
Feb. 12	Oct. 21(ic)
Feb. 18	Nov. 4 (ic)
Feb. 26	Nov. 12 (ic)
Mar. 4	Nov. 25 (ic)
Mar. 13	

REPORTS

Motion No. 36: Interim Report on Committee Activities
(Jul. 8, 2020)

Recommendations in response to Motion No. 36: Creation of a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Poverty in PEI
(Nov. 27, 2020)

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT RECORDS RETENTION

MEMBERS

Michelle Beaton, Chair
 Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker
 Cory Deagle
 Sidney MacEwen
 Gordon McNeilly
 Hal Perry

MEETING DATES

Aug. 11	Oct. 14
Aug. 26	Oct. 23
Aug. 27	Oct. 28
Sept. 16	Nov. 6 (2)
Sept. 25	Nov. 20
Oct. 9 (ic)	Nov. 24 (2)

REPORTS

Motion 86: Creation of a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly on Government Records Retention
(Nov. 26, 2020)

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS

122

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS

18

A Very Special Year

Most legislative committee business at the Assembly is conducted by its standing committees, which have open-ended mandates and exist for the duration of the General Assembly; however, the Legislative Assembly occasionally forms special committees, which are temporary-by-design bodies mandated to focus on particular topics for a limited amount of time.

In 2020, the Assembly saw the conclusion of special committees on poverty and climate change, and the addition of the Special Committee on Government Records Retention.

The Special Committee on Climate Change, mandated to explore how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to make fully costed recommendations on meeting PEI's emission reduction targets, met 17 times and tabled two reports on its activities in July and December. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hindered public gatherings, the committee's public meetings early in 2020 included community meetings held in Tignish, Rustico, Summerside and Charlottetown, featuring presentations by the UPEI Climate Lab and soliciting public input. The committee's work continues into 2021.

The Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, mandated to make recommendations regarding definitions and measures of poverty, a living wage for PEI and a fully-costed Basic Income Guarantee pilot project, met 15 times and tabled two reports on its activities, concluding its work in December, 2020. Key recommendations included adopting the "market-basket measure" as the PEI government's official measure of poverty; using the Charlottetown Living Wage 2020 as established by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and researching ways of applying the living wage in other areas of PEI; and creating a full basic income program with federal funding or a pilot program in the absence of federal funding.

The Special Committee on Government Records Retention, mandated to study current government practices



regarding electronic records and security, to examine Information and Privacy Commissioner Order FI-20-007 (re: the improper deletion of government records) and to report within six months, met 14 times and tabled its final report in November, 2020. Key recommendations included improving uptake of basic records management training for Government employees; adding a legislated “duty to document” for Government decisions; developing policies on active dissemination/routine disclosure and vital records; and developing a new three-year records information management strategy.

Time Passages

A June 3, 2020 Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges report, continuing the committee’s review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly began in 2019, proposed changes to the rules regarding legislative sitting hours and the parliamentary calendar.

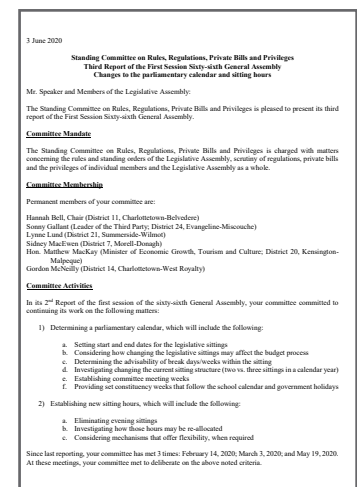
The combined activity of the three special committees accounted for 46 meetings in 2020, more than a third of all committee meetings held in the record year of committee meetings.

Regarding the parliamentary calendar, the committee recommended that the House’s two annual sittings begin on the fourth Tuesday of February and the third Tuesday of October, as opposed to the previous start dates of the first week of April and the first sitting day following Remembrance Day. The committee also recommended that the House would not sit during schools’ spring mid-term break, nor during newly created “legislative planning” weeks (every fourth week of a sitting span).

Regarding sitting hours, the committee recommended a new sitting schedule: 1 pm to 5 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 10 am to 2 pm on Fridays. This would eliminate the prior schedule’s Tuesday and Thursday evening sittings (7 pm to 9 pm), but the weekly hours remained the same by adding one hour to each day during the afternoon.

