

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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The Legislature sat at 10:00 a.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of  
Guests

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to everyone in the gallery and those viewing from home.

A special recognition of Eddie Lund who has been here many times, and Wayne MacMillan more than a few times in the course of the session.

**An Hon. Member:** Hear, hear!

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Tomorrow is the PEI Women's Institute annual roadside cleanup, an event that's important in the way this province is kept up and how we get to take pride in our beautiful place. That started in 1973 and it's continued every year since.

Today, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> – we're not too worried about that, I don't think, we're not superstitious in here. It's doctors' day on PEI and I want to recognize, on behalf of the Legislature, the contributions that our doctors make to our health and to the well-being of our community.

It's also the birthday of the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment. He wasn't born on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> but sometimes his birthday falls on that day.

In a conversation on the way in with Eddie Lund he was predicting that this may also be a significant day in the progress of this session of the Legislature, this being, approaching the end of week six. I might say that he even made a prediction as to what time that significant event would take place. I think, Eddie, what I would say is: You may be sitting here by yourself, like the Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning was last night.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Premier MacLauchlan:** In anticipation, Mr. Speaker, that this may turn out to be our

last chance to give greetings, let me say, on behalf of all members, our appreciation for the work that you and the Clerk and the deputy clerk, and all of the team in your offices do, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the team that supports you, Sergeant-at-Arms, the Pages, the people who are responsible for the Hansard, and all of the related technology and support that goes with that.

In our case, to recognize the people who support us in the government members' office, and not to forget the custodial staff who do such a great job of looking after this place. Who knows? There may be some more paper for them to look after before the day is out.

With that, I wish everyone a great day and a great weekend.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

They always say that government opens the House and opposition closes the House. I'm not going to speculate on what might happen today with Mr. Lund's prediction, but I can tell you I have made a few phone calls today on what might happen today.

I'd also like to especially recognize, at this time, Mrs. Baker. The House has missed Peter, the hon. member, from being here this session. We hope he and his family and everybody are doing well in that regard.

I will recognize the great work that the staff of the Legislative Assembly does for us, and especially your position, Mr. Speaker, and that all members put into the sessions in the House. Everybody is passionate about what they do and everybody tries to do the best they can for their constituents. It is appreciated by the residents of Prince Edward Island. I believe that.

On the way down here this morning it was nice to see that the fields are turning green with the grain and stuff like that. I noticed, with what the Premier said, that there were a

lot of bags of garbage on the sides of the highways which people were out picking up. That's great to see, that the community comes to – our residents take that task on and they do that around our community because it makes it a better place for us.

I'd also like to take a minute to recognize the doctors. It is true. It is doctors' day. They provide a very important, valuable service to this Island. It's great to see all the work they do.

With that, you never know what might happen in the next three hours. We'll see what goes on.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

**Islanders Starring in *Anne of Green Gables Musical***

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

**Ms. Casey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This coming summer the Confederation Centre of the Arts will experience a first. The lead roles in *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*<sup>TM</sup> will be played by two actors born on Prince Edward Island.

Jessica Gallant will be returning for a second season as Anne Shirley and Aaron Hastelow will be making his debut as Gilbert Blythe.

Jessica is a native of Ten Mile House. In her young life she has excelled as an athlete, singer, and of course an actress. She is the only other Islander, other than Gracie Finley Stickney, to play the role of Anne. In addition to playing Anne this summer, Jessica will also be debuting as a musical performer in the Cavendish Beach Music Festival.

Charlottetown native Aaron Hastelow will be making his life-long dream come true as he debuts as Gilbert. For the first time in the 52-year history of *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*<sup>TM</sup> an Islander will be playing leading roles.

Hastelow is no stranger to local audiences, having performed in numerous productions, including *Ring of Fire*, *Anne and Gilbert*, two seasons with the Confederation Centre Young Company, and as the male lead in the Christmas musical *Cinderella*. He recently spent three seasons at the Shaw Festival in Stratford, Ontario, and is currently performing in *Evita* for the Vancouver Opera.

The fact that these two Islanders will be playing two of the most prestigious roles in Canadian theatre is a testament to both Jessica and Aaron's talent as actors. It is also a tribute to the health and vibrancy of the performing arts community on Prince Edward Island.

Both serve as important role models to young Islanders who may wish to pursue live theatre as a career.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all members will join me in recognizing Jessica and Aaron on their accomplishments and wish them, and the cast of *Anne of Green Gables: The Musical*<sup>TM</sup>, all the best in the upcoming theatre season.

Break a leg.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

**Gail Shea**

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise today and recognize an extraordinary individual from my district of Tignish-Palmer Road.

This individual is a dedicated community leader, a devoted mother and grandmother, and a strong political force. I'm happy to acknowledge Gail Shea.

Every member of this House knows and respects Gail. Putting party politics aside, she has a long-standing career and has been a tireless representative for her constituents and for the Island.

Gail has a career of many firsts. She was the first woman to represent the people of Tignish and the surrounding area, the first female provincial minister of transportation, the first female Member of Parliament of Egmont, and the first female member of a federal Cabinet from the Island being the first female federal fisheries minister.

A proud daughter of Skinners Pond, Gail has remained devoted to her area.

Gail first entered politics after working within the community and as a public servant. She was elected to the House in 2000 and served as minister of community and cultural affairs from 2000 to 2003. From 2003 to 2007 Gail served as Minister of Transportation and Public Works. In this position she oversaw the implementation of a graduated licensing system on the Island.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, upon being elected MP for Egmont, she was appointed Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Following the 2011 federal election, Gail was reelected and was appointed Minister of National Revenue, and in July of 2013 moved back into the fisheries position.

As we all know in this House, it takes a lot of commitment to run for public office, but Gail has never sacrificed her relationship with her family. I know all of her children and they are wonderful people. Gail and her husband Russell should be commended for the fantastic job they did raising their family.

Gail has forged a path of service throughout her political career. She has remained loyal to her province, her country, and especially to her family.

I hope all members of this House will join me and recognize the accomplishments of this West Prince individual, Gail Shea, and wish her well in her next chapter of life.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Amy Spence**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's always a pleasure to rise in this House and speak of a significant accomplishment, especially when it's one of your own constituents.

I'm very pleased to rise and recognize a constituent of mine in Stratford-Kinlock, and that would be Amy Spence.

Amy has proven to be a very successful young lady, winning a gold medal in the National Youth Bowling program in Calgary last weekend. This was not Amy's first gold medal. Her first one was actually back in 2012 in the same national competition in Newfoundland.

It's hard to believe that Amy is only 14 years old, and she has been bowling, I'm told, since she was four years old, and I've heard that she is an exceptional bowler. Her gold medals are very impressive at such a young age. Very often we do not think of bowling when we think of sports, but it is very popular and many people love to play. Amy has proven that bowling is every bit as important as any other sport and I commend her for this.

Amy is a grade 9 student at Stonepark Intermediate School, and I know that all of her peers and teachers are extremely proud of her for her accomplishments.

I'm very proud to represent Amy as her MLA. It is people like Amy who make us strive to do our best at anything we do.

I know Amy has many more bright years ahead of her, and I want to take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Stratford is truly lucky to call her one of their own.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Definition of family**

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In response to a question on the floor last night by the Member from Rustico-Emerald, when we were on the floor about the discussion with retail sales tax, looking for the definition of family:

a member of his or her family in relation to a person means the spouse, common law spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, grandson, granddaughter, son in-law, daughter in-law, father in-law, mother in-law, brother in-law, sister in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, or stepdaughter of that person.

**Mr. Aylward:** Once removed.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

#### **Revenue generated under *Securities Act***

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, last night in consideration of the changes in fees to the *Securities Act* I was asked about the revenue generated under that legislation.

Fiscal year 2015-2016, the revenue generated under the *Securities Act* was approximately \$7.2 million. It is estimated that in the upcoming fiscal year that will generate approximately \$8 million.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Questions by Members

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Auditor General's report on e-gaming**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the Premier: Can you update the House on the status of the Auditor General's report for the special audit into the e-gaming caper?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I did have the opportunity to speak with the Auditor General over the last several months. The Auditor General has indicated that her and her team continue to work through the various processes that they need to work through to finish up their review.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Minister of Finance, but I want to hear from the Premier.

Mr. Premier, you felt this issue was so important you called in the AG over this incident. When will this special report be done and completed?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I applaud the Premier for what he has done on this, but this is in the AG's hands. The AG does not take that type of direction when she's involved in a review, very much independent. We would follow her and what she would have to say about how much time it's going to take her and her team to complete their review.

I understand that she has made a significant amount of progress and is continuing, but to provide a date, I can't provide that nor anyone on this side of the House. That would be up to the AG's staff and her department.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that everybody wants to know about.

This is an issue that the Premier directed the Auditor General to bring in a special audit of this file.



To the Premier – I want the Premier to answer this: Will you publicly commit today, Mr. Premier, to release the special audit report on e-gaming when you receive it from the Auditor General?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the Auditor General's report will be tabled with the Speaker in the normal course, but if I'm not correct about that and that somehow it's in my hands to release it, yes, I will.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming loan statement**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

A question for the Minister of Finance. Minister, you told this House that the \$950,000 loan for the e-gaming scheme was up to date and current. We now know that not to be true.

Minister: Would you like an opportunity now to retract that statement?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The information at the time that I gave that answer was from staff and that was the correct information I had at the time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps the staff needs to have a briefing from the Premier because it was indeed the Premier that essentially told the public of Prince Edward Island that this \$950,000 was gone, never to be seen again.

### **Tabling of e-gaming loan**

A question to the same minister. The \$950,000 that was simply called the loan by your government, this was to replace in its entirety the original offer to finance on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, just two days before our provincial election that year.

We ask you again: Will you table this loan that no one has been able to access?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As we've said a number of times before in the House, and it's no different today – and we've talked about it today – the Auditor General is reviewing this file at the current time. Her and her staff have committed a tremendous amount of work to date. They will be completing their investigation sometime in the future, and I look forward to seeing that report from the Auditor General.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's ironic that this government continues to hide behind the work the Auditor General's office is doing as requested by the Premier when I have correspondence here from the Auditor General stating that yes, indeed she is doing a report on this, but any other investigation, whether it be public accounts or any other legislative body, wouldn't impact at all her investigation.

Again, question to the minister: Was this secretive \$950,000 loan the only money committed to this illegal gaming scheme or is it just the tip of the iceberg of taxpayers' dollars squandered on this failed project?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I've said before in the House, I respect the AG. I respect the work that she's been doing –

**Mr. Trivers:** Lift the veil of secrecy.

**Mr. Roach:** – now for some time and –

**Mr. Trivers:** Open and transparent.

**Mr. Roach:** – I think that patience will pay off –

**Mr. Trivers:** Don't hide behind the AG.

**Speaker:** Hon. member, let the minister answer the question.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Speaker, we're being very patient on this side of the House because we respect the work that the AG is doing. I look forward to hearing her report and seeing her report when it's presented.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming loan signatory**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the same minister: Minister, who signed the first loan that was done two days before the election? Surely you can answer that.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know who signed that, to be honest with you, because I've never seen it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming government approvals**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It appears nobody has seen this loan agreement because nobody has seen it. We've been asking for it. We've been asking various departments to table it and everybody refuses.

Question to the same minister. Minister, \$25,000 was approved in this gaming budget

for government approvals. Can the minister explain how government approvals could cost so much and who this money was intended for?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, the Auditor General is in the middle of a review. I respect the work that the Auditor General is doing. I respect her review and the depth in which she will conduct her review, and I am prepared to wait until that review comes out so we'll have an independent view and review of what has taken place.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming borrower's audited financial statements**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the same minister. The loan, as innovation calls it, had conditions that required audited financial statements of the borrower prepared by a firm of professional accountants.

Can the minister confirm: Did the borrower complete this as required by the loan and Innovation PEI?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, from the onset prior to the election the Premier put notice to the AG that this would be recommended to go to the AG for review.

We've gone down this road with our *Financial Administration Act* in exposing loans. We worked cooperatively with the opposition on that. We debated the issues. We came to an agreement. We're working with the AG on this. If recommendations come from the AG we'll be ready to support those recommendations.

We're not hiding anything. We're being as transparent as possible. If we go through the

same process we just did with the AG on loan write-offs, then I'm sure everybody, including Islanders, will reveal everything that happened with the e-gaming file.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming proposal scrapped**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I find it ironic that I'm asking one minister a question and he's unable to answer it because he's run out of answers. He can only say he's hiding behind the AG so many times before he has to deflect it to another minister. But I'm going to go back to the finance minister again.

Minister: Does your open and transparent government, in quotations, still stand behind its claim that the e-gaming proposal was scrapped in February of 2012 after being declared an illegal scheme?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With reference to being declared illegal, I have absolutely no comment on that because I don't know where that would be substantiated from.

We just went through the *Financial Administration Act* where we committed to making sure that any loans that were written-off were going to become public and that information on that file as well as others will come forward when that takes place.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming documents**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Again, a refusal to answer a pretty straightforward question. The question had to do with whether or not this government

actually walked away from this e-gaming scandal when their own legal opinion came in and showed that it would have been illegal to do this.

That's where it came from, Mr. Minister. That's where it came from, your own legal opinion.

Minister: If that is the case that it was walked away from in February 2012, how come I have information and documents that show that you were still in negotiations after that date?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I reiterate that in terms of anything that took place on that file, the Auditor General is reviewing it. I look forward to the report coming out.

