

MOTION

No. 117

Calling on government to eliminate bridge and ferry tolls for off-Island medical travel

Matthew MacFarlane gives notice that he will move, seconded by Peter Bevan-Baker, the following motion:

WHEREAS the Confederation Bridge and the Wood Islands Ferry both impose significant tolls for crossing to and from Prince Edward Island, adding to the financial burden for those Islanders travelling off-Island for essential medical care;

AND WHEREAS despite ongoing discussions about reducing tolls for all Island residents, there has been no substantial progress to-date;

AND WHEREAS several vital medical services, including specialized cardiac care and pediatric treatments such as those provided at the IWK Health Centre in Nova Scotia are not available on PEI, making off-Island travel for medical appointments unavoidable for many Islanders;

AND WHEREAS it is an unfair burden to charge Islanders who have been referred by a physician to attend a necessary medical appointment off-Island, adding financial stress to what is often already a challenging situation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call on government to eliminate tolls for Islanders travelling off-Island for medically necessary appointments, whether via the Confederation Bridge or the Wood Islands Ferry;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge government to implement a mechanism by which Islanders referred by a licensed practitioner for off-Island care can easily access these toll exemptions, ensuring equitable access to medical treatment without unnecessary financial barriers.

Signed: Matthew MacFarlane

Signed: Peter Bevan-Baker

Date: November 4, 2024