

MOTION

No. 116

Motion in support of renaming the Confederation Bridge to Epekwitk Crossing

The Hon. Premier gives notice that he will move, Seconded by the Leader of the Official Opposition and Leader of the Third Party, the following motion:

WHEREAS in the early 1990's a committee was tasked with providing the Government of Canada three names to consider naming the bridge being built by Straight Crossing Limited connecting Prince Edward Island to mainland Canada;

AND WHEREAS following consideration of public submissions Abegweit Crossing was chosen unanimously by committee members as the top choice and was submitted to the federal government along with the alternate choices Confederation Bridge and Northumberland Straight Bridge;

AND WHEREAS on September 27th, 1996 the federal government went against the recommendation of the committee and announced Confederation Bridge was the winning name;

AND WHEREAS Abegweit is a colonial term and Epekwitk is the original name given, for the land now known as Prince Edward Island, by the Mi'kmaq;

AND WHEREAS it is of the utmost importance Indigenous languages are respected and recognized especially as 2022 marks the beginning of the International Decade of Indigenous Language, drawing attention to the devastating loss of Indigenous language due to colonialism and other factors;

AND WHEREAS Call to Action 14 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission specifically calls on the federal government to preserve and promote Aboriginal languages as a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them;

AND WHEREAS the renaming of Confederation Bridge to Epekwitk Crossing is one way for Prince Edward Island and Canada to show a commitment to upholding the rights of Indigenous People, which are protected under the Constitution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island urge the Government of Canada to take this opportunity for reconciliation and rename the Confederation Bridge to Epekwitk Crossing,

Signed by: Hon. Premier

Signed by: Peter Bevan-Baker

Signed by: Sonny Gallant

Date: April 29, 2022