The committee’s report prompted several days of debate in the House, mostly focused on the elimination of evening sitting hours. MLAs have addressed this topic intermittently for over a decade since a P.E.I. Coalition for Women in Government report first recommended this change in 2009 as a way to promote work-life balance and make it easier for women to participate in politics.

In the end, a 17-to-8 majority vote led the House to adopt the committee’s report on June 10, and the report’s recommendations took effect on January 1, 2021.



Order of Prince Edward Island

The Order of Prince Edward Island, first conferred in 1996, is the highest honour that can be accorded to a citizen of the province. It is awarded annually following a public nomination process with not less than three recipients being selected by the independent Advisory Council. The Order of Prince Edward Island has been established as a way of encouraging and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of individual citizens of the province. It is a special act of appreciation to nominate someone you believe is deserving of such an honour. The Order of PEI Advisory Council considers each nomination and makes final recommendations to the Premier as President of Executive Council. The Premier then forwards those recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor, who is Chancellor of the Order of Prince Edward Island.

The Order of Prince Edward Island was first awarded in 1996 and has seen 82 Islanders honoured with investiture in its 25 years.

The three Islanders selected to receive the honour were: Olive Bryant of Hampshire; Henry Purdy of Parkdale; and, B.E. (Bev) Simpson of York.

The Insignia of the Order was presented to each of them at a special investiture ceremony in September 2020 at Government House, Charlottetown. Members of the Order of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council include: Mr. Gerard Greenan, Chair; Hon. David Jenkins, Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island; Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, President, University of Prince Edward Island; Paul Ledwell, Clerk of Executive Council; Brian Annear, Lower Montague; Debbie Buchanan, Stanhope; Doug LeBlanc, Victoria West; Heather Mullen, Canavoy; Dianne Porter, Charlottetown; and JoAnne Holden, Secretary for the Order of Prince Edward Island.



Hon. Dennis King (L), Premier, and Hon. Antoinette Perry (R), Lieutenant Governor, with the 2020 recipients of the Order of PEI.

Olive Bryanton, 2020 Recipient of the Medal of Merit



Olive Bryanton is an educator and a passionate advocate for older adults. From Hampshire, PEI, she was raised in a multigenerational home in Malpeque, and has long been aware of the important contribution of older adults to the family and community. She is the mother of five.

Olive was instrumental in the establishment of the first multi-purpose Seniors Centre on PEI, as well as the Seniors College, affiliated with the University of Prince Edward Island, serving as the College's first president. In 2000, Olive received an Honorary Degree from the University of Prince Edward Island for her advocacy work with older adults and lifelong learning. In 2012, Olive was awarded the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions to seniors provincially and federally. In 2017, Olive was appointed by the Minister of Health PEI to serve as an executive advisor for the development of the recent Seniors Health and Wellness

Strategy for Prince Edward Island and currently co-chairs the Seniors Health and Wellness Implementation Council.

In 2019, and at the age of 82, Olive walked across the stage at the UPEI convocation to receive her PhD in Education. She broke a barrier by becoming the school's oldest-ever PhD recipient. Her PhD work focused on the lived experience of a group of 10 women participants, between 85 to 92 years of age, from rural communities across Prince Edward Island. Bryanton studied what supports or limits their ability to continue living and ageing in rural P.E.I. Her research, as well as Bryanton's own journey, shows people should look at seniors as contributors to society regardless of their age.

While earning the PhD is a milestone, Bryanton is still nowhere near slowing down. She continues to serve as an active participant, including as a board member, for several local and national organizations. She was the subject of a CBC documentary, called "Never Too Old", which aired in 2019.

Olive is a lifelong learner and long-time advocate for seniors, including work with the P.E.I. Seniors Federation, and founding the Voice for Island Seniors newspaper, the Seniors Active Living Centre in Charlottetown and the Seniors College. Ms. Bryanton is a very deserving recipient for the 2020 Order of Prince Edward Island.

Henry Purdy, C.M., R.C.A., N.S.C.A., 2020 Recipient of the Medal of Merit

Born in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Henry Purdy's name is synonymous with art on Prince Edward Island. He is a professional visual artist and art instructor who has been working on Prince Edward Island for more than 62 years. During a lifetime of work, Henry has brought art to people through a variety of media, including steel and wood sculptures, painting in oils and acrylics, graphic art, portraiture, designs for stained glass windows in local churches, and much more. He has also helped others experience art through workshops, lectures and classes.