I'm not going to surmise based on supposition that the member leads to the House, the Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming lawyer and Simplex**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Again, question to the same minister. This government is on record saying that they walked away from trying to bring in the e-gaming back in February 2012.

But again I find that questionable, as I have documentation that will show that there was \$100,000 wired to McInnes Cooper on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – that's a full 10 months after you walked away from it – and another \$100,000 wire on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Again, to the same minister: Why is the PEI e-gaming lawyer telling Simplex they can't pay them, and then seeing e-gaming is still going forward in 2013?

Remember, I have the proof to table.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to e-gaming, the one thing that I can comment on is the information that is public and the information that we all read in the paper with respect to a decision by one of our judges here in the province.

I think, in his references, and what was promoted to everyone in the public and in the newspaper, I think it made it very clear there, and I welcome the Member from Stratford-Kinlock to putting documents on the floor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

### **E-gaming information**

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's due time that this government and, in particular, this minister come clean and tell Islanders once and for all what happened with this file.

Minister, you claim to be a government that is open and transparent. Minister, we know that there were Cabinet ministers encouraging select Liberal friends to invest in this illegal gaming scheme. Somehow these individuals were getting information that only Cabinet would be privy to. People were getting first dibs, inside information, if you will.

To the minister: Were you still telling your friends to buy in after February 2012?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I find myself on the opposite side of the floor with the Member from Stratford-Kinlock again making some pretty outward accusations. I will tell you that the answer to his question is absolutely, unequivocally no.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

He can deny it. I'm going to take his word for it. He is an hon. gentleman and I will say that, so I'm going to take his word for it.

But someone over there was giving inside information to closely connected Liberal friends. I have a long list here of investors that reads as a who's who of political donors to the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island.

Again to the same minister: Minister, who in your Cabinet, or who in your government, was giving inside information to your friends so that they can invest in this illegal gaming scheme?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, the Member from Stratford-Kinlock, I find myself at the other side of an accusation. I'm not aware of any of my friends that have ever had anything to do with this file in any way, shape or form. So I reject his premise that my friends – somehow, somebody from this side of the House told my friends that they should invest.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct) produce the list. Let the public decide.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Ms. Biggar:** Table it.

**Mr. Myers:** We're going to.

**Mr. Aylward:** I'm going to. Thanks for the suggestion. That's why it's already connected with a document, so I can table it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the same minister: Minister, did you or anyone inside your office, at any time, contact one of these handpicked investors?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I did not, at any time, have any contact with any of the investors- any investors – whatsoever. With reference to my staff, I don't control all my staff. I don't know what they do at the end of the day or at any other time, but I can tell you that I certainly did not.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to try this one more time.

Minister, can you explain today how certain chosen people that were well connected to your government could possibly be in the know as to what Cabinet was discussing and then benefit from it?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last night the Member from Rustico-Emerald made a statement about staff when we were trying to find a particular document. Today we have the Member from Stratford-Kinlock making accusations about staff.

The public servants in Prince Edward Island –

**Mr. Myers:** This is about you and what you're hiding.

**Mr. Roach:** – do a tremendous job.

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct) accusations.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** Hon. members, when the minister is trying to answer a question, at least listen to him.

**Mr. Aylward:** Trying being the operative word.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the opposition to just kind of throw a general blanket out about the public servants in Prince Edward Island, I certainly reject that. I think that our public servants work extremely hard.

**Mr. MacKay:** (Indistinct) public servants.

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Roach:** They do a great service to the public of Prince Edward Island.

**Mr. Myers:** Your own staff (Indistinct).

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct) question (Indistinct).

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct) at you.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** Hon. members, I have asked you to at least listen to the minister when he's answering the question.

Go ahead, hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Speaker, the time that I've had over the last five years to work with the public service, I found them to do tremendous work on behalf of everyone in this Legislature and Islanders right across the province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This has nothing to do with the staff. This has everything to do with the government that got elected on a policy of being open and transparent, and doing things differently.

Clearly we're not seeing that. What we're seeing instead is pure deflection, hiding behind the Auditor General's work, when clearly she has stated, in written correspondence to me, that answers in the Legislative Assembly or Public Accounts

would be no issue. It would be fine. It wouldn't impact or impede her work.

**Ms. Sherry:** Question.

### **E-gaming offshore tax haven**

**Mr. Aylward:** Question to the same minister again: Minister, what did your government do when it was exposed that Liberal insiders were using an offshore tax haven to make wired investments on this project?

And, yes, again, I do have a document that I'm going to table that will prove that.

**Speaker:** The hon. minister –

**Mr. Aylward:** Is this why your government sealed all e-gaming documents in what you try and say is in the public's best interest?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know the documents that he's referring to, so therefore, if I don't know what he has, it's very difficult for me. But if what he has are documents that are public documents that were published in the courts, I think that the courts have answered that question very clearly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

### **WCB PTSD policy change re: first responders**

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today my question is to the Premier and Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

Mr. Premier, I was very pleased to hear your announcement yesterday acknowledging that the Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island has revised their policy relating to psychological and psychiatric conditions.

It was announced that these changes will recognize the increased risk in occupations such as emergency first responders.

Mr. Premier, I want to ensure that these policies will encompass all Island emergency first responders.

Could you please provide this House with what professions will be included in this policy change?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member from Evangeline-Miscouche for the question.

The policy changes announced yesterday will provide better coverage for first responders and for all Island workers. Let me repeat, all Island workers.

This means that any worker in any occupation may be entitled to compensation benefits for a psychological or psychiatric condition if it is determined that there's been a significant or severe reaction to an unexpected and emotionally shocking event or the cumulative effect of a series of events.

This is a significant step and a meaningful change for Island workers and, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Workers Compensation Board for their work in bringing this forward.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, your first supplementary.

### **WCB PTSD policy navigation**

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Premier, I know that there are Islanders who are currently suffering from work-related psychological conditions such as PTSD.

Will the Premier please indicate when this policy will take effect and how Islanders can navigate the system to get support that they need and deserve?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, the WCB has invested significant time and effort in developing these policy changes, and done so in consultation with Island

workers and other community representatives.

After months of carrying out that work the final version of the policy has recently been approved by the board of the WCB. I'm pleased to say that the policy is now in effect and that any Islander looking for more information may call the WCB or may consult the WCB website. The policy is now in effect.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

### **Foster family number**

**Ms. Casey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question today is directed to the Minister of Family and Human Services.

Minister, yesterday you stated in the House there were 65 foster families on Prince Edward Island. As you and all members of this House know, foster families are essential in helping children find safe, loving homes here on Prince Edward Island.

Minister, does this number of foster families meet the current need?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Every child deserves to feel safe, loved, and secure, and every day foster families open their hearts and their homes to children on Prince Edward Island for just that purpose.

Each year on Prince Edward Island we have approximately 225 children that do come into the care of the director of child protection. Unfortunately, foster family numbers are decreasing all across the country and we're no different here on Prince Edward Island.

Foster families do play a very important role and they are committed to caring for the children that are experiencing very difficult times in their lives.

I guess all of us in this House should encourage people in our districts to become foster families so that we can care for the children that need it most, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

### **Foster family participation encouragement**

**Ms. Casey:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, we must be doing all we can to ensure that our Island children have a place to call home.

What is your department doing to encourage more participation in the foster family program on Prince Edward Island?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question, hon. member.

Foster families are as diverse as the children that they care for. We have some that own their own home. We have some that rent. We have some that are single. We have some that are common law. We have some that have same-sex partners. But they all have one thing in common, and that is their commitment to care for children.

We are working very closely with the PEI federation for foster parents. We appreciate the efforts and the suggestions that they have coming forward.

Recently our government has increased the monthly allowance to foster families by \$200 per month and we have also increased the room and board and clothing allowance by 2%.

We've been currently holding regular open nights for foster families, trying to encourage foster families within communities to become foster families. We have a couple coming up very soon. We have one I think it's May 25<sup>th</sup> in Charlottetown, we have one May 26<sup>th</sup> in Summerside, and I think one on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in O'Leary.

We also have a dedicated website for foster families and anybody who is interested in becoming a foster parent. Anyone can go to [www.gov.pe.ca/beafosterparent](http://www.gov.pe.ca/beafosterparent) for more information.

Again, we're reminded daily that one caring adult can make a big difference in the life of a child, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### **Support for domestic market and local producers**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has not one but two grant programs under a buy PEI initiative. Also, when the Premier announced Food Island, he framed it as a return to the roots of the PEI economy, fishing and farming, as well as an investment in the modern innovative aspects of these two sectors.

The Food Island Partnership strategic plan stated:

“A small domestic market, limited economies of scale, distance to important markets and a reliance on commodity markets have made the industry too many times a follower of the mainstream rather than a captain of its own destiny.”

To be clear and remove all doubt: Does the minister of economic development support our domestic market and our local producers?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Obviously, Mr. Speaker, with the investments that we make in our farmers and our fishers, and in all our other sectors that we deal with on an ongoing basis, I think the adamant answer is yes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### **Meat protein tender**

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, it is really, truly sad that this government is branding us as a Food Island, yet refuses to have healthy, local food in our institutions.

This is supposed to be a government priority, as we just heard.

The provincial protein tender for 17 government facilities is out and closes May 20<sup>th</sup>. The winner of this tender, the provincial protein tender, will supply almost all the meat for these 17 facilities. The issue at heart is one of buying healthy, local food and supporting our local producers.

Can the Premier explain why government-owned facilities do not put an emphasis on procuring and serving local food from our Island producers, and indeed, why this tender is specifically geared towards out-of-province big-box suppliers?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there is a procurement process that we have to follow and we do that, we tender.

**Mr. Trivers:** Put Islanders first.

**Mr. MacDonald:** But I can tell – well, there's laws that we have to abide by, obviously, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Trivers:** Over here we believe in Islanders (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, seeing a process of just of this last year that two Island local companies actually came together and bid on a contract for our Island hospitals and they were satisfactory and they won that contract.

Those are phenomenal Island companies. One of them employees over 300, the other one is a local – actually, I believe it might even be in the hon. member's riding.

For him to stand up here and say we don't support local companies is completely false, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, this is not false.

I don't know if the minister of economic development or the Premier or anyone over there has actually read the provincial protein tender, but one condition of this tender reads – and I'll table it for you: "Preference shall be given to brand name specified..." and then it goes on: and all brand names specified in this tender are large multi-national food supply companies.

It's right there in black-and-white in the tender, and I'll table it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trivers:** It's not false, it's true.

**An Hon. Member:** Food Island.

**Mr. Trivers:** Premier: Why is this government and our Food Island showing preferential treatment to these multi-national food supply companies rather than supporting our local producers and our suppliers?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So what the hon. member is saying is: Let's treat everyone a little different, let's not use a procurement –

**Mr. Trivers:** I'm saying put Islanders first.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Let's not follow policy or use a procurement process, let's just start giving out tenders here and tenders there and not worry about competition laws or anything like that or free trade agreements or anything.

I think the hon. member should do some more homework on procurement, first of all. Second of all, take a look at who wins some of these contracts. It's local companies that employ local Islanders.

It's a very unfair assessment, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism has not read the tender and has not seen in black-and-white the names of the multi-national supply companies that are in that tender.

It's listed right there, the name of every company, and saying preference will be given to suppliers that will supply our food for this Island from these companies.

We need to ensure our institutions – these are our manors, our hospitals, and our schools, our children – have top quality food that is 100% safe and healthy, that's fed by no animal by-products and medication-free.

Again, to the Premier: Will you make sure this tender is amended so that, specifically, poultry sourced – and we'll just target that one area – must be medication-free and fed no animal by-products for our children's health, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

**Mr. Currie:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I recognize – very familiar with this discussion as the former minister of health, and obviously as the minister of education.

I do want to acknowledge that our department has invested in over 200,000 and we have worked very closely with Treasury Board to make sure that that \$200,000 was strictly focused on breakfast programs and was designated for food from Island communities.

I also want to clarify that we do have a bit of a challenge in the balance. We have budgets, we are part of an Atlantic Procurement Agreement, we are working very closely with other provinces, we are a very substantial exporting province. There are small businesses in small communities that rely heavily on exporting. Just like, at times, we have to work very closely with other provinces in respecting the boundaries and the Atlantic Procurement Agreement.

I visit the farmers' market every Saturday morning and see a lot of my colleagues. We have the priority to supporting local and we'll continue to support local. As we've seen, we're continuing to grow our local economy and supporting our farmers and fishers in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, I mean, I think everyone really can agree that safe, healthy food should be a priority for our seniors and our children and people who are ill in our hospitals, and this means no animal by-products and medication-free.

For one local example with no animal by-products fed to their product and they're medication-free, Canada's Smartest Kitchen produced a study on value-added poultry products that are produced locally. Compared to government's existing supplier, the local producers have a product that is far superior. Although initially more expensive, their product retains 26% more weight, yields over 13 additional portions per bird and, as a result, it ends up being 25% cheaper, in the end, per portion.

Premier, this is a no brainer. Why does this government fail to support – and in fact, discriminate against – it's in the tender, they're listing the multi-national companies - discriminate against local producers, producers that have a superior product, who want to grow their business here on PEI and produce healthy food for all Islanders, at a reduced cost, Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

**Mr. Currie:** Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I appreciate the Member from Rustico-Emerald. He demonstrates that he's very passionate about his community. But this is the same member that challenged and debated with me on the floor here regarding the need for more services for autism.

The Member from Stratford-Kinlock was arguing and debating with government about shingles vaccines.

There is constant demand and constant pressure from opposition – and they're doing the job they're supposed to be doing – and as a government we have a mandate of a budget to find balance and to meet the services and the needs of Islanders.

