

## MOTION

No. 51

### Motion on expanding publicly funded dental services

Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker gives notice that tomorrow he will move, seconded by Trish Altass, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the mandate letter for the Minister of Health and Wellness states “As the Minister of Health and Wellness, your overarching goal is to lead our province’s efforts to deliver accessible, quality health services throughout the province, encompassing all matters of public health and wellness;”

**AND WHEREAS** dental health is critical to overall health and wellness, physically, mentally and emotionally;

**AND WHEREAS** many Islanders currently do not have access to even a very basic level of publicly funded dental care;

**AND WHEREAS** the cost of treatment has been shown to be a significant reason why people do not seek dental care;

**AND WHEREAS** internationally, Canada is among the lowest funders of dental health care programs, including ranking below the United States in terms of citizens’ access to publicly funded dental care;

**AND WHEREAS** substantial costs are incurred by the overall health system when basic dental care is not made available to all citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** those communities who increasingly need dental care the most – the elderly, new Islanders, marginalized people, and those in insecure and low-income jobs, are those most likely to have limited or no access to dental services;

**AND WHEREAS** Prince Edward Island has traditionally been a leader when it comes to providing publicly funded dental care to young Islanders;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Legislative Assembly urge government to study the possibility of expanding publicly funded basic dental services to all Islanders without private dental insurance.

Signed: Hon. Peter Bevan-Baker

Signed: Trish Altass

Date: November 19, 2019