



House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Gordon Gosse**

Published by Order of the Legislature by Hansard Reporting Services and printed by the Queen's Printer.

Available on INTERNET at <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/proceedings/hansard/>

### Third Session

**MONDAY, APRIL 11 2011**

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION:	
Res. 265, ViewFinders: Youth Work - Recognize, Hon. P. Paris	468
Vote - Affirmative	469
Res. 266, Healthy Schools Day (04/11/11): Sch. Bds./Staff - Applaud, Hon. R. Jennex (by Hon. G. Steele)	469
Vote - Affirmative	469
Res. 267, Natl. WildLife Wk. (04/10 - 04/16/11)/Intl. Yr. of Forests (2011) - Recognize, Hon. C. Parker	469
Vote - Affirmative	470
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS:	
No. 17, Drug Pricing Act, Hon. Maureen MacDonald	470

## NOTICES OF MOTION:

Res. 268, Burke, Chief Myles: Death of - Tribute, Hon. S. McNeil	471
Vote - Affirmative	471
Res. 269, Burke, Chief Myles: Death of - Tribute, Mr. A. MacLeod	471
Vote - Affirmative	472
Res. 270, Burke, Chief Myles: Death of - Tribute, The Speaker (by Hon. F. Corbett)	472
Vote - Affirmative	473
Res. 271, Cdn. Forces Liaison Coun. - Primary Reserve: Prog. - Congrats., Hon. S. McNeil	473
Vote - Affirmative	474
Res. 272, Natl. Volunteer Wk. (04/10 - 01/16/11): Vols. - Recognize, Mr. K. Bain	474
Vote - Affirmative	475
Res. 273, Joyce, Hazel: Ocean View Manor - Vol. Serv. (45 Yrs.), Ms. B. Kent	475
Vote - Affirmative	475
Res. 274, Sylliboy, Lauren - Decade Award, Hon. Manning MacDonald	476
Vote - Affirmative	476
Res. 275, Caldwell, John - Sobeys (Windsor) - Serv., Mr. C. Porter	476
Vote - Affirmative	477
Res. 276, Landry, Kyrsten/Skaber, Margaret/Landry, Felicia - Atl. Cdn. Gymnastics Championships, Mr. B. Skabar	477
Vote - Affirmative	478
Res. 277, Parkinson's Awareness Mo. (04/11) - Recognize, Ms. D. Whalen	478
Vote - Affirmative	478
Res. 278, Galloping Cows: Inverness Economy - Contribution, Mr. A. MacMaster	479
Vote - Affirmative	479
Res. 279, Digdon, Ruth & Roy - Anniv. (65 <sup>th</sup> ), Mr. J. Boudreau	479
Vote - Affirmative	480
Res. 280, NDP: Gas Regulation - End, Hon. M. Samson (by Mr. L. Glavine)	480
Res. 281, Northside Minor Hockey Kids/Visiting Teams - Cancer Fundraising, Mr. K. Bain	481
Vote - Affirmative	482

Res. 282, Port Williams Village Commn. - Crosswalk Safety Campaign, Mr. A. Younger	482
Vote - Affirmative	482
Res. 283, LeBlanc, Robert: Argyle Mun. - Rep. Vol. (2011), Hon. C. d'Entremont	482
Vote - Affirmative	483
Res. 284, Education Wk. (04/10 - 04/16/11) - Recognize, Hon. W. Gaudet (by Hon. S. McNeil)	483
Vote - Affirmative	484
Res. 285, Layton, Robert: Commun. Devotion - Congrats., Hon. J. Baillie (by Mr. K. Bain)	484
Vote - Affirmative	485
Res. 286, Buckrell, George: Northwood Fdn. - Contribution, Ms. K. Regan	485
Vote - Affirmative	485
Res. 287, Capstick, Kyle: Playwright/Director - Congrats., Mr. A. MacLeod	486
Vote - Affirmative	486
Res. 288, Rath, Stu - Truro & Dist. C of C Lifetime Achievement Award, Hon. K. Casey	486
Vote - Affirmative	487
Res. 289, Vosman, John & Jacqueline: N.S. Agriculture - Commitment, Mr. C. Porter	487
Vote - Affirmative	488
Res. 290, Yarmouth Consolidated Mem. HS Girls Basketball Team - Championship, Mr. Z. Churchill	488
Vote - Affirmative	489
Res. 291, VanZutphen, Luke, Marissa, Nicole & Lauren: Munsch Literature - Contribution, Mr. A. MacMaster	489
Vote - Affirmative	489
Res. 292, Drew, Jayde: Locks of Love - Donation, Mr. L. Glavine	490
Vote - Affirmative	490
Res. 293, Cumb. African N.S. Assoc. (CANSA): Heritage - Preservation, Hon. J. Baillie (by Mr. A. MacLeod)	490
Vote - Affirmative	491
Res. 294, Toner, Brandon - Decade Award, Hon. Manning MacDonald	491
Vote - Affirmative	492
Res. 295, NDP Gov't.: Educ. Cuts - Stop, Hon. K. Casey	492

Res. 296, Webster, Tim - Visionary Award (2011), Mr. A. Younger	492
Vote - Affirmative	493
Res. 297, Towle, Coach Gary/Asst. Coaches/Bedford Eagles Bantam Boys Basketball Team - Achievements, Ms. K. Regan	493
Vote - Affirmative	494
Res. 298, Yarmouth Consolidated Mem. HS Vikings - Basketball Championship, Mr. Z. Churchill	494
Vote - Affirmative	495
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:	
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:	
ON MOTION FOR SUPPLY:	
Mr. Z. Churchill	495
Mr. A. MacMaster	499
HOUSE RESOLVED INTO CWH ON SUPPLY AT 5:22 p.m.	503
HOUSE RECONVENED AT 9:29 p.m.	503
[GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:]	
Res. 4, Estimates - Comm. of Whole House on Supply, Hon. G. Steele	503
Mr. L. Glavine	503
ADJOURNMENT, House rose to meet again on Tue., Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon	509
NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3):	
Res. 299, MacLean, Cpl. Pete H.: CAF - Serv. (25 Yrs.), Mr. L. Glavine	510
Res. 300, Barrington Mun. HS - Visionary Award, Mr. A. Younger	510
Res. 301, Shaw, Chief Carl: Salmon River Fire Brigade - Retirement, Hon. K. Casey	511
Res. 302, Manley, Linda; Ocean View Manor - Vol. Serv. (5 Yrs.), Ms. B. Kent	511
Res. 303, Roy, Winney: Ocean View Manor - Vol. Serv. (35 Yrs.) Ms. B. Kent	512
Res. 304, Fraser, Jean: Ocean View Manor - Vol. Serv. (5 Yrs.) Ms. B. Kent	512
Res. 305, Hollis, Layton (Lefty): Ocean View Manor - Vol. Serv. (15 Yrs.), Ms. B. Kent	513
Res. 306, Freeman, Kayla/Weber, Tanja: Bus. Award - N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	513
Res. 307, Mansfield, Bayleigh/Freeman, Hannah/DeLong, Breanna: Bus. Award - N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	514
Res. 308, Rawdine, Kyle/Smith, Anthony/Rogers, Colin: Bus. Award - N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	514
Res. 309, Ryan, Celsea/Baker, Robyn: Bus. Award	

N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	515
Res. 310, Mahoney, Ariel/Moreau, Brea/Mansfied, Logan: Bus. Award - N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	515
Res. 311, VanDyk, Nichols/Freeman, Kate: Bus. Award - N. Queens Commun. Sch., Ms. V. Conrad	516



House of Assembly  
*Nova Scotia*

**HALIFAX, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

**Sixty-first General Assembly**

**Third Session**

**4:00 P.M.**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Gordon Gosse

**DEPUTY SPEAKERS**

Ms. Becky Kent, Mr. Leo Glavine, Mr. Alfie MacLeod

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. We'll begin the daily routine.

**PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

HON. PERCY PARIS: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, before I read my resolution may I make a brief introduction?