**Mr. Trivers:** And the tender (Indistinct).

**Mr. Currie:** We have to be very respectful –

**Mr. Trivers:** You can change it.

**Mr. Currie:** – of the tendering process.

I'm very familiar with the issue that the Member from Rustico-Emerald is referring to. A number of years back, before coming back into the portfolio of health, we had an issue where there was an additional \$25,000 to \$30,000 expense because we focused on a local product and stepped away from the procurement. That is money we have to be very accountable to. We're a very open and transparent government –

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct) cheaper in the end.

**Mr. Currie:** – and the public demand that we are good stewards of the public purse, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

**Halibut quota**

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This week Island fishers were shocked to learn that they lost some of their quota for halibut on Prince Edward Island. The quota was cut.

Question to the Premier: Do you support this quota cut for fishers of Prince Edward Island?

**Mr. Myers:** Oh, we got him up.

**Mr. Aylward:** The big fish is up.

**Speaker:** Order, please!

The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** No, Mr. Speaker.

We don't support this quota cut, and we made representations directly to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans when he visited here in February, and again when the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the minister's deputy and I met with Minister Tootoo in Boston at the seafood show in early March. We were not in any way supportive of the decision that was made with respect to the halibut cut, and we will continue to advocate for a more equitable return to the arrangements that will favour Prince Edward Island fishers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This government across the floor here talks regularly about how much influence we've got here in Ottawa now because of the new Liberal government.

This quota cut is going to impact all Island fishers who fish halibut. It's six tons fewer than they had last year, a direct impact to the economy of this Island, \$100,000-plus less earnings. That's a lot of seafood pies, Mr. Premier.

Why wasn't the halibut quota worth fighting for? Why didn't you go harder at the prime minister and at the department of fisheries to ensure the quota was kept for Prince Edward Island?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, just in case there was any inference that might go unaddressed, I don't include halibut in my seafood pies, although I include a lot of other Prince Edward Island seafood.

But let me say, as I did, that this issue has been on the table, and it was on the table with the previous government and the previous minister of fisheries and oceans. This is something that we regularly address

with the federal government and it's something that has been going on for years.

The federal government, when it gets around to dealing with the quotas, you have to keep advocating for it. We're not happy about this and we're going to keep fighting to see that we get a return to the quota that was in place last year and, if anything, that we can improve on it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When Gail Shea was minister of fisheries she fought for the Island fishers. She increased the quota for Prince Edward Island. She fought hard for the province.

Why did you let this go with little more than a whimper?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, there were full representations made on the part of the province.

I can assure the members of this House that when we met with Minister Tootoo, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in Boston in early March that this was explicitly on the agenda, and the interest of Prince Edward Island and the part that the halibut plays in the fishery economy of Prince Edward Island, and frankly, in the ability to put important seafood in the market and on the plate in Prince Edward Island at a time of year when people are around to appreciate it and prepared to pay a premium price for it.

We appreciate what halibut means to the province in the fullest sense and we have made that advocacy and we will continue to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, final question.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You're saying it means a lot to you and you understand the importance. You spent thousands of dollars to go to the Boston seafood, which we know is important to promote Island seafood. It's too bad that you don't have the weight in Ottawa that you need to defend Island fishers. We've got four MPs that are Liberals. We've got a Liberal government. We've got a Liberal government here in PEI.

Gail Shea fought hard, increased the quota, was able to do that through hard work and through influence, obviously.

At this time our economy needs that money. Fishers need that money. It might not be much to the Premier, but \$100,000 to Island fishers is put back into the economy and spent over and over again.

We need you to fight. Premier, why aren't you fighting for us?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to put up a fight for the halibut and for the collector roads and for the electricity cable.

There are many fronts on which we're working on behalf of Islanders.

Where we don't get what we seek the first time, we'll go back and make sure that we ensure that the federal government understands the value of this fishery to Prince Edward Island, what it means in the ports, what it means in the economy, and what it means at the table.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue fighting.

Thank you.

Statements by Ministers

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

#### Tabling of Documents

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a document

listing physician payment schedule, April 2014 to March 2015 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Summerside-Wilmot, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.  
The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the Provincial Protein Tender that explicitly shows preference for less healthy off-Island products, especially poultry, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Stratford-Kinlock, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table research on the Premier's carbon footprint from his air travel where he's 12 times the Canadian average and I move, seconded by the Honourable Morell-Mermaid, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table a written question to the minister responsible for Communities, Land and Environment and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I have a few.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table two written questions to the

minister responsible for transportation, Infrastructure and Energy and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Do you have another one, hon. member?

**Mr. MacEwen:** Yes, please.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to one written question to the minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I'm on a roll. I might as well keep going.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table 68 questions to the minister responsible for Workforce and Advanced Learning and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I do have one more.

**Speaker:** One more. Okay.

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table eight questions to the minister responsible for Family and Human Services and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from

Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Working together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table email correspondence that I referred to during Question Period between Simplex and McInnes Cooper and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a document referring to offshore accounts in connection with the e-gaming file and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a summary of the e-gaming investors and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health & Wellness.

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a document requesting the breakdown of Health PEI revenue estimates, and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a list of organizations consulted in the course of developing Maritime employment standards record keeping requirements, and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table an audit report response from the Department of Justice and Public Safety regarding maintenance enforcement program dated April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Family and Human Services, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

#### Reports by Committees

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to resume debate on the report of the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal which I had moved for adoption, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April of this year in this Chamber.

As you will recall, at that time I read the committee's recommendations and provided a summary of the report, so at this point in time I will keep my comments brief. I do note that I propose to address three different areas of the report, specifically being the number of options on the ballot or the

structure of the ballot, the principles inherent in each of the options that are presented on the ballot, and the proposed education process or at least our recommendations in relation to that process.

Over the course of our consultations, particularly throughout the fall of last year, we heard time and time again that the first exercise our committee should undertake would be to derive important principles in relation to process and in relation to various electoral options that might be possible for a Prince Edward Island context from the presenters that provided us with insight as to the desires that Islanders might have.

I'm pleased to say that our committee went to great lengths to do this, and to pay heed to the presentations that were made to us. We did hear a number of different principles that were near and dear to Islanders, and certainly this list is not exhaustive, but it is a sample of the list that was presented to us and basically guided us through the selection of various options that might be included on a ballot.

In no particular order, we heard that presenters placed value on the number of representatives elected being proportional to the overall percentage of the popular vote for each party that was partaking in an election.

We heard that a great deal of value should be placed on direct election and accountability of our representatives, or in other words, in more common speak, we heard that Islanders like to see the whites of their elected representatives' eyes at least every four years on their doorsteps asking for their support in relation to an election.

We heard that there's value placed on government having a strong mandate to govern. We heard that there's value placed on having a balance of voices in the Legislature. We heard that there's value placed in representatives approximating the demographic breakdown of Islanders. We heard that there's value placed in elected officials having been elected by at least a majority of the constituents voting for them.

We heard that there's value placed in votes being quote unquote "wasted," which we learned is actually somewhat of a technical

term of art, and is often not something that is meant in the context that we would often think it would be.

Perhaps last but not least, we heard that our electoral system should be simple enough so that it can be understood and engender respect for that system and confidence in that system.

From those presentations, and as a result of a simple survey that we had prepared and conducted at each of our consultations throughout the course of the winter and online, we came to decide after a great deal of deliberation amongst the committee members – and I should say as well, a great deal of debate amongst the committee members – that putting all of the options that represented those principles in a fair way on a ranked ballot would do the most that we could do to engage Islanders in this process.

That really was our mandate. We were provided with a mandate by this House to engage Islanders to participate in this process further to the white paper that was tabled in the spring sitting last year. *Vis-à-vis* the other ballot structures that we considered, we felt that this was the optimal way to go about undertaking that process and engaging Islanders.

This being the case, we set out to extract the options that we had come across that represented the principles that were presented to us, and I'm going to go through a list of associated principles. As I mentioned yesterday, when we were discussing the plebiscite act, each of the principles or each of the options on the ballot is associated with a principle that makes it an appropriate consideration for folks that value that principle.

There are no options without their faults, I guess I might say. There's no ideal option that would work for everybody. I want to be very careful to point that out because we have faced and I'm sure we will face criticisms for the number of options that are on the ballot and that's something that we spent a lot of time considering. We arrived at the number that is on there because we feel that it is as fair an approximation of the desires of Islanders we heard from as we could provide without taking anything away from the principles that Islanders had

advances to us. We felt strongly as a committee that we did not have a mandate to do that.

We felt that we were given a mandate to engage, and to provide Islanders with options, and to let Islanders make the decision through a plebiscite. Like with many things there are many ways of doing things, but we felt that that was the mandate that had been bestowed upon us. We were very careful not to, in relation to this particular aspect of our mandate, stray too far from what we thought would be fair and democratic to Islanders in this process.

In the order they are presented on the ballot, which is presented at recommendation number five in our report:

the DMP system represents two key principles and they are: proportionality, in terms of the representation, and the direct election of representatives. In other words, you will see your candidate on your doorstep at least every four years, and they're a candidate that represents your district. At the end there should be a relatively proportional breakdown of representatives *vis-à-vis* the overall proportion of the vote.

Our current system that we're all familiar with in its essence it's a very simple system and it also provides governments with a strong mandate to govern pursuant to their election platform.

First pass the post, or our current system, plus leaders, is a system that was advanced on the principle that it would create, or strive to achieve, balance within the Legislature. It would do so through the ability of parties that would receive at least 10% of the popular support to have their leader guaranteed a seat in this Legislature.

Mixed member proportional representation represents the principles of proportionality, and it does so in a different way than DMP, in that the representatives approximate the demographic breakdown of the population of the province, or they more likely do more so in this system than they would in, perhaps, any of the other systems. It also allows the opportunity for voters to choose different representatives who might take different issues forward.

Preferential voting provides for a majoritarian system or, in other words, in order for a candidate to be successful they need to achieve at least 50% plus one of the popular support. Again, that allows for a strong mandate to govern and it also, at least in theory, provides greater confidence in the elected members as they represent more than a majority of the population.

In respect of the education campaign related to the plebiscite, we heard a great deal over the course, particularly, of our winter consultations. I don't propose to go through that in any great detail, but in our report we have reduced that down to a number of comments which represent the comments that were presented to us.

They are as follows: education needs to be extensive and interactive if this whole exercise is to mean anything. A substantial education exercise is absolutely critical if we are to get an informed result in any plebiscite. We need lots of public education before the plebiscite so we understand fully the options along with the pros and cons of each and the implications in them. It should be possible to educate the people so that this small province could be an example to the whole of Canada that we know what we are doing politically. So much depends on the level of public awareness and the understanding of the implications of their choices. Take the time to educate the public.

This is critical to a fair outcome on the plebiscite. I would recommend taking the time so as to understand the pros and cons of each system as it would apply to PEI. This requires the time to educate Islanders with more complete and easily understood explanations.

We feel that Islanders are up to this task. In fact, I would draw the analogy that any Islander that has learned to play a board game over the course of their childhood that would be anything more complex, perhaps, than a game of Snakes and Ladders, has probably gone through a set of rules that would approximate what would be involved in trying to figure this system out.

I think Islanders are up to this task and I am very excited to see this engagement process unfold.

We have recommended in our report, and I'll read again from the report at page 17:

The committee discussed a number of approaches to an education campaign to be conducted in advance of a plebiscite, including the importance of maintaining a neutral position in communicating with the public. As a result, the committee recommends that Elections PEI be tasked with ensuring that voters throughout the province receive clear and impartial information about a plebiscite process, the date of a plebiscite, a plebiscite question, and the content of the choices appearing on the plebiscite ballot. A multi-pronged approach will be necessary, as will sufficient time to organize and conduct an educational campaign. Components should include, but not be limited to, advertising on television, radio and in print; an internet strategy including a website, interactive electoral models and digital advertising; a telephone information hotline; information pieces distributed by mail; and public outreach activities.

I hope that addresses some of the concerns that were presented last evening by the Member from Kensington-Malpeque. I do think that through Elections PEI and members of this committee, including the deputy clerk and the communications officer, that this will be a fulsome education campaign that certainly Islanders will take up this process wholeheartedly.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. J. Brown:** With that I move the adoption of this report.

I would note, before we carry on, that in the circumstances the Leader of the Third Party did pass notes on to myself which he asked that I read on behalf of him, so I would ask that I be able to do so. Noting that these following comments are attributed to the hon. Leader of the Third Party and not to myself.

**Speaker:** Carry on.

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, this was provided by the hon. Leader of the Third Party. He indicates:



“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Legislature for their kind words and concern over the last few weeks. I am particularly grateful to the honorable member for Charlottetown-Brighton for his willingness to present my thoughts today. Most of what follows was written in draft form before I left for Scotland 3 weeks ago, and I apologize for any incoherence, omissions or incomplete thoughts that may be present. I deeply appreciate being able to contribute to this debate, and I look forward to a summer and fall of vigorous debate and widespread engagement with Islanders.

“The white paper contains a section on the history of democratic evolution on PEI from the advent of responsible government in 1851 through the belated enfranchisement of half of the Island population – women – in 1922, and First Nations in 1963, through the end of dual member representation in 1994 which created the Legislature we have today. Along the way Prince Edward Island has been a leader electorally, electing Catherine Callbeck as Canada’s first woman premier in 1993, and a previous plebiscite on proportional representation in 2005. All along the way, the changes reflected evolving conditions on PEI, and the ongoing commitment to craft an electoral system that was suited to our particular circumstances. Almost every aspect of elections on PEI has changed – the number of seats, the people allowed to vote, the number of members per district, the boundaries of those districts, but one thing that has not evolved through over a century and a half is the method by which we elect our representatives.

