

## MOTION

No. 36

**Calling on government to ensure that Islanders living with obesity are provided the support they need.**

Trish Altass gives notice that she will move, seconded by Hannah Bell the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** obesity and its associated comorbidities kill more people per year internationally than any other disease - inclusive of cancer;

**AND WHEREAS** obesity is not only a clinical disease. Obesity may be the outcome of genetic components or underlying health issues;

**ANDWHEREAS** obesity rates are associated with socioeconomic status and addressing poverty on PEI would aid those living with obesity;

**AND WHEREAS** the PEI Children's Report 2017 concluded that obesity rates among children are rising and that children with the most deprivation and low family affluence were significantly more likely to have obesity, while children with the most privilege and high family affluence were significantly less likely to have obesity;

**AND WHEREAS** Canadians living with obesity face widespread weight bias and weight-based discrimination from strangers, educators, employers, health professionals, media and even friends and family;

**AND WHEREAS** all bariatric surgery occurs either in Moncton, New Brunswick or Halifax, Nova Scotia. The off-Island surgeons do their own assessment and prep for bariatric surgery;

**AND WHEREAS** PEI has recently, successfully recruited two board-certified bariatric surgeons and three board-certified medical bariatricians, but they currently do not have the support to perform bariatric surgeries on PEI or work to their full scope;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to increase medical, social and emotional supports for Islanders living with obesity;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to work with our trained bariatric physicians to provide bariatric surgery on PEI.

Signed by: Trish Altass

Signed by: Hannah Bell

Date: April 6, 2021