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. PARIS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, today in the gallery opposite, I'd like to introduce Lia Rinaldo and Ann Andrusyszyn from the Atlantic Film Festival, and Jason Beaudry and Rose Zack, who work with the ViewFinders Program. ViewFinders is a film festival for young adults, under the Atlantic Film Festival. I ask the House to give them a warm welcome. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 265**

HON. PERCY PARIS: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth, a production of the Atlantic Film Festival Association, has encouraged youth around the region to engage with the arts in unique and unprecedented ways; and

Whereas ViewFinders aims to inspire young people to find and broaden their own views of the world by tackling important issues, such as multiculturalism and diversity, community, and creativity; and

Whereas this year ViewFinders is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by honouring a decade of great films and filmmakers during a five-day festival, which runs from April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup> in Halifax;

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly recognize and celebrate the important ways ViewFinders works with youth to cultivate skills and interests in the art community.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Finance.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 266**

HON. GRAHAM STEELE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Education, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas children spend 30 to 40 hours a week in school; and

Whereas schools, school boards, and governments have demonstrated an interest in school environments by reviewing and updating environmental practices and policies, creating displays for students and staff, and declaring school scent-free zones; and

Whereas April 11, 2011, is being recognized as Healthy Schools Day across Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House applaud school boards and staff on this Healthy Schools Days, as they continue to ensure our children have a safe and healthy learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Natural Resources

### **RESOLUTION NO. 267**

HON. CHARLIE PARKER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:



Whereas National Wildlife Week will be celebrated April 10-16, 2011 and is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of wildlife to Nova Scotians and the need for all Nova Scotians to be involved in the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and habitat resources; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests; and

Whereas Nova Scotia's forests provide many direct and indirect economic, social, and environmental benefits, including habitat to a diversity of plants and animals;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly and all Nova Scotians recognize the importance of forests as habitat for two-thirds of our wildlife species, and celebrate April 10-16, 2011 as National Wildlife Week as well as 2011, the International Year of Forests.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 17 - Entitled an Act Respecting an Insured Prescription Drug Plan, including Fair Drug Pricing. (Hon. Maureen MacDonald)**

MR. SPEAKER: Ordered that this bill be read a second time on a future day.

#### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, this weekend Nova Scotians were saddened with the loss of a pioneer and a great Nova Scotian, Chief Myles Burke in Cape

Breton. I want to read a resolution recognizing that. I will ask for a moment of silence but with the agreement of the House, I believe all caucuses will have a resolution and we'll hold the moment of silence until the House Leader is finished.

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 268**

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Nova Scotians learned of the sudden passing of respected Cape Breton Regional Police Chief and 30-year veteran Myles Burke on Saturday; and

Whereas Chief Burke is being remembered as a determined investigator, a gifted communicator, and a tremendous leader over his outstanding career in law enforcement; and

Whereas the loss of Myles Burke will be felt greatest by those who loved and knew him best - his wife and two daughters, his friends and family, and his policing colleagues across our province and country;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly pause for a moment and remember Chief Myles Burke, the impact he made on the lives of Nova Scotians and his loved ones as we mourn his loss.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cape Breton West.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 269**

MR. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Nova Scotia police community and all Cape Bretoners have lost a great leader when Cape Breton Regional Police Service's Chief Myles Burke passed away Saturday at the age of 49; and

Whereas a recipient of the police Exemplary Service Medal and a Member of the Order of Merit for the Police Services of Canada, Chief Burke earned the respect of all he worked with over his 29-year career because of his work ethic, expertise, and ability to inspire those around him; and

Whereas Chief Burke served as Nova Scotia's representative at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, and devoted his time and talents to many community organizations, including the YMCA and the United Way;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly send sincere condolences to Chief Burke's wife, Jane, and their two daughters, as well as the many police officers who had the privilege of working alongside Chief Burke in the course of his distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Deputy Premier.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 270**

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Cape Breton Nova, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on Saturday, April 9, 2011, Nova Scotia lost a great citizen, Cape Breton Regional Municipality Police Chief Myles Burke; and

Whereas Myles dedicated himself to the people of CBRM and indeed all of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas today, Nova Scotia is a sadder place;  
Therefore be it resolved that this House send its deepest condolences to his family, friends and the entire force of the Cape Breton Regional Police.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

We will now have a moment of silence.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you to all members.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 271**

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the role of the Primary Reserve is to augment, sustain and support deployed forces, conduct coastal operations, air operations, and provide the personnel for territorial battalions; and

Whereas the Canadian Forces Liaison Council is a group of civilian business leaders who volunteer their time and efforts to promote the Primary Reserve force by encouraging industry, educational institutions, and government to grant reservists time off work to participate in military training and operations; and

Whereas reservists transfer their leadership, management and technical skills learned through the military to their civilian occupations, making this a profitable partnership;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Canadian Forces Liaison Council on the success of this program and thank them for their dedication to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 272**

MR. KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas volunteers contribute time and talent worth about \$1.8 billion to Nova Scotia's economy annually; and

Whereas there are 5,820 non-profit voluntary sector organizations in Nova Scotia depending on a total of 453,000 Nova Scotians who give their time so generously every year; and

Whereas 44 per cent of all Nova Scotian volunteers are seniors and 65 per cent of Nova Scotian youth are volunteers, making youth the highest rate of volunteers in all age categories;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly take a moment today and recognize a volunteer as National Volunteer Week is celebrated between April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 273**

MS. BECKY KENT: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ocean View Manor is a long-term care facility in Eastern Passage which offers exemplary care to its residents through dedicated administration, staff and volunteer services; and

Whereas citizens of the area volunteer their time at Ocean View Manor in ways such as event planning, assisting with leisure-time activities, talking with residents and family about day-to-day issues, and helping families deal with the challenges that residents and families face at this stage in their life; and

Whereas Hazel Joyce has selflessly given of her time, energy, and commitment for more than 45 years to the residents of Ocean View Manor, and has exemplified the true value that Nova Scotians hold for our senior citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly commend Hazel Joyce for 45 years of dedicated volunteer service to Ocean View Manor in Eastern Passage.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cape Breton South.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 274**

HON. MANNING MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by honouring the next generation of health researchers when they awarded ten \$10,000 scholarships to Grade 12 students across the province this past June; and

Whereas the Decade Award is the only scholarship program in Canada which enables young Nova Scotians the opportunity to better understand the positive impacts of health research to our province; and

Whereas Lauren Sylliboy of Chief Allison M. Bernard Memorial High School in Eskasoni was a winner for her essay, titled *Addiction Prevention in First Nations Youth*;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Lauren Sylliboy on her receipt of the Decade Award and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Hants West.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 275**

MR. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas shoppers at the Sobeys grocery store in Windsor will miss the friendly greetings from long-time employee John Caldwell; and

Whereas after 39 years of employment with Sobeys in Windsor, John's co-workers held a retirement party for John at the Windsor Legion to celebrate his almost four decades of success with the company; and

Whereas in his 39 years at Sobeys in Windsor, John worked out of three stores, beginning at the old store on Gerrish Street in downtown Windsor before moving with them to the Fort Edward Mall store in July 1974, and then to the new and much larger store adjacent to the Fort Edward Mall;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate John Caldwell for his many exceptional years of service to shoppers at Sobeys grocery store in Windsor and wish him nothing but continued success in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cumberland North.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 276**

MR. BRIAN SKABAR: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Cumberland North takes pride in the talents of its athletic community, both participants and coaches; and

Whereas Cumberland North recognizes the hours of hard work and dedication that go into athletic endeavours; and



Whereas three members of the Amherst Aerials Gymnastics Club - Kyrsten Landry, Margaret Skabar and Felicia Landry - qualified under the support and direction of coaches Michelle Landry and Ernie Landry at the 2011 Provincial Gymnastics Championships, to compete in the Atlantic Canadian Gymnastics Championship, to be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly congratulate Kyrsten Landry, Margaret Skabar and Felicia Landry on qualifying for the Atlantic Canadian Gymnastics Championships and thank coaches Michelle Landry and Ernie Landry for their hard work and dedication to the team.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Halifax Clayton Park

### **RESOLUTION NO. 277**

MS. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the month of April marks Parkinson's Awareness Month, providing Nova Scotians an opportunity to become better informed about this neurological disease; and

Whereas it is estimated that approximately 119,000 Canadians have Parkinson's with 8,400 of those living in the Maritime Provinces; and

Whereas while there is no cure for Parkinson's disease, advances in surgical treatments and medications have assisted greatly in the management of symptoms and improved quality of life for those suffering from the disease;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the Legislature recognize the month of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month and extend our appreciation to the staff of the Parkinson Society Maritime Region as well as those who dedicate themselves to research, education and advocacy related to Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Inverness.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 278**

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Galloping Cows Fine Foods owners, Joanne and Ron Schmidt of Port Hood, mingled with celebrities on the red carpet in Hollywood with their homemade jams and jellies at the 2011 Oscars; and

Whereas Joanne and Ron Schmidt have also been featured in gifting suites at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Golden Globes; and

Whereas the Schmidt family, who have successfully established their business in Port Hood, have remained dedicated to Inverness County, promoting local foods with an array of products;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the contribution that the Galloping Cows provides to the local economy of Inverness and congratulate them for showcasing Nova Scotia product on the international stage.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Guysborough-Sheet Harbour.