“The most recent election created another seismic electoral change on PEI, as unprecedented numbers of Islanders voted for parties other than the Liberals and Conservatives – almost a quarter of voters expressed desire for change. This followed a series of elections where there was an anemic opposition – on two occasions being reduced to one member. To me it is clear that the electoral system which has been in place since 1851 is also in need of updating.

“If we look at other countries who have updated their electoral system, or new democracies who have to adopt a brand new democratic system, we see that in the last 70 years almost every one has chosen some

form of Proportional Representation. (India would be the exception to that statement, where high levels of illiteracy, and concerns about stability in a developing country meant that they chose FPTP.) Over 80% of all OECD countries use some version of PR and according to the United Nations list of the most livable countries, the top 6 use P.R. We are using an antiquated system which may have been well suited to the 19th century, but has increasingly little relevance to our modern world.

“Before I get into my own assessment of the various options on our proposed plebiscite question, I want to address a concern which has been stated in several places since the release of our report – that Islanders won’t be able to comprehend this vast array of systems and make an informed, intelligent choice, and that voters won’t be able to comprehend a different voting system. But people are not baffled in Belgium (where the first PR system was installed in 1899 when they recognized that the emergence of a third party was going to render the FPTP system obsolete), people are not confused in Croatia, perplexed in Pakistan, rattled in Romania, or stunned in Scotland – all places that use Proportional Representation. Islanders are brighter than some of our political pundits suggest.

“Another general comment, which hasn’t really been given the prominence that I believe it deserves. Many people feel that how we elect our representatives is a trivial matter: that it doesn’t really have any consequence beyond the mechanics of how and where we place our X on a ballot paper once every four years or so. Nothing could be further from the truth. How we elect our representatives has a profound impact on governance at many levels. It not only impacts the number of people from each party, but it colours how decisions are made, how collaboratively or antagonistically various factions in the parliament behave, what diversity of opinion is considered in decision making, and on and on. A bit like a major financial decision that we may make – we buy a new car, for example, and it’s over with the stroke of a pen, but the effect of it impacts our lives every day, money not available for other things, stresses of monthly payments, associated costs of insurance, repairs and gas. The cascade of effects impacts our behaviour for years.

“In an ongoing effort to keep things simple in debating the merits of the various systems before us, I will break them down into two groups – in one group, the systems which will result in a legislature that accurately reflects the voting intentions of Islanders, in the other group, the systems which do not attempt to do that. In our travels across the Island, we heard from hundreds of people. The vast majority of them were advocating for some form of proportional voting system, but some were satisfied with what we have. “If it ain’t broke don’t fix it” was a phrase I heard at least twice. That obviously assumes that things ain’t broke, a supposition with which I don’t agree. Personally, I can see a multitude of ways in which our current system is broken, but paramount is the fact that following an election, the legislature does not reflect the voting intentions of Islanders. Let’s look at the most recent election as an example. We have a solid majority government, holding 67% of the seats, but only 40 % of Islanders voted for them. This situation is, unfortunately, not the exception. It is the rule. Our most recent federal election saw a majority government elected with less than [sic] 40% of the popular vote, and the previous administration was similarly a majority government elected by 39% of the vote. This is not a trivial matter. The core principal of democracy is rule by the majority, but here we have 3 recent examples (and we could look back in history and find hundreds more) where in our legislature we have rule – and absolute, incontestable authority – by the minority. How would Islanders feel if a piece of legislation came before the House which was supported by only 40% of the members, but it passed? That would be rule by the minority over the majority. I have a feeling there would be an outcry. Another acutely detrimental aspect of first-past-the-post is that it can (and often does) result in a legislature with virtually no opposition. Twice in living memory on PEI our official opposition has been reduced to one person – how can that possibly serve democracy well? Most democracies do not endure these sorts of anomalies. Most democracies have an electoral system where the number of seats each party holds in the House accurately and correctly represents their share of the vote. We could call this type of system accurate representation, or correct representation, but it is more commonly

known as proportional representation. Of course, if a party were to receive 60% of the vote in a proportional system, they would deserve, and be granted a majority government. However, if a party received only 40% of the vote, they would have 40% of the seats in the House – not enough to form a majority government. In a situation like this, some form of collaboration would be necessary to govern and make decisions. Some people are not fans of minority governments. There is a fear of instability and stasis, of an unworkable situation arising. Firstly, I would like to point out the formidable work done by a particular administration in Canada. Lester Pearson’s government introduced universal health care, student loans, the Canada Pension Plan, the Order of Canada, and the new Canadian flag, all brought in by a Liberal minority government. That doesn’t strike me as an ineffective administration. Another frequently cited concern about minority governments is their instability. Look at Italy and Israel the doomsayers lament. They have elections every year or so: the expense, the chaos, the waste. Not so. There have been fewer elections in Italy than in Canada since 1990. So minority coalitions work, and are stable, and provide good government.

“And while we are dispelling some of the myths about the imagined problems of minority governments, it is also worth pointing out the potential problems of majority governments. One insightful comment I heard during the public engagement process was that our current system has resulted in the ping-pong politics that has ensured that the two old parties will have 100% of the power 50% of the time. Having uncontested power means that a governing party can do whatever it wishes, and when there are few or no checks on authority, abuses of power are more inclined to happen.

“I don’t mean to suggest that if we adopt proportional representation that suddenly we will embark on an era of blissful, problem-free governance. As Winston Churchill famously said, democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried from time to time. No system can overcome the inherent complexities and shortcomings of democracy, but some make things better.

“By ‘better’ what do I mean? I would like to focus on what I think are elements of an excellent electoral system:

“That the legislature reflects the wishes of the electorate

“That it also reflect the diversity of the Island community

“That it promote collaborative behaviour amongst elected member

“That it minimize the opportunities for the abuse of power

“That it be designed for the particular situation on PEI

“Let’s look at each of these characteristics in turn.

“First, that the legislature reflects the wishes of the electorate. A proportional system will do this, but FPTP, Preferential Ballot and FPTP plus leaders do not. If you feel as I do, that accurate, correct, proper, or proportional representation is important, then you should choose either MMP or DMP. If you are OK with rule by the minority over the majority, ineffective opposition and lopsided legislatures, then any of the other options will work fine.

“When it comes to representing a range of opinions, proportional systems have shown to create legislatures with a greater diversity of voices. If you feel as I do, that this is important, then you should choose either MMP or DMP. If you are okay with a legislature dominated by old, white men, then any of the other options will work fine.

“If you prefer a legislature where the members of all sides are encouraged to work together, to seek compromise and collaborate on issues, then you should choose a proportional system. If you are OK with a legislature that is fractious and less constructive than it should be, then any of the other options will work fine.

“If you are concerned about the potential for corruption and abuse of power, and worry about giving 100% of the uncontested authority to one party, then you should choose a proportional system. If you are OK

with the status quo, then any of the other options will work fine.

“If you would like a modern system used in virtually all new democracies, and that is custom designed to optimize governance on PEI then you should choose either MMP or DMP. If you are OK with a system designed over 200 years ago and which has been abandoned by almost all democracies, then stick with FPTP.

“To conclude, I want to reiterate my thanks to my colleagues on the Special Committee for their work and for the collaborative, open, and respectful environment in which this important work took place. I hope that we will all continue this invigorating discussion on electoral reform with all Islanders in the lead up to the plebiscite this fall.”

That concludes the hon. Leader of the Third Party’s remarks, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to reiterate and thank all of the members in the gallery that participated in this process, and to thank the hon. Leader’s wife for bringing his remarks here today in what I’m sure is a tough time for their family.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

I will now call on the seconder of the committee report to speak to the report.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I’d like to thank the committee for their work. We didn’t always agree but we always came to a consensus. It was a great committee to be a part of. I’d like to thank the staff for their support, especially the clerk, Marian, JoAnne Holden, and our great audio-visual team.

I’d like to thank the members of the public who presented to our committee over the past number of months including many of those that are here in the gallery today. I’d like to make specific mention of course to Marie Burge who comes from the wonderful district of District 7 and is a great community advocate in our area.

I encourage all the MLAs to push out the information that's going to be coming out about the education process to their districts over the coming months.

I look forward to seeing the benefits of having 16, 17-year-olds vote in this plebiscite, and exploring the possibility of a voting system that combines our current in-person voting with an online and phone voting system.

I learned a lot in this process and I'm confident Islanders will get involved and learn about the positives and negatives of each option.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to second this motion.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I really wasn't planning to rise today to comment on this report, but after hearing the comments from the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton and the Leader of the Third Party I really felt I had to respond because I do have some concerns.

My first one is that this is a plebiscite versus a referendum. We have to be really aware that in fact, with a plebiscite, the results are not binding. The government can do what they like.

My second concern that goes along with that is that the Premier has publicly stated that he's prejudiced against some options. So you combine that with the plebiscite and I'm not sure if all of the substantial work that has gone into it is going to show through in the result.

The third thing is, and again building on those two points, going with the ballot that they decided on with the five options, I am concerned that that is not going to provide a clear result, and that will indeed allow this government and the Premier to choose the result that they feel is best based on their

own needs, not on what Islanders have told them.

These are my concerns and they're very serious ones. I really felt that with the amount of time and effort and work that the committee, as well as so many people across the Island, put into this they should have been able to use that information to narrow it down to two or possibly three options.

Voicing my own opinion, I really feel that the two options or three should be the current system first-past-the-post or some sort of proportional representation. I personally don't like the mixed member proportional system because it creates two different tiers of MLAs with two different sets of responsibilities that don't at all match up with what we've seen over the last 150 years, and I don't know how that would play out.

I really like the dual member proportional system because I think it will provide representation across the province and it will do that where every member is accountable to specific constituents within a specific district.

Combined with those concerns, I'm really worried that the result of this plebiscite will be firmly in the control of this government and the Premier and will not represent, in fact, the result that Islanders want, and instead of being a board game – as the Member from Charlottetown-Brighton says – of Snakes and Ladders, I think it's going to be more like a game of Mousetrap that probably ends up being a game of Sorry!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Shall the report of the committee carry? Carried.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Speaker?

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I beg your indulgence for a second, Mr. Speaker.

I want to recognize two individuals that came into the House a minute ago, and their relation to our Page, Ethan Craig. I'd like to recognize his mother and his grandmother

who have joined us today in the back of the gallery, Linda Craig and Gail Dennis.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, that the 25th order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 25, *Private Schools Act*, Bill No. 13, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *Private Schools Act*, Bill No. 13, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now call on the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to Chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Casey):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *Private Schools Act*. Is it the pleasure of the

committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**Mr. Trivers:** An overview, please.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Do you want to bring somebody on the floor?

**Mr. Currie:** I'd like to bring Blair Barbour on. (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Great. Permission to bring a strange to the floor?

**Mr. Trivers:** Granted.

**Chair:** Let's just wait until he gets seated and identifies himself.

Good morning. Could you please identify yourself for the record?

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Yes. Blair Barbour, Legislation and Planning Coordinator.

**Chair:** Welcome, Blair.

Minister, could you give an overview?

**Mr. Currie:** Yeah. The new *Private Schools Act* clarifies the roles. The minister has the responsibility to provide public information for the Province of Prince Edward Island, so the new *Private Schools Act* clarifies these roles and puts the health and safety of children as government's top priority when it comes to regulating private schools.

Existing private schools have been consulted on the new act and they support these changes. Through the act, government's role is to ensure all private school operators comply with the requirements for health and safety, instructional qualifications, and provide enrollment information to the province.

The new act also ensures that all instructors, educators, at private schools provide a current criminal record check and vulnerable sector search and empowers environmental health (Indistinct) to conduct inspections of private schools.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Yes. I'm just reading the explanatory notes as well, as opposed to going through the act clause by clause. I just wanted to be clear that there's no public money in the form of grants that are given to private schools under this act.

**Mr. Currie:** No.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Also, just wondering if you could give a summary of the supports that are given to private schools from the Island taxpayers.

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Sure. Currently, what we do is we invite private schools to participate in continuing professional development for their instructors when we provide that training to the public sector.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** I notice as well that in the explanatory notes section 14, the minister is authorized to provide "... textbooks to the operator of a private school for the use of students, and to charge a deposit in an amount determined by the Minister or a prescribed fee for the textbooks."

Can you walk through an example of how that would work?

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Sure. What could happen – I don't believe it happens now, but a private school could request a set of classroom books for a particular course. We have an inventory of books for different subjects. If they did decide to do that and we had the books available to them, we could lend them to the private school operator for a deposit or for a prescribed fee.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** In the future I really see online courses and Internet-based courses playing a role, and I was wondering if you would consider extending the public school license

to private schools in the future, and if that consideration is actually – is that authority given to the minister by this act?

**Mr. Currie:** That would depend on the license provider, but it's something we would look at. We're going to be very aggressive in looking at, particularly, courses and opportunities, particularly for high school students, possibly online, for more focus on entrepreneurship and sort of those co-op on-site training (Indistinct).

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** My concern is that the act doesn't specifically address that because it says textbooks specifically. I'm worried that in the future it won't be possible based on the legislation to actually extend those licenses so I wanted to bring up that comment.

I don't have an amendment to make to the act, but I just wanted to bring that up for the record.