His first full-time job was at CFCY-TV in Charlottetown where he was a commercial artist from 1958 to 1963. Then he got wind that the new Provincial Vocational Institute (PVI) was in the works so he wrote a successful proposal that Commercial Art should be taught at the Institute. He was the instructor of the program when PVI opened in Charlottetown in September 1964.

Following PVI, he spearheaded the start of the Commercial Design Program in 1969 at the newly opened Holland College. In 1977, he began Holland College's School of Visual Arts, which offered students two-year post-secondary programs.

Henry is no stranger to volunteering and receiving awards for his excellent skills. He was elected into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts in 1978 and awarded the Royal Society of Arts Medal in 1981 for his contribution to the Fine Arts in the Atlantic region. He is a past member of the Canada Council and has served on the Board of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, as PEI's representative. Mr. Purdy has also served on the Board of the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown. He was presented with the Canada Medal in 1992. Purdy was awarded the Father Adrien Arsenault Senior Arts Award (PEI Council of the Arts) in 1996. Purdy's Lady Slipper gold coin design for the Royal Canadian Mint was selected and minted in 1999.

Henry Purdy was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2001 and presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. He received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Purdy also received the City of Charlottetown Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

Mr. Purdy has provided an immeasurable amount of support and encouragement to fellow artists over the years and has donated paintings to many Island institutions and charities. Even now, he continues to teach, present workshops, and, of course, paint. He has created every job he has had and very deserving recipient for the Order of Prince Edward Island.



B.E. (Bev) Simpson, 2020 Recipient of the Medal of Merit



Born in Bayview, Prince Edward Island, Beverley Simpson is an outstanding contributor to the improvement of his Island community as an exceptional visionary, business leader and advocate for local communities.

Simpson carved out his own success through hard work and careful expansion. In 1959, three years after starting with the firm, Simpson joined founder Arthur Vesey as a partner in the business. Six years later, the business partners formed the company known as Vesey's Seeds Ltd. Upon Vesey's retirement in 1979, Simpson and his wife Shirley, who served for years as the chief financial officer, took over ownership of the company. Simpson has overseen considerable expansion, notably Vesey's growth from mailing 10,000 seed catalogues to more than one million and has guided the growth of the company to include a lawn and garden equipment division, and as well as being the Atlantic Canadian distributor of turf equipment, golf cars and utility vehicles.

In 2021, Bev will mark 65 years of success at Vesey's Seeds. Very few people can claim an equal period of dedication and success with a single organization. As he approaches his 83rd birthday, he continues active in his role as President of Vesey's Seeds Ltd. while at the same time maintaining his passion as an effective and committed contributor to his community and province.

Mr. Simpson's business leadership and excellence have been recognized by the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce, which accorded him the President's award of Business Excellence on two occasions, in 2007 and 2013. In 2015, Bev was inducted into the Junior Achievement Prince Edward Island Hall of Fame. On a broader level, he has been recognized as one of Canada's top 50 CEO's.

Bev Simpson's continuing contributions to his community and business field have been outstanding including: past president of the Garden Seed division of the Canadian Seed Trade Association, shareholder and Director of Covehead Development Inc. as well as the Stanhope Golf & Country Club, and a supporter of numerous charities. Despite all his contributions, his number one priority remains to care for his wife Shirley, a couple who have shared over 60 years of marriage. They have been full partners in community and family life, with Shirley playing a significant supporting role in the business.

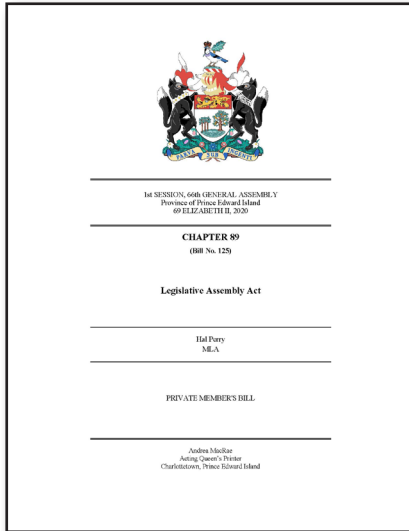
A driving force in all aspects of life; Bev offers a remarkable combination of outstanding community contributions and individual excellence in his field of business leadership and a most deserving recipient for the 2020 Order of PEI.