**RESOLUTION NO. 279**

MR. JIM BOUDREAU: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on April 17, 2011, Ruth and Roy Digdon will celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary; and

Whereas this couple has left a legacy of charity work, sound business practices and general goodwill and kindness; and

Whereas Ruth and Roy will celebrate this milestone with their family and friends on April 17, 2011, at a church service being held at the Trinity United Church in Mulgrave;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ruth and Roy Digdon on the milestone of their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with best wishes for many more happy years together.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Kings West.

**RESOLUTION NO. 280**

MR. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Richmond, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the failed policy of gas regulation in Nova Scotia has resulted in higher prices at the pumps for consumers and has restricted the ability of retailers to compete for customers; and

Whereas while they were in Opposition, both the Premier and the Minister of Finance said that it was taxing the tax on gas that was unfair and should be removed from the calculation of the final retail price Nova Scotians pay; and

Whereas now that the NDP are in power, they have broken yet another promise and are continuing to nickel and dime Nova Scotians at the pump;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly urge the “Nickel and Dime Party” to get their hands out of the pockets of Nova Scotians, take the tax off the tax at the pumps and end their failed policy of gas regulation.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

I hear several Noes.

The notice is tabled.

The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 281**

MR. KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas cancer has affected many families across our nation and, in particular, a small rural community of Sydney Mines, where kids lead the fight against cancer in loving memory of Leah Dugas, a 10-year-old girl who lost her battle with cancer; and

Whereas Leah’s strength has touched the hearts of many individuals and inspired hockey kids to continue her fight by participating in fundraising during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Leah Dugas Memorial Hockey Kids Against Cancer Tournament; and

Whereas on March 14, 2011, spectators filled the stands in the Sydney Mines and District Community Centre as kids took to the ice to raise money and awareness for the Sydney Mines unit of the Canadian Cancer Society;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly extend their deepest appreciation to the Northside Minor Hockey kids, along with visiting teams from Glace Bay and Cape Breton County for their hard work in the fight against cancer and their touching remembrance of Leah Dugas and wish them great success in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.  
The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 282**

MR. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas in 2009, Waverley Road crosswalk flags, including Norm Collins, began a campaign to improve crosswalk safety by launching a pilot project to install orange safety flags for pedestrians at crosswalks; and

Whereas Norm recently assisted and donated flags to the Port Williams Village Commission for the launch of their crosswalk safety project; and

Whereas orange safety flags were installed at seven crosswalks in Port Williams on March 15, 2011, by the Port Williams Village Commission;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Port Williams Village Commission on the launch of their crosswalk safety campaign, the first permanent crosswalk flag installation in Nova Scotia and thank Norm Collins for his continued dedication to the promotion of crosswalk safety in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Argyle.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 283**

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas National Volunteer Week will be marked from April 10<sup>th</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup> and the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Volunteer Recognition Award ceremony was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Halifax; and

Whereas the Municipality of Argyle's representative volunteer for 2011, Robert LeBlanc, will also be recognized at the municipality's volunteer banquet to be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> on Surette's Island; and

Whereas Bob LeBlanc has volunteered for sports groups, the church and local community organizations, including the fire department;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Bob LeBlanc on receiving this award and thank him and all volunteers for their time and effort in helping their communities remain strong and vibrant.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

**RESOLUTION NO. 284**

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Clare, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas this week is designated Education Week in an effort to provide information about the public education system; and

Whereas this year's theme, Innovative Teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, highlights the need to ensure that our education system is responsive to new ways of learning; and

Whereas we all have an important role to play to make sure Nova Scotia has the best education system possible;

Therefore be it resolved that the House recognize Education Week and congratulate our educators and public school employees on the work they do in communities across Nova Scotia and work with them to ensure we help all students meet their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 285**

MR. KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Cumberland South, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Robert Layton is still an active volunteer with the Great Village and District Fire Brigade at the age of 82 years; and

Whereas Robert Layton joined the Great Village and District Fire Brigade when he was 17 years old and served as chief of the brigade in 1973-74 and has answered so many fire calls he long ago lost count; and

Whereas Great Village Fire Chief David Lundie summed up Robert's devotion as a firefighter after 65 years to simply "dedication to his community";

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Robert Layton of Great Village, for his tremendous unselfishness and for his devotion to community residents and neighbours whenever the fire alarm rings.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Bedford-Birch Cove.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 286**

MS. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas George Buckrell has given many years of service to a variety of community and charitable organizations in Nova Scotia and beyond; and

Whereas Mr. Buckrell's selfless dedication to the local community and beyond was recognized recently by the Northwood Foundation at its Appetite for Life dinner celebration; and

Whereas Mr. Buckrell has been awarded the Hedley G. Ivany Senior of the Year Award for 2011 by the foundation;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly join with the Northwood Foundation in recognizing George Buckrell's contribution and wish him many years of health and happiness in the midst of the community to which he has so generously contributed.



Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cape Breton West.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 287**

MR. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas it is appropriate that we all recognize new talents when they begin to shine; and

Whereas Kyle Capstick of Marion Bridge made his writing and directorial debut at last year's Elizabeth Boardmore One Act Play festival; and

Whereas Kyle will build on his first experience and returns to the festival with his new play, *Her Body*, which he wrote and is directing;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and encourage Kyle Capstick in his chosen field of the arts and eagerly await Kyle's future as a playwright and director.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Colchester North.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 288**

HON. KAREN CASEY: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Stu Rath, now considered to be one of the most successful and honourable businessmen in Colchester County, began his career by giving up his job, risking all of his savings, and buying Eastern Cablevision in 1976; and

Whereas some of Stu's other accomplishments include membership in the not-for-profit First Angel Group, the Colchester Regional Development Agency, the Truro Industrial Development Society, investments in Truro real estate, investments in the \$1 million race horse, Somebeachsomewhere, and is the reason for junior hockey existence in Truro, being the owner of the Truro Junior Bearcats; and

Whereas Stu's generosity and success in business extend beyond the borders of the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester and have, in fact, had a positive impact on the economy of the Province of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly express our appreciation to Stu Rath for his numerous businesses, community and charitable contributions and congratulate him on being the recipient of Truro and District Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Hants West.

**RESOLUTION NO. 289**

MR. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Trivee Holsteins, operated by John and Jacqueline Vosman and their families, a second generation dairy farm which milks 76 head of cattle in a tie stall facility; and

Whereas Trivee Holsteins is a St. Andrews, Antigonish second generation dairy farm and will be one of the farms which attendees will tour this Spring while attending the Canadian Holstein Convention in Nova Scotia and concludes with more tours in Newfoundland and Labrador; and

Whereas Trivee Holsteins consists of 98 per cent home-bred cattle;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly applaud John and Jacqueline Vosman and their second generation dairy farm for their commitment to Nova Scotia agriculture and wish them great continued success with their dairy operations.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Yarmouth.