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Sure, you're correct. Currently the provision deal with textbooks and it authorizes us to lend out the materials and to charge a fee for it. If there's an electronic program or a distance education program we could look at the possibilities, but my sense is that it would rely more on the licensing agreement with the provider than it would on the legislation.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Again, I just wanted to bring this up for the record because we talked about it in the briefing of the *Education Act*, but if there are – for example, there are many Amish families moving to the Island now. Any schools that they have – I just wanted to clarify, they are not covered under the private schools act at this point. There are no plans for that? They will be covered under the home schooling clauses?

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Currently we don't have any applications for an Amish private school so they would be subject to the provisions of the *Education Act* which do allow for home education programs. What we have counseled parents, Amish and

other groups, is if they choose to opt out of the public system they have the option of home education.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** For example, the Buddhist monks that are in Eastern Prince Edward Island, their school, would that be covered under a private school act or home schooling?

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** They currently have a private school that is regulated under the *School Act*. Under the terms of this act their license would carry over under the *Private Schools Act* subject to any terms or conditions on their license.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Chair.

I just have a quick question. Seeing as we have two acts that kind of cover education with the private one, and we have the public one, we also have an overarching issue which would be inclusion. The inclusive piece – and where we fit with the UN convention for people with disabilities – will you be bringing forward legislation that will legislate an inclusive model overarching to the two systems that you have acts on the floor for?

**Mr. Currie:** We have a very inclusive model in the Province of Prince Edward Island and we have a very supportive inclusive model for public education (Indistinct) comment on the question.

**Blair Barbour Coordinator:** Sure. Private schools are private organizations and we don't prescribe their curriculum. We don't prescribe how they operate. They would be subject to human rights legislation that wouldn't allow them to discriminate against the disabled, but generally speaking, the content of their program, how they deliver that program, the model we have allows them to determine that, subject to laws of general application.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay, I think I'm a step above this legislation. Notwithstanding the fact that I'm talking about an overarching piece because this legislation is going to cover them and the other piece of legislation – there's a tie-over piece for it so you have an inclusive model. You have the minister's directive that stated in 2001 – that's the last time anything has been talked about for your inclusive model. While there may be an inclusive model from government to government, how do you ensure through legislation that you're meeting the UN convention on people with disabilities? I guess that's all I'm really asking, is that you make sure –

**Mr. Currie:** Well no, it's –

**Mr. Myers:** You're not complying, I don't think, now.

**Mr. Currie:** You're right, it's been since 2001. In my mandate letter which has been directed from the Premier one of my responsibilities will be to look and review the whole division of student services which overarches the entire inclusive model.

Just recently we had some very good conversation with the director of student services because we're seeing – not only are we seeing changes in the public school system, but we're seeing the rise of instances in children with unique needs and how we respond to their needs in the classroom that work will be – there will be a focus on that work and that could mean another level of amendments to the current legislation.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Currie:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *Private Schools Act*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Currie:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of

the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Currie:** Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair, and the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Private Schools Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the 10<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 10, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, Bill No. 8, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, Bill No. 8, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now ask the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to Chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Casey):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**Mr. Trivers:** An overview (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Premier, an overview of the bill.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

Let me acknowledge that Dr. Des Colohan is in the gallery if we need to invite him to the floor. But I'll offer an overview.

This is an amendment to enable the chief coroner to appoint field investigators. This will ensure stable coverage and timely response to calls for service. We've heard from constituents or community members who have had concerns where a sudden death might occur at home or in a situation where it may take a while for the coroner to come under the current provisions, the chief coroner or deputy coroner. By appointing the field investigators that will enable a more timely response.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you, Chair.

Premier, can you just expand a little bit on the field investigators, who they may be?

**Premier MacLauchlan:** In that case, I'm going to – may I invite a stranger to the floor?

**Chair:** Permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

**Mr. Aylward:** Granted.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Good morning. I'd ask you to introduce yourself and your title for the record.



**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** I'm Desmond Colohan. I'm the chief coroner for the province of PEI.

**Ms. Casey:** Welcome.

The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, you had a question.

**Mr. Perry:** Sure. Just regarding the appointment of field investigators, where, or who, may those people be?

**Ms. Casey:** Dr. Colohan.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** It's planned that field investigators – I'm going to back up just a second.

**Mr. Perry:** Sure.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** Under the current coroner system on Prince Edward Island, all death investigations are done by physicians who are appointed as coroners to the province, and we work under the aegis under the department of justice.

Under this proposal we are looking at a model that is more similar to the Nova Scotia model, which uses both medical examiners, who are forensic pathologists, specialists in death investigation, including doing autopsies and other investigations of unexplained deaths.

They employ active paramedics who are trained to the critical care level, and critical care nurses, in a role that has them become the first responders to requests for investigation of what has been deemed by somebody a coroner's case.

Because we're having great difficulty maintaining the number of physicians who are prepared to act as coroners in this province, we've been looking at other ways to do more comprehensive and effective death investigations by employing people with similar backgrounds with similar expectations. They would do the initial investigations, including investigations on the scene which – as has been mentioned earlier – would probably speed up the process of moving deceased persons from stressful situations by speeding up the investigation response times.

But they would be working under the jurisdiction of a medical coroner who would then make decisions, in consultation with the field investigator, on whether further investigations were necessary such as autopsies or, down the road, inquests.

**Chair:** Thank you.

The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

**Mr. Perry:** So, just to confirm, this amendment will ensure a more timely response and better coverage.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** That's the effort we're trying to undertake. Yes.

**Mr. Perry:** Thank you.

**Chair:** Thank you.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

It's my understanding that, from time to time, medical coroners may be called into courts of law to testify for various reasons.

I was wondering if this act makes it legally able for field investigators to fill that role as well.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** I don't think it's specified.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** It's not specified in the act. You can always call someone as a witness. But you wouldn't be calling them under this legislation.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** I guess – and not knowing, not being a lawyer, knowing the law very well – if a field investigator was the one who had done the initial death investigations, and they were called into a court of law to testify because it was required for the initial investigations, would their opinion hold the same weight in a court of law as a medical coroner? Or is this a potential issue that you could run into, do you think?

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I think any time a witness shows up in court the evidence that they give only goes as far as their professional expertise.

In the case of the coroner, the coroner goes to court under a different authority under the legislation.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

Just one quick question. Maybe it's a suggestion.

I know in the past, if I look back into policing 20 years ago, minister, the police department would be called to a death, we'd go and we would assess the situation around it, and we would make a recommendation to the coroner whether the coroner should actually attend based on what we'd seen. Now, in the last little while I think we've gotten away from that.

I almost have to wonder if we shouldn't get back into that practice. Because sometimes there is really no need for the coroner to attend, but resources are tied up securing the scene and watching for a coroner to arrive.

I'm curious about your thoughts on that.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** My experience as a coroner in this province is that when I was contacted about a scene which the police had concerns about medical/legal aspects of the case, they would always request and I would accede to the request from the police to attend the scene.

What would happen under the new system would be that the initial conversation would be between the field investigator and the police on the scene.

The field investigators would be more accessible possibly than coroners would be, if we could distribute them appropriately, so that you don't get the phenomenon of a

coroner in Alberton having to respond to a call in Kensington –

**Leader of the Opposition:** Exactly.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** – in the middle of the winter, particularly.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yes.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** Or other inclement weather situations. So the attempt is to expand the team to allow for more flexibility.

**Leader of the Opposition:** That's my point, then.

**Dr. Desmond Colohan Chief Coroner:** While respecting the requests from field investigators in the other professions.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yes. Okay. Thank you very much.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton, did you have a question?

**Mr. J. Brown:** I can offer a very brief clarification for the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald's comments.

There is an expert witness before the court which, probably, a coroner or anybody who would be certified pursuant to this act would probably be, or would be considered to have some expertise in that area, and would have to be qualified as that, would have a heightened ability to express what's called opinion evidence before the court.

So there is a bit of a different ability there, and their evidence is treated differently by the court than a normal person.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Shall the bill carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the 9<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, Bill No. 7, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, Bill No. 7, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that

this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll, once again, ask the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Casey):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend to Marriage Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**Premier MacLauchlan:** May I have the permission to invite a stranger to the floor?

**Chair:** Permission for a stranger to come on the floor.

**An Hon. Member:** Granted.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Good afternoon. Would you please introduce yourself and your title for the record?

**Adam Peters Director:** Adam Peters, director of Vital Statistics.

**Chair:** Welcome, Adam.

Premier, would you like to give an overview of the bill?

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

When these bills were introduced on first reading, I had them in the opposite order; marriage came first and then the coroner. Now we're coming at them in the opposite order.

The main reason that this bill is coming forward is that it will end the exceptions to the rule, which is currently the case in federal law, that one must be 16 years of age to marry. That's to say there is – in section 17 of the current *Marriage Act*, there are some antiquated provisions that no one under 16 could get married unless they're pregnant, or a woman who is pregnant or has had a child. In any case we're sort of

catching up with the times so that with this change no one under 16 would be permitted to marry.

In the process, there has been a tidying up of language, for example, around gender neutrality, clarification, simplification around licensing of marriage commissioners, as well as updating the process for issuing licences to marriage commissioners.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair, and the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, that the 29<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 29, *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act*, Bill No. 31, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act*, Bill No. 31, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now ask the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Sherry):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**An Hon. Member:** An overview.

**Chair:** An overview.

**Mr. Henderson:** Basically, this is to allow the minister of health to appoint representatives of Health PEI to do investigations and do an analysis of narcotics that are prescribed and who is prescribing them and reviewing that.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Basically, minister, are we talking all the narcotics here that are prescribed by a physician or a pharmacist?

**Mr. Henderson:** I'll ask a stranger to come forward to clarify this.

**Chair:** Permission to have a stranger come on the floor?

**An Hon. Member:** Granted.

**Chair:** I'll just ask you to identify yourself and your position for the public record.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** Nichola Hewitt, solicitor and legislative specialist with the Department of Health and Wellness.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

The question is: I take it this *Narcotic Safety and Awareness Act* basically deals with all narcotics that are prescribed by a doctor or a pharmacist or whoever that is authorized to do that?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** They deal with narcotics that are prescribed by physicians. Pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** Narcotics that are prescribed by a physician and dispensed by a pharmacist.

What the act allows us to do is track all of the prescribing and all of the dispensing. Of course, I could go get a prescription but not necessarily have it filled, right? That's why we track it from both sides.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

Going into that tracking, is every doctor, or is every hospital, linked to see what anybody could be prescribing? If I'm Dr. X, so how do we know?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** This information is tracked through the drug information system, which is what we were talking about the other night when we were talking about the amendments to the *Health Information Act*.

The drug information system is the system, which tracks all drugs, not just narcotics, so all prescribing – sorry, all dispensing. So we can go in and mine – first of all, the people who have access to it is the government, Health PEI, retail pharmacies have access to it because, of course, every time they go to dispense a drug they have to populate fields, and some physicians' offices are hooked up to it. Not all of them.

The purpose of the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* is to allow the minister to run reports on prescribing. They may put in specific drug identification numbers, specific names, whatever, and just try and – the purpose of this amendment is – Health PEI is really the one that has the ability to do this more so than the minister's office.

**Leader of the Opposition:** One question, final question.

When the pharmacist takes a prescription and enters it into the system that he or she is dispensing that drug, is there any way that somebody could go in and – get a double prescription, basically?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** What happens is when a pharmacist – you have to bear in mind this is just because I've been advised, I've never used it –

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** So when a pharmacist goes to dispense a drug, so they pull up my name, they will see the last number of dispenses, they'll see where they've been dispensed from, who's prescribed them. The system, I believe, will flag if I go to one pharmacy one day and get 30 Oxycodone, and then I'm going to another pharmacy the next day, it will flag that.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** Bear in mind, I don't know this firsthand, but that's my understanding of the system.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

I'm going to give you an example. I have a constituent who has been prescribed drugs that are on the formulary, by their doctor, of course, who's a Health PEI employee. But the department of health pharmacists are saying there are conditions attached to those drugs on a formulary, they're only for acute care, so short term use, or they require a referral from a pain specialist, this sort of thing. Would this delegation of the minister's powers and functions allow that doctor to override that decision?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** This delegation – the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* has a very narrow focus and it allows the minister to gather information about prescribing and dispensing practices with respect to narcotics only. Okay? It's just a very narrow focus. It doesn't necessarily have anything to do with what may or may not be on the formulary, so that really doesn't play into it.

**Mr. Trivers:** All right, thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee

has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health & Wellness, that the 33<sup>rd</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 33, *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 33, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health & Wellness, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 33, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health & Wellness, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now once again call on the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot to Chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Sherry):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**An Hon. Member:** An overview, Chair.

**Chair:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Henderson:** I'll probably bring –

**Chair:** Permission to bring a stranger on the floor?

**Mr. Henderson:** – a stranger onto the floor.

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Mr. Henderson:** Anyway, this –

**Mr. Myers:** Not much of a stranger.

**Mr. Henderson:** I guess not anymore.

Ultimately this bill is to allow the minister to appoint (Indistinct) representatives of Health PEI to be on the audit committee.

**Chair:** I'll just ask you to identify yourself and your position for the public record.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** Nichola Hewitt, solicitor and legislative specialist with the Department of Health and Wellness.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Go ahead.

**Mr. Henderson:** So ultimately it's just to allow Health PEI to appoint representatives of Health PEI or allow the minister to appoint representatives of Health PEI instead of the audit committee to review any audits that physicians have for compensation for their services that they render.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Minister, who decides who – you decide, I guess, but what are the qualifications that would be required for that?