Members of the Order of Prince Edward Island

<p>A</p> <p>Angèle Arsenault, O.C. Jeanette Arsenault Mark Arendz Reverend Éloi Arsenault Georges Arsenault</p> <p>B</p> <p>Leone Bagnall, C.M. Carolyn Bateman Chief Darlene Bernard Honourable J.Léonce Bernard Reverend Dr. F.W.P. Bolger, C.M. Leo Broderick Emily Bryant Olive Bryanton Marlene Bryenton Garnet Rankin Buell Marie Burge</p> <p>C</p> <p>Honourable Catherine Callbeck, C.M. William Callbeck Dr. Sheldon Cameron Alexander Bradshaw Campbell Bill Campbell Reverend Charles Cheverie Dr. Najmul H. Chishti Honourable Gilbert R. Clements Heather Cutcliffe Sibyl Cutcliffe</p> <p>D</p> <p>Eleanor Davies Donald M. Deacon, O.C., M.C. Sister Mary Deighan Dr. George Dewar, C.M. Vera Elizabeth Dewar Gerald Sheldon Dixon Dr. Dagney Dryer Anna Duffy Regis Duffy, C.M.</p> <p>E</p> <p>Edith Eldershaw Dr. Kent Ellis</p>	<p>G</p> <p>J. Henri Gaudet, C.M. Allan Graham Diane Griffin</p> <p>H</p> <p>Honourable Barbara Hagerman H. Wayne Hambly, C.M. Wilma Hambly Nancy Ann Hamill Catherine Hennessey James Hogan Arthur Hudson</p> <p>I</p> <p>Dr. Albert “Bud” Ings</p> <p>J</p> <p>Irene Jewell</p> <p>K</p> <p>Derek Key, Q.C.</p> <p>L</p> <p>Frank Ledwell Dorothy Lewis Honourable H. Frank Lewis Charles Linkletter, C.M.</p> <p>M</p> <p>James C. MacAulay Elmer MacDonald H. Wade MacLauchlan William MacLean Helen Stewart MacRae Dr. Joyce Madigane Dr. John H. Maloney Maylea Manning Shirley McGinn Barbara McNeill Heather Leanne Moyse Ray Murphy</p>	<p>O</p> <p>Dr. Hubert O’Hanley</p> <p>P</p> <p>Honourable Antoinette Perry Ulric Poirier Henry Purdy</p> <p>R</p> <p>Honourable Marion Reid, C.M. Antoine Richard, C.M. Helen Robbins</p> <p>S</p> <p>Paul H. Schurman, C.M. B.E. (Bev) Simpson Father Brady Smith</p> <p>T</p> <p>Dr. Charles St. Clair Trainor</p> <p>W</p> <p>Kay Wall Elmer Williams Noel Wilson Dr. David Wong</p> <p>Z</p> <p>Frank Zakem</p>
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Updated *Legislative Assembly Act*



The new *Legislative Assembly Act* was a significant piece of legislation passed during the fall 2020 sitting. It enhances and formalizes entities and practices that had already long existed within PEI's Legislative Assembly. The new Act formalizes the administrative and operational practices of the Office of the Speaker, Office of the Legislative Assembly, and Standing Committee on Legislative Management.

In 2020 the Standing Committee on Legislative Management considered the new *Legislative Assembly Act* and recommended it to the House. Amended many times over the years, the previous

During the fall sitting a brand new Legislative Assembly Act was introduced and passed.

Act was repealed and replaced by an entirely new *Legislative Assembly Act*.

The committee itself would be renamed as of the Act's passage, becoming the Standing Committee on Legislative Assembly Management, a more specific and accurate description of the committee's mandate.

Speakers

Where the previous Act said the Assembly "shall proceed with all practicable speed" to elect a Speaker after each general election, the new Act says a Speaker must be elected within 30 days as a newly elected Assembly's first order of business. It also stipulates the Speaker must be elected by secret ballot, formalizing the current practice as outlined in the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly*. In addition, the new Act requires a secret ballot for any vote needed to fill a sudden vacancy in the Speaker's office and formalizes the duration of the Speaker's term as lasting until the next election for the office of Speaker is held.



The 2020 Act also specifies that the Speaker is responsible for the administration of the Act, and "has the control and management of the Legislative Assembly precinct... subject to direction from the Standing Committee on Legislative

Assembly Management or an order of the Legislative Assembly.”