**RESOLUTION NO. 290**

MR. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation Provincial Girls Basketball Tournament took place in Amherst; and

Whereas the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Division 2 girls basketball team competed in this tournament, proudly representing their town and area; and

Whereas the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School girls basketball team won the tournament, defeating Northeast Kings 53 to 51;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Division 2 girls basketball team as provincial champions and congratulate them on this impressive and historic achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Inverness.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 291**

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Canadian children's author, Robert Munsch, has chosen 8-year-old Luke Van Zutphen as the hero of his latest book *Moose*; and

Whereas Munsch always had a story about a moose in his thoughts, but it wasn't until he came across a letter from Luke's sister, Marissa, with pictures that showed Luke in his tree house; and

Whereas Luke, in his favourite winter hat, has to deal with a moose on his family's farm at Delehanty's Hill, with his three older sisters, Marissa, Nicole and Lauren making appearances;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the contribution of Luke, Marissa, Nicole and Lauren Van Zutphen in the literature works of Robert Munsch.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Kings West.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 292**

MR. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas five-year old Jayde Drew of Aylesford, Nova Scotia, had his head shaved in order to donate his full head of hair to Locks of Love; and

Whereas this five-year-old showed maturity beyond his years, and is a shining example to other children; and

Whereas Jayde Drew and his selfless act has touched many hearts and enriched numerous lives;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House congratulate Jayde Drew for his commitment and dedication to such a worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cape Breton West.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 293**

**MR. ALFIE MACLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas members of the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association celebrated 225 years in the county with 12 months of festivities, which ended in a gala banquet on March 31<sup>st</sup>; and

Whereas the Black community's rich history of arrival and survival will be preserved for future generations in three interpretive panels that were unveiled at the banquet; and

Whereas the year of celebration has not only given members of the Black community the opportunity to learn more about those who came before, but it also increased the knowledge of Black heritage among the greater community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Cumberland African Nova Scotian Association for preserving the heritage of the Black community in Cumberland, and congratulate them on a successful year of celebration and remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cape Breton South.

**RESOLUTION NO. 294**

HON. MANNING MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by honouring the next generation of health researchers when they awarded ten \$10,000 scholarships to Grade 12 students across the province this past June; and

Whereas the Decade Award is the only scholarship program in Canada which enables young Nova Scotians the opportunity to better understand the positive impacts of health research to our province; and

Whereas Brandon Toner of Memorial Composite High School in Sydney Mines was a winner for his essay titled *The Value of Health Research in the Management of Heart Disease*;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Brandon Toner on his receipt of the Decade Award, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask for waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Colchester North.

**RESOLUTION NO. 295**

HON. KAREN CASEY: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas a strong economy depends on government's commitment to the funding of public education to ensure a well-educated workforce; and

Whereas World Bank Economist Richard Zoellick declared in the height of the global recession, "Tough economic times are not the time to cut education spending"; and

Whereas the societal cost of an uneducated workforce far exceeds the cost of early intervention, with every one dollar spent in a child's early years yielding \$6 in return to the economy;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House ask the NDP Government to stop balancing the books of this province on the backs of Nova Scotian students.

MR. SPEAKER: The notice is tabled.

The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 296**

MR. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Tim Webster is a research scientist with the Applied Geomatics Research Group at the Nova Scotia Community College in Middleton; and

Whereas Tim has demonstrated significant leadership in marine protection research, developing remote sensing technologies and studying the Bay of Fundy's changing coastlines and watersheds; and

Whereas Tim recently received the 2011 Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, which recognizes innovation, creativity, and one's commitment to marine protection;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Tim on this prestigious award and acknowledge his work and dedication to the protection of our coastlines and coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?



It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Bedford-Birch Cove.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 297**

MS. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on Sunday, April 3, 2011 Basketball Nova Scotia held the Bantam Boys Division 1, 2011 provincials in Halifax; and

Whereas under the guidance of Bedford Eagles head coach Gary Towle and assistant coaches Stephen Patterson and Ron Wright, the team won the silver medal; and

Whereas team players Nate Darling, Andreas Foerster, Adam Henneberry, Brian Lawlor, Brett Liem, Logan MacGillivray, Chris Moller, Owen Patterson, Jordan Reid, Christopher Towle and Jelani Wright together contributed to this accomplishment;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature congratulate coach Gary Towle, the assistant coaches and each team member of the Bedford Eagles Bantam Boys Division 1 basketball team on their achievements and wish them every success in future sporting endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Yarmouth.

**RESOLUTION NO. 298**

MR. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> the Nova Scotia Athletic Federation Provincial Boys Basketball Tournament took place in New Waterford; and

Whereas the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Vikings Division 2 boys basketball team competed in this tournament, proudly representing their town and area; and

Whereas the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School boys basketball team won the tournament, defeating Middleton 130-62;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High Vikings as provincial champions and congratulate them on this impressive and historic achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for waiver of notice and passage without debate.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY****GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, with the unanimous consent of the House on Friday, and hopefully again today, we will refer Resolution No. 4, estimates on the Supply referral that was adjourned by the member for Kings West until after we do Supply debate today.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the order of business, Government Motions.

### **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on Supply.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

MR. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, in Yarmouth yesterday there was a rally of about 300 or more people that came together to support a restored ferry service between Yarmouth and New England. Hundreds of people were in attendance from the business community, local and municipal representatives, myself, one of the candidates in the upcoming federal election and many more concerned citizens. People brought together only because they have a very sincere and real concern about the future of the economy of Yarmouth and are desperately seeking leadership from this provincial government and our federal government to help the area restore a ferry service.

Leading up to yesterday's rally, on Saturday the Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism was quoted in The ChronicleHerald as saying he wouldn't be at the rally and he believed that Yarmouth should focus on the positives instead of speaking about the ferry.

While I do sincerely appreciate the spirit behind the minister's comments in that the people of Yarmouth and the people of all Nova Scotia need to focus on the advantages and the benefits we have in our communities and focus on ways we can move forward with our businesses and be innovative to help create the conditions for success, the people in our community didn't appreciate the context in which the minister said that because he was insinuating that we should stop talking about the ferry and focus on everything else. I wanted to assure the minister that looking forward for Yarmouth and being positive, it needs to be understood that a long-term ferry service is a part of that vision.

I found it interesting because two years ago when the members for Yarmouth came together, we actually asked the NDP Government to do just that - look at the positives, look at the benefits of having that ferry service that links this province, this country, to one of

the greatest and biggest markets in the world. We asked them to look at those positives, look at those benefits, look at those advantages. Instead, what we got was a resounding no.

We've seen the consequences as a result of that decision, Mr. Speaker. According to the municipal units, we've had over 300 jobs lost in the Yarmouth area alone. Businesses have closed, restaurants, tourism facilities, including the Rodd Colony and Harbour Inn, which is Yarmouth's second-largest hotel. Tourism operators across southwestern Nova Scotia have issued concern, tourism operators in Queens County, Shelburne, Hubbards, all the way up to Cape Breton. We've had a significant impact on the psyche and the confidence of the people of Yarmouth in their economy and in the leadership this government has shown to be good stewards of the economy moving forward.

Now I will admit that the ferry in Yarmouth is not the be-all and end-all of our economy or our community. We have a strong fishing industry with proud fishermen who, day in and day out, bring lobsters and fish ashore that we send to domestic and foreign markets. We have innovative and creative and dedicated entrepreneurs and small-business owners who just want to see the best for Yarmouth. We have a real sense of community spirit of coming together when times are tough and pulling through together to, hopefully, see better days in the future.

I will admit that the issues and challenges Yarmouth is facing aren't just due to this government. They are consistent with challenges that communities are facing across rural Nova Scotia and rural Canada, due to larger global trends like urbanization, the phenomenon of changing demographics of an aging population, and the recent global recession. These are things that, of course, have impacted the economy of Yarmouth along with many other places in Nova Scotia and the country.

Mr. Speaker, during tough economic times the role of government can't be to cut economic generators, it can't be to get rid of them. Government should always invest in those things, invest in those pieces of infrastructure that generate economic activity, that bring people and business to hard-hit regions. To not do that, Mr. Speaker, is bad economic policy. I don't know of an economist in the world to say cut economic drivers during downturns or recessions. I never heard that argument put forward by anybody.