**Mr. Henderson:** Maybe I'll let Nichola answer that more specifically.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** This amendment actually gives the minister authority to delegate certain responsibilities that he's given under the act to Health PEI. One of those is to oversee the claims

process. When you and I go in to see our physicians there's a claim that goes in. They're automatically submitted. Some of them are flagged for a second review. Again, this is what I understand since I've never seen it firsthand.

In the regulations there's something called the Health Services Payment Advisory Committee that is set up to review these claims. The composition of that committee right now is five physicians that will review these claims. So that's the criteria for it.

**Mr. MacKay:** Final question, Chair.

So am I right in saying the minister can override a decision?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** No.

**Mr. MacKay:** No?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** No.

**Mr. MacKay:** Okay. Thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

Sorry, the hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thanks. What do other provinces do in terms of auditing of claims?

**Mr. Henderson:** (Indistinct).

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** They have similar provisions to what we have. Like other jurisdictions, we have health authorities that are charged with the responsibility of adjudicating claims and running operations. Nova Scotia's one example. They've got health authorities that run the hospitals, adjudicate any claims that are put in, and so we're no different than anybody else.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Do you also audit shadow billing?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** Yeah, there are audits for everything.

**Mr. R. Brown:** And if you find something do you pass it over to the Auditor General or what's the process then?

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** I'd have to refresh myself and look at the regulations to see what the committee is authorized to do with respect to their findings. If I remember correctly I believe they make recommendations to both Health PEI and the minister.

**Mr. R. Brown:** And then the minister and Health PEI deals with it.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** I think it's the minister and/or health – well, ultimately the minister is responsible, right? Because it's our legislation. So there would be a decision made now. Right now there are negotiations underway for a new Master Agreement. They may build something in there for some kind of a dispute resolution mechanism.

**Mr. Henderson:** It might be noted, too, that we have discussed this with the medical society already and they have agreed to this.

**Nichola Hewitt Legislative Specialist:** They have approved all this, yeah.

**Mr. Henderson:** Just so you know.

**Mr. R. Brown:** That's good of them.

**Chair:** Shall the bill carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act (No. 2).*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Henderson:** Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act (No. 2)*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, that the 1<sup>st</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No.1, Consideration of the Estimates, in Committee.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now ask the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche to Chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Gallant):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to further consider the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

We were on page 139, the Auditor General.

Is it the wish of the committee I read the estimates clause by clause?

**Mr. Aylward:** An overview.

**Chair:** Overview, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Watts:** Okay. The budget estimates for the Office of the Auditor General.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



Now, I'm here due to the fact that, as Speaker, I am Chair of the standing committee on the legislative audit. This committee, of course, is comprised of the Minister of Finance, the Leader of the Opposition. We, of course, all received the budget of the Office of the Auditor General and subsequently approved it.

The committee exists to ensure the independence of the Office of the Auditor General and to reflect the fact that the Auditor General is a statutory officer of the Legislative Assembly accountable to this House, and is not an officer of government.

With that, hon. members, I will admit that I was not intimately involved in the development of the budget. If there are any detail questions, I will ask to bring a stranger.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I have a couple quick questions, Mr. Chair.

**Some Hon. Members:** Stranger.

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Welcome. Could you please state your name and position for the Hansard?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** Barbara Waite, audit director.

**Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Waite.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

Just curious. How many files are we currently investigating or looking into?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** We normally do four value for money audit reports a year, but in addition to that we have quite a number of financial statement audits. We're divided into two teams and we basically carry out all of them. A number of those financial statement audits are statutory, and then there are other ones where we are named.

Then, in addition, we do the consolidated financial statements of the province.

**Leader of the Opposition:** The last part, again?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** The consolidated financial statements of the province. We do the financial audit for that as well.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Are you finding that the time allotted to do this reporting is enough?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** It's a matter of balancing our resources. There are certain dates that we have to meet, and deadlines, particularly for the financial statement audits. Sometimes we have to acquire staff under contract in order to meet those.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Do you have to go out for contract on much?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** It's part of our – it depends on the situation. We do have a contract line item in our budget and part of that is used for financial statement audit.

**Leader of the Opposition:** When you have to do that, is that by a tendering process?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** Yes. Normally, we would go out to the local firms and we'd do quotations and –

**Leader of the Opposition:** Final question. How many staff in total do you have?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** We have 19.4 FTEs and one position is vacant. It's a student auditor position.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you.

You can carry the (Indistinct) –

**Mr. Aylward:** Sorry, Chair. Question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you.

I didn't catch it. How many FTEs?

**Barbara Waite Audit Director:** 19.4, including the Auditor General.

**Mr. Aylward:** Okay. Thank you.

**Chair:** All right.

Administration

Total Administration: 2,028,800.

Total Auditor General: 2,028,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

At this time, I'd like to bring on the Minister of Finance.

**Chair:** Would you like to bring on a stranger?

**Mr. Roach:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Permission to bring on a stranger?

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Hi. Welcome.

Could you just introduce yourself and your position for the Hansard, please?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Sure. Vicki Hamilton, CFO for the Department of Finance.

**Chair:** Do you have handouts (Indistinct)?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Yes.

**Chair:** There will be some handouts. Would you like an overview while we're being – okay. Minister, could you give a brief overview?

**Mr. Roach:** The finance ministry is to ensure that the financial, information technology, and human resources required by government are available and allocated in accordance with the government priorities, and used in an efficient and accountable way. The ministry provides administrative, analytical and policy support, as well, to Treasury Board.

**Chair:** Is it the wish of the committee we read sections individually?

**An Hon. Member:** Just the bottom lines.

**Chair:** Just the bottom lines. Okay.

**Mr. Trivers:** Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** I was wondering if you have any handouts that first, in general, and also that might break down the total revenue.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, we don't have any handouts related to – the revenue is detailed in the estimate pages within the book.

**Mr. Trivers:** Is it? Okay.

**Chair:** Okay, hon. member?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** If you have a specific question –

**Mr. Trivers:** I was just wondering, because normally the revenue is designated by brackets around the numbers. But in this case –

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Actually, there are several pages of revenue. I believe starting on page 9, perhaps, in the estimate book.

**Mr. Trivers:** Page 89?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, page 9. In the front of the estimate book there are details on revenue.

**Mr. Trivers:** Oh, this is why. Perfect. Okay. Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

Minister, when Cabinet was deciding on whether or not to increase the HST was there any thought given to a more open consultation process?

**Mr. Roach:** During the budget process I don't recall exactly how many public meetings we had, but we travelled across the province. We met with a number of Islanders and that was discussed at those meetings. We also invited all Islanders to write a letter or to send an email or make a presentation over the Internet. We also invited businesses and organizations to

make representation with respect to the Budget. We spent roughly, I guess, probably about a month and a half travelling across PEI doing those public consultations.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid. Question.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, minister.

I do remember the meetings. I actually spoke to a few people that were at them and they said they were good, that you guys were very open to hearing their concerns.

I know that budget process happens every year, which is great. But I was also wondering: With a significant decision like raising the HST, was there any thought to saying specific consultations about raising the HST? Or even, for that matter, decreasing it.

**Mr. Roach:** Those meetings were open for any discussion.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Question.

**Mr. Roach:** And that –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. Roach:** Not only to do with that, but any other part of the Budget. Whether it's health expenditures or whether it's education, we accepted presentation, representation, on all of those.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

Minister, would you be open – if your government is considering raising the HST once more – I know we went to it once and now we've increased it. If you were considering raising it again, would you be open to having actually public consultation on just raising or lowering the HST?

**Mr. Roach:** I think as was the case, and is the case every year, when we have those

public consultations that's open to discuss anything. But to have something special, then we move to something special in another area, whether it's hospitals or anything else. We keep the meeting open for all discussion.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Good. Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Just one question, minister. When you were on your travels and consultations over the Budget, when the HST was brought up, I guess, who was in favour of it at some of these meetings?

**Mr. Roach:** We had a number of individuals who expressed interest in favour of it, and then they followed that by why they – I mean, people are entitled to their opinions, and I don't want to name any specific person either way, either for or against it.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Chair.

I'm just going through the handouts here. I have the professional and contract services and I'm looking at, under economic statistics and federal fiscal relations, there is a consultant for PEI input-output model update. Can you explain to me what that might be?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** That was Canmac Economics. It's just information that our economics division uses for – just as far as statistics are related. I can get you more details on what input-output model means.

**Ms. Compton:** I would appreciate that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Could you table the study on household spending that you paid 2,300 for?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I can look into that.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you.

**Chair:** Okay?

Page 78.

Administration

General –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I didn't hear the answer to last question, was it yes?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I can look into it, I'm not sure if it's an actual report, or if it's just data that we receive. It may be raw data, I'm not sure.

**Mr. Myers:** If you table it, I could use raw data, too.

**Chair:** Okay?

Administration

General

Total General: 465,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Debt and Investment Management

Total Debt and Investment Management: 566,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Pensions and Benefits

Total Pensions and Benefits: 1,267,900.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Municipal Grants

Total Municipal Grants: 22,516,000.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Does the municipal funding report handout give a complete list of grants for municipalities?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** All the grants that the Department of Finance is responsible for, yes.

**Mr. Trivers:** I'm just looking down the list. There are municipalities that exist that aren't on the grant list and I was wondering why that would be. Do not all of the municipalities get grants? Honestly, maybe I just can't see – I'm looking for North Rustico here. Where is that?

**Mr. R. Brown:** (Indistinct) Charlottetown (Indistinct).

**Mr. Roach:** I think there are a lot of communities that if you read through it – I mean, we have so many small communities, hamlets, places that have a name, you know, I'll give you an example. Up in St. Peters area you have five houses, there are all kinds of small communities that have names, that would be in an unincorporated area that wouldn't necessarily get a grant.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** How do you determine who gets these grants?

**Mr. Roach:** There is a formula that is used by the department when it comes to grants and that is what we have been talking about with the communities recently is this fall we're moving from a tax credit form of a grant – we've been moving to the tax credit from a grant. That way there will be more predictability within a community as growth happens within the community and they will see that increase as their community grows.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Once again, maybe you can clarify for me, but why would North Rustico not have received a grant and be on the municipal funding report?

**Mr. Roach:** It has to do with whether they're incorporated or not and whether they provide services or not. If there are no services provided then the province is doing – whether it's all the snowplowing or snow removal or paving or all that stuff, and the community doesn't have a responsibility

there – an unincorporated area – and that’s what would take place.

I’ll follow up with staff and if I can find more detail on that I would be happy to bring that back to you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** So just for the record, North Rustico is a town. They provide sewer and water services among many others and I’m just – I’m really looking forward to finding out why it would not be on the municipal funding report handout.

**Mr. Roach:** I’ll look into that and provide you with that answer.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

**Chair:** Total Municipal Grants: 22,516,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Administration: 24,815,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Economics, Statistics & Federal Fiscal Relations

Economics, Statistics & Federal Fiscal Relations

Total Economics, Statistics & Federal Fiscal Relations: 8,628,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Office of the Comptroller

Comptroller/Accounting

Total Comptroller/Accounting: 1,180,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Procurement

Total Procurement: 286,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Office of the Comptroller: 1,467,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Taxation and Property Records

Administration

Total Administration: 3,982,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Taxation and Property Records: 3,982,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Department of Finance

Treasury Board Secretariat

Administration

Total Administration: 426,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Fiscal Management

Total Fiscal Management: 383,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Risk Management and Insurance

Total Risk Management and Insurance: 275,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Corporate Finance

Total Corporate Finance: 5,118,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Information Technology Shared Services

Total Information Technology Shared Services: 27,275,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Chair.

The Windows 7 upgrade that was just completed. Obviously Windows 7 is two versions of Windows behind now, the newest version is Windows 10, which is

offered free by Microsoft until July 7<sup>th</sup>, I believe, and then it's no longer going to be free and government's going to have to pay for it.

When government goes to upgrade to that they're going to incur a significant cost. Is there a plan for government to upgrade to Windows 10 before July 7<sup>th</sup> while it's still free?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** When we first started converting from XP to 7 that was the standard at the time, that is the name of the project, but as Windows 10 has come along we do have some systems that have already been converted to Windows 10. They are doing expanded testing with some of our large applications to determine whether they'll all work if it's Windows 10 versus Windows 7. There is a taskforce in place looking at that now.

As the Windows 7 computers reach end of life they will be replaced with Windows 10 or whatever version is on the market –

**Mr. Myers:** Right.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** – at that point in time.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** The professional services for install and support of Microsoft products is at nearly 11,000. Who does that and what products would they install?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** What number is that?

**Mr. Myers:** It's number 15 on the professional services, contract services.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** We did a review. It was with Softchoice Corporation and we did a review of all installed products across the entire enterprise to allow us to ensure that we had all appropriate licensing before there was an audit by Microsoft.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Chair.

What did that audit find?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I don't have the details on that. I think there may have been a few inconsistencies that we rectified, but I don't have any numbers on that.

**Mr. Myers:** Would you be able to table that report?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I can (Indistinct).

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Number 16, the workflow consulting services, what does that entail?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** When we were converting to active directory we had to do some work with the Queen's Printer because of their detailed complexity related to their printing setup. We had to have someone come in and ensure that proper drivers and whatnot were in place during that conversion.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay. Question?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Number 35 is miscellaneous small side projects. Could you give us a list of what was in that?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I don't have a breakdown of that number.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay. Question?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Number 39, the IT leaders access advisor, what exactly would that be?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** That's a subscription cost for access to (Indistinct) website. It provides government with high-level research and expert strategic advice in the area of IT.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Do we know if anyone reads it?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I believe that our IT staff do use it on a regular basis.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay. Question?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** I think that if you were looking for something of value – I'm not sure, because we're not even close to being up to date with the current trends in IT on any avenue. Windows 7 would be the simplest one I could point to, but there would be several others. It took us 10 years to get to active directory in the Microsoft network versus Novell when everybody and the advice that was given was: Let's go to something that's faster and simpler for the size of the network you're operating. I would question whether or not if they're reading it, they're digesting it and making decisions based on what's in it.