The new Act spells out geographic particulars of the Parliamentary Precinct in terms of the Legislative Assembly’s key land and buildings, including but not limited to Province House, the Honourable George Coles Building, the J.A. MacLean Building, and 197 Richmond Street (a.k.a “the Rectory”).



Another significant change is the new Act’s approach to the Deputy Speaker. The previous Act said the Assembly “may at any session elect one of its members to be Deputy Speaker” and there have been periods in the distant past when the Assembly neglected to fill the role (at least once, in 1931, this even forced the Assembly to shut down because the Speaker had fallen ill and no Deputy Speaker was in place). The new Act makes the Deputy Speaker position mandatory and sets a firm timetable for filling it, to be voted on by MLAs within 30 days of a provincial

election.

Similarly, where the previous Act indicated the Assembly “may” elect an Acting Speaker in the absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the new Act says the Assembly “shall elect” an Acting Speaker under those circumstances.

Summoning the Legislative Assembly

The new Act changes the process of summoning the Assembly to sit. The previous Act stated that a Lieutenant Governor’s proclamation could order the Assembly to meet “not less than sixty days from the time of [the] proclamation.” The new Act says a non-emergency sitting “shall not be earlier than 30 days after the proclamation.”

Sitting Time

The new *Legislative Assembly Act* requires more sittings during a calendar year. While the Assembly typically has at least two legislative sittings per year, the old Act only required the Legislature to sit once a year. The new Act calls for at least two sittings (one “during the six-month period beginning on January 1” and one “during the four-month period beginning on September 1”), and also specifies that nothing prevents the Assembly from sitting more often than twice each year.

Divided Offices

The 2020 version of the Act recognizes a distinction between the Speaker’s business and Assembly operations, establishing the “Office of the Speaker” consisting of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker plus additional employees, while continuing to require an “Office of the Legislative Assembly” consisting of “the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Clerks Assistant, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms and any other employees... required.”

Legislative Library

The Legislative Library has existed for years but was not referenced in the previous *Legislative Assembly Act*. In fact, the Legislative Assembly had even dissolved its library in the 1970s. In September 2007, noting how international research had shown that access to a library and skilled researchers was a vital service for parliamentarians, the Standing Committee on Legislative Management approved the reestablishment of a Legislative Library, adding a Research Service to support members, committees, and house officers in their parliamentary duties. The

new Legislative Library officially opened on May 22, 2008, and its continued operation is now legally mandated in the new Act.

The Legislative Library and research Service were re-established in 2007 and are now part of the new Act.



As outlined in the new Act, the Legislative Library of Prince Edward Island houses the Legislative Assembly’s books, paper and other records while serving the Assembly’s information needs, providing a non-partisan research service for the Assembly’s members and staff, and collecting, preserving and making accessible the Assembly’s publications.

Parliamentary Meetings

Virtual Events

The COVID-19 pandemic sharply reduced travel in general worldwide in 2020, and it drastically reduced air travel. As a result, many of the conferences typically attended by legislative professionals were canceled, postponed or converted into online virtual conferences that people could attend safely from anywhere.

Those conferences and other virtual events included:

Annual General Meeting of the Association of the Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada – September 2020 (virtual)

Participants: Joseph Jeffrey, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; Emily Doiron, Clerk Assistant - Journals, Committees & House Operations; Neil Ferguson, Parliamentary Counsel

Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees/Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCPAC/CCOLA) Annual Joint Conference – September 10, 2020 via Zoom; hosted by Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

Participant: Ryan Reddin, Clerk Assistant – Research & Committees

Parliamentary Visitor Services Association - 2020 Virtual Taking Care of Business Meeting – September 21, 2020 via Zoom