With the Yarmouth ferry we've been told that there's no business case, there is no business case for The Cat ferry specifically but we have yet to see any evidence, any analysis to support that claim. Nothing has been tabled in this House, despite numerous requests from myself and other members of this caucus to table such evidence, to table such analysis, to make it public so that people can see it, so the business community can take a look for themselves and judge. That hasn't happened.

I understand that if you look solely at The Cat as a business of and to itself, perhaps you can make the argument that, well, it's not sustainable because it requires subsidy, but

that doesn't take into consideration the wider economic spinoffs of having such a vessel in place. If that's the case, if we looked at The Cat or the Yarmouth ferry - whatever vessel it is - as a business of and to itself, then why doesn't this government do that with other ferries in the province - the Digby ferry, the P.E.I. ferry, the Cape Breton ferry? Why doesn't it do these things (Interruption) The Newfoundland ferry - thank you, Mr. Speaker - I've been up to Cape Breton a few times.

Why isn't the government saying this to all ferry operators in the province - no, we're not going to give you any money, you need to be viable and sustainable on your own. They don't do that, they haven't done it. So why is it happening in Yarmouth? If they are saying to every ferry operator in the province that you need to do this on your own, without our help, then why are they putting millions of dollars into subsidizing those vessels?

Mr. Speaker, I think the answer is quite simple. When it comes to ferries, the government actually does realize that they have a role to play in ensuring those pieces of transportation infrastructure are in place, because they generate economic activity, because they ensure the transport of people and goods, and the exchange of people and goods between provinces, areas and countries. That's why they invested \$3 million in CB Rail, building roads - that's why they put money into roads, so people can travel. I think that's one of the greatest roles that government plays in our society - to ensure people can be mobile, can move, that people can get their goods to market, and that people can visit other destinations.

So why is the Yarmouth ferry different, Mr. Speaker, a ferry that connects this province and this country to one of the largest and most lucrative markets in the world? We're told that we didn't have the right boat, that The Cat wasn't the right boat, but when you look at the numbers, although it might not be the best one for the area because it can't transport freight and trucks, that vessel still produced profit for Nova Scotians.

As I've tabled before in this House, Mr. Speaker, the chambers of commerce from southwestern Nova Scotia issued a cost-benefit analysis that indicated an annual \$6 million investment in ferry service would have yielded over \$22 million in profits for Nova Scotians. So you might say it's not the right boat, but the numbers say that boat still brought money into Nova Scotia, still put money in their pockets - you still receive the return on investment into that vessel.

We're told there was no business case, but yet we haven't seen any analysis to substantiate that - so how do we know? How do we know there's no business case if you don't present the business case and let people take a look at it? No numbers have been presented to us, to the people of Yarmouth, or to the public, yet we hear there's no business case. We've been told that tourism numbers are up by 3 per cent, I believe it was, this past year and that's an indication that a vessel is not needed in Yarmouth connecting us to the New England market.

Numbers are actually down in southwestern Nova Scotia if you look at the statistics that have come out from the Finance Department and the Economic and Rural Development and Tourism Department, and I think some of the other numbers are inflated because of the cruise vessels that come into the Halifax Harbour. Those clients do not necessarily invest a lot of money into the economy - they come off for a couple of hours and get back on the boat and leave. They don't stay in our accommodation facilities. They don't fill up our hotels - they might not even eat a meal here. And if tourism is so great in the province, then why does every tourism operator I talk to say that they're having a hard time?

That's what's confusing for me - when your tourism is up, we're doing great, we don't need a boat in Yarmouth - every single tourism operator I've talked to, and it's not just people in Yarmouth, I've talked to White Point in Queens, they have lost 50 per cent of their American business - 50 per cent of their American business gone and attributed directly to the loss of the Yarmouth ferry. Why have the tourism operators called me from Shelburne, from Hubbards, from Digby, from P.E.I., and Cape Breton - why aren't they doing well? Why are they telling me that they've been impacted by the loss of the ferry?

We're told that Americans should pay, but 80 per cent of the clients that come across on that boat are Americans coming to Nova Scotia. Portland and Bar Harbor, a lot of those places in the U.S. benefit from domestic tourism and don't have the same economic benefit as we do with having a ferry service, so there's no impetus for their governments to invest in the service because they don't need it as much as we do. When people bring these facts to the minister's attention and he says focus on the positives and don't talk about the ferry, I think it is time that the minister and this government stop lecturing the people of Yarmouth on what we need and start listening to our concerns and the concerns of tourism operators from across the province, from business owners across the province, and acting on those. That's what I think good governance is.

Businesses in this province have worked for over 100 years to educate people on the American side of the border to come through Yarmouth to visit Nova Scotia, and in two years with that one decision to cut the ferry we have thrown that education all away, and whenever we get a boat back we have to start again from scratch. We've thrown it all away and I think that's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

All the people of Yarmouth, the people of southwestern Nova Scotia, the people of this province, want is for this minister to listen to those concerns, this Premier to listen to those concerns and believe, as we do, in the full potential of Yarmouth, in the full potential of the tourism sector in Nova Scotia, and understand that having a vessel in Yarmouth connecting us to New England is part of that vision. Help us achieve those goals and help us reach that full potential, because the people who have been affected by this in Yarmouth,

outside, and all across the province, don't want a handout - I'll be clear - they just want to work; they just want to have a business and provide for their families.

As this is a provincial issue, and it is a national issue connecting us to an international marketplace, I'm urging this government to come to the table now, show leadership, work with the federal government, with the people of Yarmouth, and help us get a ferry service back in the area as soon as we can. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity this evening to share a few words before we continue on into estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I can only imagine the challenges for a first-time government coming to office - the urgency with which the departments press issues before the ministers - it's challenging to run a government but for your first time in office it must be monumental. I can think of some of the examples. Briefing books would be coming on the minister's desks. There would be issues that they may not have heard before because there are all kinds of issues, as we know, in the province.

Decisions would have to be made and they would be being pushed in a certain direction by the staff in the departments. Of course, they also have to remember the people back home and they also have to remember their supporters. But, Mr. Speaker, time is moving on for this government and I do believe, as we saw in the general election, that the people of the province voted for change and that's what happened and we can't run away from that.

As I recall my good friend, and former Premier, Rodney MacDonald said, the people are always right. Mr. Speaker, the people voted for change, but I don't think we are seeing a lot of change today with this government. I think about debt, and we often heard comments made to this side of the House that all the debt was racked up by the Parties on this side of the House. But if we look at the statistics, and we look at the amount of debt that has been added by this government since their election, about one and a half times the amount of debt added per year has been added in comparison to Parties previously in power.

Mr. Speaker, if you take into account the HST increase, that's another \$400 million, and add that to the almost \$700 million of debt that this government has added, we're up to about \$1 billion in two short years, which is roughly two times the amount of debt added by any other Party previously, per year, in this province. I think it's important for Nova Scotians to know that and understand that.

The important thing for the members of this House is that we learn from mistakes and the past government spent money and oftentimes spent more than they should have. In 1999, when Dr. John Hamm came to office, the deficit was 10 per cent of the budget. A great deal of effort went into balancing that budget and in 2002-03 we had our first balanced budget in 40 years. Now, it took expenditure control to achieve that, Mr. Speaker. I think that was an important point in our history of Nova Scotia and I think that we need to go back to that kind of thinking for the benefit of our province.

We do believe that the budget this year could have been balanced and it should be. Mr. Speaker, I think Nova Scotians - as I've mentioned before in this Chamber - are scratching their heads. We heard all this talk about the need to run a deficit and all of a sudden there was surplus. There was an over \$600 million swing in the numbers.

I could see if a budget was out 1 or 2 per cent, but if it's out 4, 5 or 6 per cent, it seems to me we have to start taking a closer look at the numbers. It's important to us on this side of the Legislature to question those numbers. I can think of one set of numbers in particular, the FTE account in government, which is basically the full-time decisions within government.

We saw in the previous year there were about 10,800 civil servants, the projection was to be the same this past year, it dropped by about 700, but wait a minute, it's back up again. That represents a significant amount of money - I'm going to put a rough estimate of somewhere between \$50 million and \$75 million. I believe, as we had questions in the House last week about this matter and they were thrown out of order because they are connected to this budget this year - rightly so, I commend our new Speaker for that accurate ruling. The point I'd like to make is that those numbers, they're probably positions that haven't been filled, that they're helping departments to fudge their numbers so that if they need to they can pull back on the costs to show the government is doing a better job than perhaps it really is. Then they're driving those numbers back up for the coming year.