I don't notice in here any information on the health records in the health system. Is that in here?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** The health records system?

**Mr. Myers:** Yeah.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I believe that may be in Health PEI's budget.

**Mr. Myers:** It's in Health PEI's budget?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Yes.

**Mr. Myers:** Is the work done by IT Shared Services?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I'm not sure on that.

**Mr. Currie:** Health PEI has their own IT division.

**Mr. Myers:** Question?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** How many departments and agencies of government have opted to move to their own IT versus the shared services model which was introduced to reduce duplication of IT services across the province?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** We service all departments. Health does have some more resources, but we do service all departments and Crowns, as far as I'm aware.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Health is the only one that has their own IT people?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** We still support health, like our IT Shared Services does support health, but they do have some systems that they do have internal support for.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** So the type of internal support you would have on the major health system would be quite similar to the internal support that you would already have in place in IT Shared Services.

Just for the record, what's being done over there that is a duplication of services? While the bodies are probably needed, the work is identical so there must be a reason why they don't trust IT Shared Services to do the work. Is there any indication in why that trust isn't there?

**Mr. Currie:** There has been lots of discussion in respect to – I mean, a number of years ago a decision was made to allow Health PEI to have its own independent, sort of, stand on IT. You're very familiar with IT, probably more knowledgeable than I am because of your work experience, but there are conversations about sort of the value of a reintegration back in.

Health PEI does have its own IT division. They work closely with IT Shared Services, but I think it's more due to sort of the needs of IT in Health PEI compared to from a clinical perspective and personal records and so on.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** While on the seam of Health PEI, I see health financial system is in here as a separate line item still. We have 189,000 that we spend on the ongoing support of, I assume – what does it cost for the Department of Finance? Has your database support – I don't see where your own financial system is. What's the cost of your Oracle financial system on a yearly basis?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** For core government?

**Mr. Myers:** Yeah.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** That would be in –

**Mr. Currie:** Is that (Indistinct) government?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, that would be in materials and supplies.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** So we have –

**Chair:** Okay, hon. member?

**Mr. Myers:** No, I didn't get the answer yet.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** – the software license in maintenance for Oracle applications and databases for HIS, FIS taxation, Public Service Commission, transportation and development is approximately 1.9 million.

**Mr. Myers:** Question?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** It's 1.9 million? Has there been any significant thought given to the consolidation of financial systems?

I know when Scott Stevens was the comptroller it was on the docket year after year. But basically other than the chart of accounts is different – I understand the chart of accounts in health is different than the chart of accounts that government probably runs off it, but Oracle financials has the capability of having more than one set of

books under the main ledger. You could basically have health as a set of books. That way they could have their own chart of accounts.

Have there been thoughts to consolidate that so government doesn't have to pay such an exorbitant amount of money for their financial system?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** It has been looked at and you're correct. Health does use the national chart of accounts and we've moved to an enterprise license so we don't pay per user so it's based on a dollar amount. Therefore there's no significant savings from consolidating the two.

We have consolidated the school boards into those second and third tier categories so that they are within our one system, but it has been looked at and I have been advised that there are no significant savings from adding health.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Chair.

I'm just curious on these amounts out to the bond rating services. Could you just tell me what that basically encompasses or what's that?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Sure. We utilize three different bond raters: Moodys, Standard & Poor's, and Dominion Bond Rating Service to get the ratings for the province and that's standard year over year.

**Leader of the Opposition:** So we pay them to come in and give us what they feel and the information will be (Indistinct)?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Yeah.

**Leader of the Opposition:** The only other thing was: Was there any money paid out this year – the municipal funding (Indistinct) – was there any money paid out to the city of Summerside or Charlottetown for snowplow removal like we did last year?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, I don't think so. No.



**Leader of the Opposition:** With that, why were other towns that have to pay for snowplow removal excluded from getting any money in that?

**Mr. Roach:** I think in many of the other municipalities that the province – a lot of smaller ones, the province does the roads.

**Leader of the Opposition:** A prime example is Borden-Carleton. Borden-Carleton is responsible for various streets in the town they have to go to tender for, but yet they never received one cent from the province where Charlottetown or Summerside did. I think if we're going to do that, make that practice, we open the door, we must make sure that municipalities that do have streets that they contract out receive the same fairness that Summerside and Charlottetown receive.

Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

Along the line of the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, I was wondering how much you spend each year for the Microsoft Office suite? Just the software costs.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I don't have that number specifically, and as people, departments, request upgrades the cost of those upgrades are borne by each department. So those costs aren't reflected in our numbers.

**Mr. Trivers:** Have you –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Have you considered and done the cost benefit analysis of moving to a cloud-based model for the Office suite of products? You know, presentation, writing documents, spreadsheets. I know that Office 365 is being offered by Microsoft, includes email in the cloud, and of course Google Apps has a competing product suite. It just seems to me there could be some significant cost savings there. I was wondering if you'd looked at that or not.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** It's certainly been discussed, for sure. There are more and more applications that are moving to a web-based application versus an install. There hasn't been any decision on that yet but it certainly is being discussed within IT.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

**Chair:** Okay.

Total Information Technology Shared Services: 27,275,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Document Publishing Centre

Total Document Publishing Centre: 1,480,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Treasury Board Secretariat: 34,958,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Department Of Finance: 73,852,200.

Shall it carry?

**Mr. MacEwen:** Question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

Just before we finish up this department, and I know I have the ear of the Premier and some of the other ministers, there's been a number of requests to bring back information from a number of the ministers. I'm just wondering if we could have a commitment to bring that stuff back even if the Legislature happens to be closed in the near future.

**Mr. Roach:** Yes. We note each one that comes through and we note it for response.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Much appreciated. Thank you.

**Chair:** Total Department Of Finance: 73,852,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, hon. members.

The next one would be the Council of Atlantic Premiers.

General

Total General: 188,400

Total Council of Atlantic Premiers: 188,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Page 84.

Employee Benefits

Medical/Life Benefits: 298,000.

Employees' Future Benefits: 23,235,000.

Government Pension Contribution:  
36,079,800.

Pension Management: 525,600.

Total Employee Benefits: 60,138,400.

Shall it carry?

**Mr. Myers:** Question? I don't know where we are.

**Some Hon. Members:** Page 84.

**Chair:** 84.

**An Hon. Member:** I'm ahead.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**An Hon. Member:** Are there any handouts for that?

**Chair:** General Government, page 85.

**Mr. Trivers:** Chair, there's a question here. Were there any handouts for that section, Employee Benefits?

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Chair:** Okay, page 85.

General Government

Miscellaneous General

Total Miscellaneous General: 250,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Grants

Total Grants: 2,211,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Government Insurance Program

Total Government Insurance Program:  
1,818,300.

Contingency Fund and Salary Negotiations

—

**Mr. MacKay:** Question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Why such a big difference in the number?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Every year we have funds set aside for salary negotiations that may occur, as well as a general contingency for unforeseen circumstances that may arise. Based on historical trends, it was determined that that was appropriate (Indistinct) for contingency.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

**Mr. Trivers:** Chair?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Is there a specific salary negotiation that these are set aside for in this big — I mean, we're talking a \$5 million increase here.

**Mr. Roach:** I think she just explained that to the (Indistinct) —

**Mr. Trivers:** Yeah, but is there a specific one, though?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No.

**Mr. Trivers:** You just said in general.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** It's not specific (Indistinct).

**Mr. Roach:** It's ongoing.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Yeah.

**Mr. Roach:** Year after year.

**Mr. Trivers:** Last year there was only 2 million set aside, this year 6 million. So there must be some particular salary negotiations you're expecting this year that (Indistinct).

**Mr. Roach:** We have two major contract negotiations that are ongoing right now, as an example.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay, which are those two?

**Mr. Roach:** The PEITF, I believe, and the –

**Mr. Aylward:** Master Agreement.

**Mr. Roach:** The medical doctors –

**Mr. Trivers:** What was the first one?

**Mr. Roach:** – Master agreement.

**Mr. Trivers:** What was the first one?

**Mr. Roach:** PEI Teachers' Federation.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay, so this is really money set aside to give the teacher and the doctors raises, potentially.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Chair, there are two elements here.

One is the contingency for the ability of government to work to a \$1.72 billion financial management plan. That's the larger part of what this really is about, is last year we put in a figure of 2 million and you get some ups and downs and swings and roundabouts, and it's really being in a position to make a more prudent provision for what might come up in the course of the year, but we're not necessarily planning to spend this.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** Okay.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Chair:** Question?

The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Ms. Compton:** Just wondering if we could have a breakdown of the \$6 million.

**Mr. Roach:** Sorry, I can't hear you. Could you –

**Ms. Compton:** Could we have a breakdown of the \$6 million for grants and salaries?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, it's a contingency.

**Mr. Roach:** It's a contingency fund.

**Ms. Compton:** So there's just a pot of money.

**Mr. Roach:** It's based on when we looked at some of the things that happened in previous years. It's a contingency of money that's set aside in the event that something happens. We've had everything from water floods, we've had washouts, we've had snow, gone over our snow, but it's just to have a contingency in there to look after those types of matters.

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I think if I were to try and put words on the breakdown for it, it's: we hope not to spend it. That's really what the contingency is about, and you make your way through the course of the year and that's why there wouldn't be any particular lines to go with that.

**Chair:** Okay, hon. members?

Total Contingency Fund – question?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you.

So if that is the case, can we have a breakdown of what the contingency fund was spent on last year?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** It's in your March 31<sup>st</sup> statement.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** We'll see what we can –

**Mr. Roach:** We'll look at that and we'll note that one as a bring back as well.

**Mr. Myers:** So that means yes, I can have that?

**Mr. Roach:** We'll note it, the same with the others, and we'll find out what the value is and we'll bring it back.

**Mr. Myers:** So that's commitment that I can have what's in that?

**Mr. Roach:** If there's a contingency and the money was spent, we'll look into it.

**Mr. MacEwen:** It was. It was spent. The book says it was spent.

**Mr. Roach:** How much was it?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** 857,000.

**Mr. Roach:** I'm not sure what that was, but we'll look into it and bring it back.

**Mr. Myers:** So I can have it.

**Mr. Roach:** We'll bring it. We'll look into it and we'll bring it back.

**Mr. Myers:** So does that mean I can have it?

**Mr. Roach:** I don't think I'd be much clearer than that.

**Mr. Myers:** Well, can you say yes? This is what I'm asking. It's like you're playing coy with me. I'm not interested in a game of battle of wits with you. I want to know –

**Mr. Roach:** It's not – I'm not being coy.

**Mr. Myers:** – can I have that or not?

**Mr. Roach:** I think when I said that we'll look into it and we'll bring it back, I don't think that's being coy.

**Mr. Myers:** So “we'll look into it” means: I'll go get it and bring it back and table it and give it to you? Or does it mean –

**Mr. Roach:** We've made roughly I think nine or 10 commitments to bring back information and we've made the same (Indistinct) –

**Mr. Myers:** Over six weeks and nothing's come back.

**Mr. Roach:** All I can say is that I'll make the commitment that we have about 10 – I think I have on top of that, I think I have about 100 questions that were asked, so staff, I expect, will be busy over the next while, and as soon as we can get through the questions on this we will bring it back, absolutely.

**Mr. Myers:** Okay, maybe I'll FOIP it.

Thank you.

**Chair:** Total Contingency Fund and Salary Negotiations: 6,020,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total General Government: 10,300,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, hon. members.

Page 86.

Interest Charges on Debt

Interest

Total Interest: 106,272,200.

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** How much interest do we pay in a day right now? Any idea?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** No, I don't have any idea.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Will you bring the answer back of how much interest we're paying a day on all our debts owed by the province?

**Mr. Roach:** We'll bring that back, yes.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** What is the average rate of interest we're paying on our debt?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** I don't have that either because it's made up of several different issuances over a long period of time, but I can get that for you.

**Mr. Trivers:** Yeah.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** The average.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Now, do you have a handout, maybe, of all the debts that are owed with the interest rates associated with them? Is that (Indistinct)?

**Mr. R. Brown:** The financial statements, they're all listed, every one, in the blue book.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Chair.

I just wanted to ask a question on the promissory notes particularly for the pension fund.

If I'm to understand promissory notes correctly, promissory notes are essentially an IOU that the government writes to itself. If we have 20 million as a promissory note on the books, that's money that we don't actually have, but we have promised that we are going to pay it to ourselves. Wouldn't that actually mean that your financial statement for the end of the year is off by

that amount of money because that it just pretend money, it's not there, it's an IOU?

If you're saying you're going to come in with a 9.5 million deficit and that is 20 million that you're accounting for in an IOU that you're going to pay yourself, but you don't have the money to pay yourself, in actual fact, you would have a 29 – basically a 21 million deficit, not a virtual 9.6 million deficit.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** These are commitments that we have made to fund the pension plan.

**Mr. Aylward:** Yeah.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** We have committed to these promissory notes and that's the interest that's government's cost on the promissory notes that we have committed that goes into the pension plan.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** These promissory notes, who is the promise to that you're going to pay that money to?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** The pension plan.