Participant: JoAnne Holden, Director of Communications and External Relations

2020 House Statistics

	2018	2019	2020
Number of sitting days	53	27	42
Government bills brought	43	35	42
Government bills passed	42	34	40
Private members' bills brought	29	9	19
Private members' bills passed	8	7	9
Private bills brought	0	0	2
Private bills passed	0	0	2
Oral Question Period			
Total number of questions	1,703	788	1,244
Longest question asked	1 min., 55 sec.	1 min., 27sec.	1 min., 39 sec.
Longest answer given	1 min., 56 sec	2 min., 18 sec.	2 min., 11 sec.
Shortest question asked	7 seconds	9 seconds	6 seconds
Shortest answer given	4 seconds	3 seconds	4 seconds
Member Statements			
Total number of statements	107	78	123
Longest statement	3 min., 34 sec.	3 min., 21 sec.	4 min., 14 sec.
Shortest statement	1 min., 13 sec.	59 sec.	1 min., 2 sec.
Ministerial Statements			
Total number of statements	129	43	87
Longest statement	5 min., 15 sec.	4 mins., 47 sec.	5 min., 57 sec.
Shortest statement	1 min., 14 sec.	1 min., 13 sec.	1 min., 17 sec.
Motions			
Total number of motions	69	65	43
Government	12	19	10
Other than Government	56	44	32
Introduced Jointly	3	3	1
Passed	8	19	13
Number of written questions submitted	223	76	166
Number of written answers submitted	150	28	166

Legislative Assembly Budget & Expenses

The information below is from the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island, Volume II, for the year ended March 31, 2020. The Public Accounts provide the most current information comparing budgeted estimates (Estimates column) to actual expenditures (Expenses column).

Legislative Assembly

Legislative Services		
	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Legislative Services		
Administration	166,770	163,100
Equipment	73,579	197,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	86,096	87,800
Professional Services	29,549	20,000
Salaries	1,412,171	1,688,300
Travel and Training	41,571	65,000
	<u>1,809,736</u>	<u>2,221,700</u>
Government Members' Office		
Administration	105,000	129,000
Equipment	273	-
Salaries	220,713	208,500
	<u>325,986</u>	<u>337,500</u>
Opposition Members' Office		
Administration	95,000	155,100
Equipment	365	-
Salaries	367,549	379,900
Travel and Training	200	-
	<u>463,114</u>	<u>535,000</u>
Third Party Office		
Administration	249,348	183,500
Equipment	670	-
Salaries	227,252	231,500
	<u>477,270</u>	<u>415,000</u>
Total Legislative Services	<u>3,076,106</u>	<u>3,509,200</u>

Members		
	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Members		
Administration	2,555	15,000
Materials, Supplies and Services	1,539	-
Professional Services	1,690	-
Salaries	2,392,891	2,407,400
Travel and Training	98,745	140,000
	<u>2,497,420</u>	<u>2,562,400</u>
Total Members	<u>2,497,420</u>	<u>2,562,400</u>

Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner		
	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner		
Salaries	50,792	47,700
Travel and Training	-	3,200
	<u>50,792</u>	<u>50,900</u>
Total Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner	<u>50,792</u>	<u>50,900</u>

Legislative Assembly

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner		
Administration	20,562	4,900
Equipment	217	-
Materials, Supplies and Services	863	21,600
Professional Services	-	18,800
Salaries	217,834	215,000
Travel and Training	(11,855)	5,000
	227,621	265,300
Total Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner	227,621	265,300

Office of the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Office of the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner		
Salaries	-	46,900
Travel and Training	-	3,200
	-	50,100
Total Office of the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner	-	50,100

Elections PEI

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Elections PEI		
Administration	375,521	133,200
Equipment	7,474	56,300
Materials, Supplies and Services	78,526	252,500
Professional Services	128,202	14,000
Salaries	1,072,382	1,305,300
Travel and Training	53,591	80,000
	1,715,696	1,841,300
Total Elections PEI	1,715,696	1,841,300

Referendum PEI

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Referendum PEI		
Administration	6,653	100,000
Equipment	509	-
Materials, Supplies and Services	20,215	100,000
Professional Services	85	-
Salaries	23,415	150,000
	50,877	350,000
Total Referendum PEI	50,877	350,000

Total Legislative Assembly	7,618,512	8,629,200
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PEI Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The CPA is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Its purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework. It undertakes this mission with particular reference to the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations and to countries having close historical and parliamentary associations with it. CPA provides the sole means of regular consultation among Members of Commonwealth Parliaments. It fosters cooperation and understanding among them and promotes the study of, and respect for, Parliament.



The CPA pursues these objectives by means of

- Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences, Regional Conferences and other symposiums;
- Interparliamentary visits;
- Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops;
- Publications, notably The Parliamentarian, Canadian Parliamentary Review and two newsletters on CPA activities and on parliamentary and political events;
- Parliamentary Information and Reference Centre communication