That is something we're going to be watching more closely. I know at Public Accounts Committee, which is another important function of this Legislature, I asked for some numbers about three weeks ago now and I'm expecting to get them in about a week's time from the Public Service Commission so that we can accurately track the FTE count in government.

We need to make government smaller in this province if we're ever going to have a hope to have lower taxes so that we can have a private sector economy that can grow. We all know that it is the private sector, it's the people who take risks to start businesses, that borrow money, that face the potential of losing their own personal wealth all while creating jobs for Nova Scotians, those are the people we need to be supporting.



If we can get a handle on the size of government, we're going to be taking steps in the right direction towards balancing the budget. There's no reason why we can't do this. There has often been the point made here, where would you cut and whose job would you get rid of? In reality, when we asked the Public Service Commission about three weeks ago, they indicated to us that about 600 people each year leave the provincial government to find work elsewhere. They may be finding jobs elsewhere, they could be retiring - the bottom line is these people are leaving voluntarily. There is an opportunity for government to reduce its size without having to cause somebody to lose their job. The power is in our hands but we need the will to do it. We are going to continue to press this government to do it.

We look at the budget numbers and we've seen variances in the numbers, significant variances, and we have to say that when you look at it, it looks like the only budget savings are savings over the estimates that this government has laid out. That is really no achievement.

If we look at the numbers that have come back in from last year that caused the surplus, we see there was well over \$400 million that came from underestimated HST revenue and underestimated personal income tax revenue. I remember looking at the numbers for HST forecast earlier in the year and I couldn't understand why the HST number was so low. I thought, this is strange, they've increased the HST on Nova Scotians by about 25 per cent, I figured it would make sense if, all things being equal, the revenues for government would be about 25 per cent higher, but they weren't. Lo and behold, when the real numbers came in, it was more to that tune.

This is an example of an estimate being lowballed only for us to find out later that it's actually much higher than it is. This surplus didn't come from good fiscal restraint on the government's part, this surplus came from increased taxation. Wouldn't it be better in this province to have increased tax revenues from new business activity in the province rather than just taking more out of people's pockets?

I think I'll leave that discussion because I'm sure it's starting to weigh on the members on the government side and I think I've made it clear many times about the importance of fiscal restraint and the value that it brings to this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to put some things on the table here about the importance of getting back to a balanced budget so that we can make life better for Nova Scotians. There are many Nova Scotians who are looking for work today. We see this in our own home areas. An economy that supports the private sector ultimately supports these people. We need to have them contributing to Nova Scotia to move our province forward. Life becomes so much better for people when they have security of income. They feel better about themselves if they have challenges at home; suddenly there's a greater sense of self

worth at home, in amongst the family; there's a good example being set for children, they see their parents having a chance to go off to work.

Mr. Speaker, all these things can start to happen more in our economy when we have an economy with lower taxes, when we have an economy that leaves more dollars in the pockets of the people who take the risks to start businesses. When we look at all these kinds of economic development plans and strategies, one of the greatest things we can do is try to help the businesses we do have in the province to grow incrementally. So the business that might have 10 or 12 people, imagine them growing by one or two people over the course of a year or two. It may seem like a very small change but if you have that happening everywhere across the province, across every sector of our economy, what a difference that will make for Nova Scotians, that puts real dollars into the pockets.

In this House we've talked about the government reducing its take of taxes from those who are low income. Well that's fine, that's good, but why don't we put some dollars in their pockets by giving them an opportunity, giving them a chance to participate in an economy that thrives.

Mr. Speaker, we look at our province, it is very defensive. We don't have big upswings in our economy, primarily because we don't have a real - we have natural resources, certainly, and I think of the forestry sector in Inverness County and what a major role that plays in our economy, but we don't have the resources like they have in Alberta. In Alberta 25 per cent of the provincial revenues come from oil and gas and many jobs we see are filled by people leaving Nova Scotia to work there.

I think, Mr. Speaker, while we don't have natural resources, an opportunity there for a big upswing in our economy, we do have a chance to grow our small business sector. That's where I think we really need to start focusing our energy in this Legislature. With that, I thank you for having the chance to speak tonight.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We will now take a short recess while I allow the Minister of Education to have her staff come down to the lower Chamber here and get set up for Committee of the Whole House on Supply. Thank you.

[5:18 p.m. The House recessed.]

[5:22 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CWH on Supply with Deputy Speaker Ms. Becky Kent in the Chair.]

[9:29 p.m. CWH on Supply rose and the House reconvened with Deputy Speaker Ms. Becky Kent in the Chair.]

MADAM SPEAKER: The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on Supply reports:

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole House on Supply has met and made progress and begs leave to sit again.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

**[GOVERNMENT MOTIONS]**

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Resolution No. 4.

Res. 4, re Estimates - Committee of the Whole House on Supply - notice given Apr. 1/11 - (Hon. G. Steele)

MADAM SPEAKER: Debate had been adjourned by the honourable member for Kings West.

The honourable member for Kings West.

MR. LEO GLAVINE: Although the hour is getting late, this is a very important part of the function of the House to give a reply to the budget. One of the fortunate aspects is that we also get to question the Minister of Finance during estimates on more of the detailed line for line in the budget. I know the minister enjoys that process.

One of the things that I alluded to in my earlier remarks on the budget, that people maybe thought it was a little cute to say the budget is a work of fiction. Now that it's been out there in the public domain for a week, we're actually hearing from a number of people across the province who wonder how these numbers were generated when you're off by three-quarters of a billion dollars. That in itself, on a \$9 billion budget, does beg a lot of questions.

Just going back and taking a little bit of a review for a moment, we all know here in the province that when the NDP were campaigning, they promised everything to everyone. They made promises that they knew they couldn't keep and as soon as they took power,

they started backtracking. Their first year in power was nothing more than setting the stage so they could break all of those promises, which they made in order to get elected. Balanced budgets - a famous part of the campaign of 2009, there would be balanced budgets in the province, so they promised balanced budgets and they delivered a budget with a deficit of \$592 million and changed balanced-budget law in order to make it possible. Of course, we all now have some insight as to why they would not include a sunset clause.

Nova Scotians simply cannot rely on what the NDP will put in front of Nova Scotians. Obviously, they promised not to raise taxes. Now we're out with balanced budgets. Most Nova Scotians figured they would not be hit with additional taxes, so they hiked the HST by 2 per cent last year. They waited until late on a Friday afternoon before the Legislature resumed, to hike 1,400 fees in hopes that the media would be too busy with a federal vote of no confidence to pay much attention to what has become a tax grab.

Not one minister on that side of the House can tell you how much it costs to deliver those services - and that's one of the areas that, in coming weeks, we'll continue to drill down on - not one. Fees are supposed to be on a cost-recovery basis, anything more is a tax on Nova Scotians and this government has no idea how much these fees cost. In fact, I'm not even sure that they buy their own talking points. Certainly the Premier believes that by increasing 1,400 user fees, his government imposed yet another tax. He must believe it was a tax hike, he said so himself. Only two years ago the Premier stood in his place, in this House, and he said to Nova Scotians across the province, "They call them user fees, but they're taxes, that's what they are, and many of them, in fact, have been necessarily put in as taxation measures because although they continue to be called user fees, by law they're actually taxes.", Hansard, May 4, 2009.

That is what the Premier said right here in this House. He said that to Nova Scotians and Nova Scotians believed what he said at the time. What is it, Mr. Premier, did you truly believe what you said while you were in Opposition or what your talking points changed to on that late Friday afternoon when you tried to sneak in yet another tax grab, when you hike 1,400 fees with no credible explanation as to why? I will make the same challenge I made a few days ago to the Minister of Finance. Provide this House with a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with each and every theme. Show exactly what each input costs and then detail exactly how much each of these inputs went up by. I was hoping - I asked the Minister of Environment to give us that kind of breakdown on an environmental assessment that went up by \$300, but to no avail. Then we can debate these changes and perhaps there is a rationale that we can see openly and transparently.