**Mr. Aylward:** Okay, so where is that money? Is it virtual money, is it real money? The reason I ask is when I go to Public Accounts meetings in other jurisdictions across Canada a vast majority of other provinces actually record the promissory notes in a different way. They actually account for them as money that is owing, so the promissory notes actually impact their deficit for the year.

If we're off stating our deficit, our year-end deficit by 20.4 million, I think that's a pretty serious accounting practice.

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** This expense is reflected in our costs. That 20 million is part of our expenditure. We're showing that as an expense.

**Mr. Aylward:** Okay, so it's in your calculation in your year-end deficits?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Yes. If you look at the total Department of Finance, that

expenditure is a line item that makes up our total.

**Chair:** Total Interest: 106,272,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Promissory Notes for Pension Funds

Total Promissory Notes for Pension Funds: 20,425,900.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Interest Charges on Debt: 126,698,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, hon. members.

PEI Public Service Commission

Is it the wish of the committee to bring a stranger on the floor?

**An Hon. Member:** Granted.

**Chair:** We're on page 150.

Please introduce yourself for Hansard and your title.

**Elaine Hardy Director:** Elaine Hardy, director of Administration, Corporate HRMS Payroll.

**Chair:** Is it the wish of the committee to read the departments and just the amounts?

Page 150.

Management

Total Management: 274,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Trivers:** If I could get full-time, part-time and vacancies for each one of these sections?

**Mr. Roach:** Okay.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

**Chair:** HR Management and Labour Relations

Total HR Management and Labour Relations: 3,380,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Occupational Health and Safety

Total Occupational Health and Safety: 228,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total HR Management and Labour Relations: 3,608,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Staffing, Classification and Organizational Development

Staffing, Classification and HR Planning

Total Staffing, Classification and HR Planning: 1,888,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Employee Assistance Program

Total Employee Assistance Program: 340,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Language Training Centre

Total Language Training Centre: 184,700.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Staffing, Classification and Organizational Development: 2,413,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Administration, Corporate HRMS and Payroll

Administration, Corporate HRMS and Payroll

Total Administration, Corporate HRMS and Payroll: 1,048,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Administration, Corporate HRMS and Payroll: 1,048,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total PEI Public Service Commission:  
7,344,700.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, hon. members. Thank you,  
minister.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker  
take the chair, and that the Chair make  
report to Mr. Speaker.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the  
Whole House, I wish to report that the  
committee has gone into supply to be  
granted to Her Majesty and has come to  
certain resolutions thereon, which said  
resolutions I am directed to report to the  
House whenever it should be pleased to  
receive same.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded  
by the Honourable Premier, that the report  
of the Committee be now received.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Chair:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the report  
of the Committee be now adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land  
and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move,  
seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance,  
that the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 2, Consideration of the  
Supplementary Estimates, in Committee.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of  
Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move,  
seconded by the Hon. Minister of Finance,  
that the House do now resolve itself into a  
Committee of the Whole House to take into  
consideration the grant of supplementary  
supply to Her Majesty.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will ask the hon. Member from  
Charlottetown-Lewis Point to chair the  
Committee of the Whole House.

I'm sorry, the hon. Member from  
Evangeline-Miscouche, would you chair the  
Committee of the Whole House?

**Chair (Gallant):** The House is now in a  
Committee of the Whole House to further  
consider the grant of supplementary supply  
to Her Majesty.

Is it the wish of the committee to bring a  
stranger onto the floor?

**Mr. Aylward:** Granted.

**Chair:** Thank you.

Could you please introduce yourself one  
more time for the Hansard?

**Vicki Hamilton CFO:** Vicki Hamilton,  
CFO of Department of Finance.

**Chair:** Thank you, Ms. Hamilton.

We'll turn to page 5. There are details on  
page 7 if you'd like to look at that after.

I'll read page 5.

Department or Agency

We'll start at A, up at the top.

Community Services and Seniors: 750,000.

Education, Early Childhood Development:  
13,796,100.

Excuse me?

**Unidentified Voices:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Just over here?

Excuse me, hon. members.

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal:  
112,000.

Total Capital Expenditures: 112,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

The next section, we have Community Services and Seniors: 1,119,600.

Total Current Expenditure: 1,119,600.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Then we have our Grand Total: 1,231,600.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Next we'll go to page 9 with details on page 11.

We'll go to B.

Innovation PEI: 6,891,300.

Workforce and Advanced Learning: 995,000.

Total Current Expenditure: 7,886,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Grand Total: 7,886,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair, and that the Chair make report to Mr. Speaker.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, I wish to report that the committee has gone into supplementary supply to be granted to Her Majesty and has come to certain resolutions thereon, which said resolutions I am directed to report to the House whenever it should be pleased to receive same.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the report of the Committee be now received.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Chair:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee be now adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 19<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 19, *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016*, Bill No. 20, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016*, Bill No. 20, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now ask the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Gallant):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**Mr. MacKay:** Just an overview, Chair, please.

**Chair:** Just an overview.

**Mr. Roach:** This bill seeks approval for the legislative authority to spend the monies tabled in the Budget and debated in the House during Budget estimates.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.



*Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal servants, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, towards appropriating the several supplies raised for the exigencies of Her Majesty's Government and for the other purposes hereinafter mentioned, do humbly beseech that it be enacted:

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 32<sup>nd</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 32, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016*, Bill No. 34, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016*, Bill No. 34, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I will now once again ask the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche to Chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (Gallant):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**An Hon. Member:** Carry the bill.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Shall the schedules carry as well? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair, and the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, with unanimous consent, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> orders of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bills were ordered for third reading:

Order No. 3, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (Bill No. 2);

Order No. 4, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 3);

Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act* (Bill No. 5);

Order No. 7, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Assessment Act* (Bill No. 6);

Order No. 8, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act* (Bill No. 9);

Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Marriage Act* (Bill No. 7);

Order No. 10, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act* (Bill No. 8);

Order No. 12, *An Act to Amend the Health Information Act* (Bill No. 14);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act* (Bill No. 15);

Order No. 14, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act* (Bill No. 12);

Order No. 15, *Common Business Identifier Act* (Bill No. 16);

Order No. 16, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act* (Bill No. 19);

Order No. 17, *An Act to Amend the Securities Act* (Bill No. 18);

Order No. 18, *An Act to Amend the Personal Properties Security Act* (Bill No. 17);

Order No. 19, *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016* (Bill No. 20);

Order No. 20, *Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* (Bill No. 22);

Order No. 21, *An Act to Amend the Prince Edward Island Lands Protection Act* (Bill No. 23);

Order No. 24, *An Act to Amend the Natural Products Marketing Act* (Bill No. 11);

Order No. 25, *Private Schools Act* (Bill No. 13);

Order No. 26, *Education Act* (Bill No. 26);

Order No. 28, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act* (Bill No. 29);

Order No. 29, *An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* (Bill No. 31);

Order No. 30, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* (Bill No. 32);

Order No. 31, *An Act to Amend the Plebiscites Act* (Bill No. 30);

Order No. 32, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016* (Bill No. 34); and

Order No. 33, *An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 33).

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said

bills be now read a third time with unanimous consent where required.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bills were read a third time:

*An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (Bill No. 2);

*An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 3);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act* (Bill No. 5);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Assessment Act* (Bill No. 6);

*An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act* (Bill No. 9);

*An Act to Amend the Marriage Act* (Bill No. 7);

*An Act to Amend the Coroners Act* (Bill No. 8);

*An Act to Amend the Health Information Act* (Bill No. 14);

*An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act* (Bill No. 15);

*An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act* (Bill No. 12);

*Common Business Identifier Act* (Bill No. 16);

*An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act* (Bill No. 19);

*An Act to Amend the Securities Act* (Bill No. 18);

*An Act to Amend the Personal Properties Security Act* (Bill No. 17);

*Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016* (Bill No. 20);

*Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* (Bill No. 22);

*An Act to Amend the Prince Edward Island Lands Protection Act* (Bill No. 23);

*An Act to Amend the Natural Products Marketing Act* (Bill No. 11);

*Private Schools Act* (Bill No. 13);

*Education Act* (Bill No. 26);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act* (Bill No. 29);

*An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* (Bill No. 31);

*An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* (Bill No. 32);

*An Act to Amend the Plebiscites Act* (Bill No. 30);

*Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016* (Bill No. 34); and

*An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 33).

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bills do now pass.

**Speaker:** These are bills introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to with and without amendment as the case may be, read a third time and it is now moved the bills do pass.

All those in favour, say “yea.”

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea!

**Speaker:** Contrary, “nay.”

Bills are carried.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, with unanimous consent, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the 27<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 27, *An Act to Amend the Retail Sales Tax Act*, Bill No. 28, ordered for third reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill be now read a third time with unanimous consent where required.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct) vote.

**Speaker:** A recorded division has been requested.

Sergeant-at-Arms, you can ring the bell.

[The bells were rung]

**Speaker:** Order, please!

**Mr. J. Brown:** The government members are present, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Mr. Speaker, opposition is ready for the vote.

**Speaker:** All those voting against the bill please stand.

**Clerk:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Opposition House Leader, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock, the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, and the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Speaker:** All those voting in favour of the bill please stand.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, the hon. Minister of Finance, the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, the hon. Premier, the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, the hon. Minister of Family and Human Services, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the

hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot, the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

**Speaker:** The bill is carried.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Retail Sales Tax Act*, Bill No. 28, read a third time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said bill do now pass.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

This is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to without amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do pass.

All those in favour signify by saying “yea.”

**Some Hon. Members:** Ye!

**Speaker:** Contrary, “nay.”

**Some Hon. Members:** Nay!

**Speaker:** Carried.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, this concludes the business of government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** Thank you.

Hon. members, I am now advised that the Honourable Lieutenant Governor has arrived at the Coles Building to receive this House and its Address in Reply to the Speech From the Throne. I now propose to invite His

Honour into this Chamber and ask the hon. members to join me in greeting his honour.

May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island at this time in Session assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks for the gracious speech with which Your Honour was pleased to open the present Session.

**His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis:** Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is a pleasure to be with you to receive your address in reply to the Speech From the Throne with which I opened the present Session of the Legislative Assembly. I thank you for the careful consideration which you have given to matters contained in the Speech, as well as for the address, which you have just presented to me.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that there are some immediate sessional duties to be completed. However, I am confident that the several matters still to be considered will receive your usual conscientious and careful attention.

**Speaker:** Hon. members, His Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor has indicated that he is now prepared to reenter the Chamber to consider the grant of Royal Assent to bills passed to date during this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I now propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of His Honour's arrival.

**Clerk:** Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has passed certain bills during this, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and now begs Your Honour's consideration of the grant of Royal Assent for the following bills:

*An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (Bill No. 2);

*An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 3);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act* (Bill No. 5);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Assessment Act* (Bill No. 6);

*An Act to Amend the Marriage Act* (Bill No. 7);

*An Act to Amend the Coroners Act* (Bill No. 8);

*An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act* (Bill No. 9);

*An Act to Amend the Natural Products Marketing Act* (Bill No. 11);

*An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act* (Bill No. 12);

*Private Schools Act* (Bill No. 13);

*An Act to Amend the Health Information Act* (Bill No. 14);

*An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act* (Bill No. 15);

*Common Business Identifier Act* (Bill No. 16);

*An Act to Amend the Personal Property Security Act* (Bill No. 17);

*An Act to Amend the Securities Act* (Bill No. 18);

*An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act* (Bill No. 19);

*Regulatory Accountability and Reporting Act* (Bill No. 22);

*An Act to Amend the Prince Edward Island Lands Protection Act* (Bill No. 23);

*Education Act* (Bill No. 26);

*An Act to Amend the Retail Sales Tax Act* (Bill No. 28);

*An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act* (Bill No. 29);

*An Act to Amend the Plebiscites Act* (Bill No. 30);

*An Act to Amend the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* (Bill No. 31);

*An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* (Bill No. 32);

*An Act to Amend the Health Services Payment Act* (No. 2) (Bill No. 33);

*Supplementary Appropriation Act 2016* (Bill No. 34);

and private bills, Your Honour:

*An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate Amalgamated Dairies Limited* (Bill No. 200);

*An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate the YMCA of Prince Edward Island* (Bill No. 201); and

*An Act Respecting the Winding Up of the Prince Edward Island Protestant Children's Trust and the Dissolution of a Trust* (Bill No. 202).

**His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis:** In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

**Speaker:** May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government. We do humbly beg for Your Honour's acceptance of a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2016*, thus placing at the disposal of the Crown, the means by which government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the province.

**Clerk:** His Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, doth thank Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill in Her Majesty's name.

**His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis:** I wish to commend all hon. members for the conscientious manner in which you have conducted your deliberations at this point of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 65th General Assembly of Prince Edward Island. At this time, I pray that until the Legislative Assembly again meets, each of you enjoy good health and prosperity and

that peace and freedom for all people shall be more nearly achieved.

Enjoy your golf, or whatever.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that this House stand adjourned until the call of the Speaker.

**Speaker:** Before I put the question, I would just like to thank everybody for participating in this session. I think there was a lot accomplished in this session.

And I certainly want – special thanks to, I'll just name them, Charlie, Marian, Emily, Ryan and Joey for all your help to help us through this session.

I certainly want to say thanks to the Sergeant-at-Arms and his group of security people.

Also to the Deputy Speaker for handling all the estimates in such a professional way.

And to the Pages. The Pages have – I don't know how I'd describe it, but I would have to say that they have performed their duties with celebrated professionalism, I would say.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** I want to wish everybody a good summer. Enjoy your time until the next session when we meet here. I believe it's going to be the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

Until that time, we'll see you then on that day.

Shall it carry? Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until the call of the Speaker