Unfortunately Nova Scotians have learned that the NDP has no love for openness or transparency. They nickel and dime Nova Scotians late on a Friday afternoon. Nova Scotians simply cannot rely on what the NDP puts in front of them. Each year, the NDP Government has reached into the pockets of Nova Scotians and taken out more and more of

their income because they have broken a promise to index income tax brackets to inflation. This was a promise that was made five years ago and it was supported by the same NDP members who are now in the position to do something about it, but refuse to make those changes which they argued so fiercely for while in Opposition.

When he was in Opposition, the now Finance Minister went to great lengths to argue for the indexation of personal income tax brackets and he's now in a position to get rid of this stealth tax. He is now in the position where he can make good on his promise but as Nova Scotians have learned, the NDP will say anything to grab power but they are very different people once they're in a position to actually do something about it.

It is worth taking a moment to hear what the Finance Minister said when he was critic. On April 28, 2005, the Finance Minister argued, "... let's make no mistake about it, this budget includes an increase in income tax . . . there is no inflation indexing of the tax brackets. So while inflation marches along, the tax brackets do not. Simply by virtue of inflation, more people move into a higher tax bracket. That is as much of a tax grab as if the Minister of Finance reached into your pocket or into your wallet or into your purse and took out the money. Let's make no mistake about it, this is a tax increase measure, the government's continuing refusal or inability to index tax brackets."

Just maybe we'll get some movement on this at some point in time as the minister would truly love to be able to index the tax brackets. The federal government and most provinces index income tax brackets. They do this because it protects the people of their province from losing more and more of their hard-earned money every year. The Premier and the Finance Minister have been spinning the reality. Nova Scotia is one of three provinces left in the country which does not index income tax. The Premier and the Finance Minister have been intentionally misleading Nova Scotians when they say that there is tax relief in this budget. Let us be absolutely clear, there is no tax relief.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, please. I would remind the member that it's not acceptable to infer that there was an intentional misleading of the House. I would ask the member to retract that statement.

MR. GLAVINE: Well, I will have to consider that, Madam Speaker, because I'm not intentionally misleading the House. (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I would ask that you withdraw that statement as it was expressed that there was an intentional misleading of the House, in your remarks.

MR. GLAVINE: No, I said their government was intentionally misleading Nova Scotians, not the members of this House, Nova Scotians. (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Just one moment, please. Okay, I understand that it is not unparliamentary to suggest that there was an intentional misleading of Nova Scotians but I

would remind the member that he's pushing it for consideration of appropriate behaviour within the House. I'll let it go for now but be mindful of it.

MR. GLAVINE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let us be absolutely clear there is no relief when the Minister of Finance reaches into your wallet and takes out more and more of your money. In fact, if you are earning \$40,000 this year, the Finance Minister has taken close to \$600 from you this year and took over \$600 last year. By simply indexing your income tax, this government, this Premier, for whom so many held such high expectations during the last election, this Premier could protect you from his Finance Minister and his endless tax grabs but we've come to expect this kind of disappointment from this Premier, indeed from the entire New Democratic Party. Nova Scotians simply cannot rely on what the NDP puts in front of them.

This NDP Government used to be concerned when the provincial government even thought about downloading their responsibilities onto the municipalities. Yet, again, it seems that they didn't actually believe what they stood for in the past. The Premier has decided to back out of a commitment made to the municipalities and download costs that threaten to cast municipalities further into financial hardship.

By breaking their part of the deal, the nickel and dime Party have ensured that Nova Scotians from across the province now will pay higher taxes. Make no mistake, each Nova Scotian taxpayer who sees their property taxes rise, will have this Premier to thank. It is 100 per cent the fault of this Premier and his Minister of Finance yet again reaching into the wallets, purses of Nova Scotians, from across the province.

Now when it comes to growing the private sector and not the public sector, when it comes to economic development, Nova Scotia has been woefully behind the rest of the country for far too long. The problem is that successive Progressive Conservative and NDP Governments have focused on growing the public sector while ignoring the private sector. The plain fact is that in order to grow the economy, the private sector must grow. However, the private sector has been all but ignored by the NDP Government as they continue to follow the unfortunate trend which was established by the Progressive Conservative mismanagement of our economy.

One only has to look at 2003 to see where growth in government expenditures got entirely out of hand. That year real GDP grew in the province at a rate of 1.41 per cent; however, ordinary government expenditures grew at a rate of 1.96 per cent. This was just the beginning, the turning point, because for the years in which the Progressive Conservatives and the NDP have been in office, ordinary expenditures have outstripped growth in the economy by an average of 3.15 per cent a year, or a cumulative difference of about 35 per cent.

Since taking office the NDP have done nothing to reverse this trend. In fact, they have only made it more difficult for the private sector by hiking taxes and fees, by entrenching the public sector's position of growth.

There is a place for the government in encouraging economic growth and development but it is not the place where it currently stands. The NDP Government is simply getting in the way of economic growth in Nova Scotia. Since taking office, this NDP Government has been picking winners and losers, doling out the cash from the IEF, a fund which they themselves refer to as a slush fund. This NDP Government is no different than the crew which would sit around the Cabinet Table in secret and hand out money to operations such as S&J Potato Farms or Magic Valley Fun Park. One only has to look to the NDP ridings to see where the cash is flowing and more cash than ever is being handed out from behind closed doors of the Cabinet Room under this government.

What Nova Scotia needs in order to grow is not more secret, closed-door Cabinet deals. What Nova Scotia needs is more basic - it makes up the fundamental building blocks of our economy and the way Nova Scotians do business.

We have called now for the past two years for a comprehensive tax review. The NDP came into government with a plan to raise taxes. We didn't know it at the time but they immediately put the wheels in motion once they took power. They commissioned reports which set the stage that they wanted and followed those reports with a cross-country, cross-province, which was designed to sell tax hikes to Nova Scotians.

This road show was well orchestrated in order to get the answers they wanted. They neglected to hear from those many Nova Scotians who are already struggling with our uncompetitiveness tax regime and, when challenged, the Finance Minister became incredibly combative with those same businesses he neglected to hear from.

The NDP certainly came into office with a plan to hike taxes but what they haven't done is develop any strategy which would make Nova Scotia competitive. Indeed, we don't even have the necessary data to move forward with reform. What we need is an assessment of our tax regime in Nova Scotia, how it compares to other provinces, and the impact and the effect of each tax, each tax credit, each rebate and each regulatory measure.

When the Finance Minister hiked fees, what he and the Premier once called across-the-board taxes, he was unable to conclusively state whether these were on a cost-recovery basis, as they are intended, or if these increases amount to a further tax on Nova Scotians.

We do not know the cost of each input for these fees and what a reasonable fee would reflect cost recovery. While we do not know all that would be uncovered in a comprehensive tax review, we do know a few things. We know, for example, that Nova Scotia has some of the highest taxes in the country; we know that on almost every single measure of competitiveness, Nova Scotia ranks at, or near, the bottom of the list; Nova Scotians know that we have some of the highest personal income tax rates in Atlantic Canada, they shoulder this burden every year; Nova Scotians know that they have the highest gasoline taxes in the Maritimes, compounded by the HST hike which adds a further tax on the already high wholesale selling price - they feel it each time they go to the pumps; Nova Scotia is the only province in Atlantic Canada which still collects a capital tax on large corporations; the highest land transfer taxes and probate taxes; and our small business tax rate is still too high.

The Finance Minister will be shaving another 0.5 percentage points off the small business tax. That means we're now tied - we've made progress - for one of the highest small business taxes in Canada.

Our caucus will give credit where credit is due. This modest adjustment is a welcome addition to the budget, and small business should feel a modest level of relief from the many damaging tax and fee hikes we have seen from the NDP Government over a short period of time. However, this decrease of only a 0.5 percentage point simply does not go far enough. P.E.I. and Manitoba have a small business tax of 1 per cent; Saskatchewan stands at 2 per cent; and New Brunswick has a target of 2.5 per cent. Adjusting this tax rate is meaningless if businesses aren't making money, and they won't make money when they aren't competitive.

With this budget the NDP has reaffirmed that they have little confidence in Nova Scotians. Now the reverse is happening as well - Nova Scotians are losing confidence in this government. It is the small- and medium-sized businesses that make this province work. It is the jobs that Nova Scotians create from Yarmouth to Glace Bay, from Tatamagouche to Sheet Harbour, and from New Germany to Inverness. It is the jobs that these Nova Scotians create for themselves and for the community that is the backbone of our economy.

When an entrepreneur assesses all the risks, still jumps into a business, they do so headfirst. They are also investing in their communities and in the people who live and work in that community. They are creating jobs, but these are more than simple payrolls to them, they are often their neighbours and friends. There are many risks involved with being an entrepreneur, many come with the territory of innovation and new ideas, but far too many of these risks have the government at their root cause.

The government should be setting the stage for economic development and then getting out of the way; however this government keeps getting in the way of economic development, making it riskier to do business in Nova Scotia, more attractive for



entrepreneurs to take the innovations, their ideas and their business to other provinces. Nova Scotia still suffers from net out-migration to other provinces, and the failed policies of the NDP are at the heart of our population loss. For a community business, retail sales can make the difference between sink or swim, yet the NDP Government decided last year to hike the HST by 2 per cent, getting in the way of economic development across the province.

For every employer and employee, personal income tax helps determine the economic health and well-being of their family, yet this province has some of the highest levels of personal income tax - and the NDP has broken a promise they made to match brackets to inflation, getting in the way of economic security of every family.

As the Minister of Finance well knows, his government continues the trend of the last 20 years - Nova Scotia has been dead last in terms of economic growth, including the two years since the NDP has taken office. I do look forward to more detailed questioning on the budget. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Madam Speaker, that concludes the government's business for the day. I move that the House do now rise to meet again tomorrow at the hour of 12:00 noon. The House will sit until 6:00 p.m. The order of business will be the daily routine and after Question Period will be the Committee of the Whole House on Supply. I move the House do now rise.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is to adjourn until 12:00 noon tomorrow.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

[The House rose at 9:53 p.m.]

---

**NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)****RESOLUTION NO. 299**

By: Mr. Leo Glavine (Kings West)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Corporal Pete H. MacLean has been a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for almost 25 years; and

Whereas Corporal MacLean has made many noteworthy contributions in the service of his country and to his community; and

Whereas Corporal MacLean completed his career at 14 Wing Transportation and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Squadron where his skills and dedication were highly regarded;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize his service to Canada, congratulate him on his service to Canada, congratulate him on his long and distinguished career and wish him health and happiness in retirement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 300**

By: Mr. Andrew Younger (Dartmouth East)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Barrington Municipal High School's Environment Club demonstrates significant leadership in enhancing the quality of watersheds and coastal environments; and

Whereas the members of the Environment Club work to maintain and restore sensitive coastal habitats and promote environmental stewardship; and

Whereas Barrington Municipal High School's Environment Club recently received a 2011 Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment which recognizes innovation, creativity and commitment to marine protection;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Environment Club at Barrington Municipal High School on this prestigious award and

acknowledge its work and dedication to the protection of our coastlines and coastal communities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 301**

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Colchester North)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Nova Scotia's volunteer firefighters provide a valuable service to their community and to the province; and

Whereas these volunteers dedicate both time and effort to ensure the members of their communities have the best fire protection; and

Whereas training, fundraising, first aid, recruitment and public relations are only a few of the many additional responsibilities of the members of a fire brigade;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly extend best wishes to Carl Shaw on his retirement after 32 years as chief of the Salmon River Fire Brigade and thank him for his many years of public service.

**RESOLUTION NO. 302**

By: Ms. Becky Kent (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ocean View Manor is a long-term care facility in Eastern Passage, which offers exemplary care to its residents through dedicated administration, staff and volunteer services; and

Whereas citizens of the area volunteer their time at Ocean View Manor in ways such as event planning, assisting with leisure time activities, talking with residents and families about day-to-day issues and helping families deal with the challenges that residents and families face at this stage in life; and

Whereas Linda Manley has given five years of her dedication and energy as a volunteer at Ocean View Manor;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly commend Linda Manley for five years of dedicated volunteer service to Ocean View Manor in Eastern Passage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 303**

By: Ms. Becky Kent (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ocean View Manor is a long-term care facility in Eastern Passage, which offers exemplary care to its residents through dedicated administration, staff and volunteer services; and

Whereas citizens of the area volunteer their time at Ocean View Manor in ways such as event planning, assisting with leisure time activities, talking with residents and families about day-to-day issues and helping families deal with the challenges that residents and families face at this stage in life; and

Whereas Winney Roy has selflessly given of her time, energy and commitment for more than 35 years to the residents of Ocean View Manor and has exemplified the true value that Nova Scotians hold for our senior citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly commend Winney Roy for 35 years of dedicated volunteer service to Ocean View Manor in Eastern Passage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 304**

By: Ms. Becky Kent (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ocean View Manor is a long-term care facility in Eastern Passage, which offers exemplary care to its residents through dedicated administration, staff and volunteer services; and

Whereas citizens of the area volunteer their time at Ocean View Manor in ways such as event planning, assisting with leisure time activities, talking with residents and families about day-to-day issues and helping families deal with the challenges that residents and families face at this stage in life; and

Whereas Jean Fraser has given five years of her dedication and energy as a volunteer at Ocean View Manor;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly commend Jean Fraser for five years of dedicated volunteer service to Ocean View Manor in Eastern Passage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 305**

By: Ms. Becky Kent (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ocean View Manor is a long-term care facility in Eastern Passage, which offers exemplary care to its residents through dedicated administration, staff and volunteer services; and

Whereas citizens of the area volunteer their time at Ocean View Manor in ways such as event planning, assisting with leisure time activities, talking with residents and families about day-to-day issues and helping families deal with the challenges that residents and families face at this stage in life; and

Whereas Layton (Lefty) Hollis has selflessly given of his time, energy and commitment for more than 15 years as a volunteer at Ocean View Manor;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly commend Layton (Lefty) Hollis for 15 years of dedicated volunteer service to Ocean View Manor in Eastern Passage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 306**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Kayla Freeman and Tanja Weber of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas Kayla Freeman and Tanja Weber received the Business Award for Booth Basics with their business, South Shore Slushies;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Kayla Freeman and Tanja Weber, winners in the Booth Basics category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.

**RESOLUTION NO. 307**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Bayleigh Mansfield, Hannah Freeman and Breanna DeLong of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas Bayleigh Mansfield, Hannah Freeman and Breanna DeLong received the Business Award for Highest Profit with their business, The Popcorn Palace;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Bayleigh Mansfield, Hannah Freeman and Breanna DeLong, winners in the Highest Profit category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.

**RESOLUTION NO. 308**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Kyle Rawding, Anthony Smith and Colin Rogers of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas Kyle Rawding, Anthony Smith and Colin Rogers received the Business Award for Most Innovative Product with their business, Crazy Ducks;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Kyle Rawding, Anthony Smith and Colin Rogers, winners in the Most Innovative Product category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 309**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Celsea Ryan and Robyn Baker of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas Celsea Ryan and Robyn Baker received the Business Award for Logo Design with their business, Brownies Bites;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Celsea Ryan and Robyn Baker, winners in the Logo Design category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 310**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Ariel Mahoney, Brea Moreau and Logan Mansfield of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas the three students were the winners in the Perfect Pitch category;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Ariel Mahoney, Brea Moreau and Logan Mansfield, winners in the Perfect Pitch category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 311**

By: Ms. Vicki Conrad (Queens)

I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Nichole van Dyk and Kate Freeman of North Queens Community School participated in an interdisciplinary unit focusing on entrepreneurship, advertising, technology, budgeting and written languages, both French and English; and

Whereas business awards were presented to recognize students for Pitch Perfection, Most Innovative Product, Highest Profit, Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation Logo Design and Booth Basics; and

Whereas Nichole van Dyk and Kate Freeman received the Business Award for Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation with their business, Candyland Creations;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate and recognize Nichole van Dyk and Kate Freeman, winners in the Advertising, Outstanding Sales Approach and Marketing Presentation category at North Queens Community School, for their successful involvement in the interdisciplinary unit at their school.