HANSARD 11-35



DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Gordon Gosse

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Third Session

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011

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HALIFAX, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011

Sixty-first General Assembly

Third Session

7:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Gordon Gosse

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to recognize the honourable Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party who will present to the House the newly elected member for Cape Breton North.

[Hon. Jamie Baillie escorted Mr. Eddie Orrell into the House.]

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mr. Eddie Orrell, member for the electoral district of Cape Breton North, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the honourable member take his seat. (Standing Ovation)

Before we continue the daily routine, I would like to advise the House that on September 28th, the House of Assembly Management Commission appointed the Auditor General of Nova Scotia as the auditor of accounts of this House for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011, and that the appointment was not made before that date. I'm advised that the audit work is underway and will report to the House when it is completed. The Audit Committee of the Management Commission was very happy that the Auditor General agreed to carry out this work.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: As Speaker, I'm tabling two reports from the Chief Electoral Officer. The first is a report on the proceedings of the Cumberland South by-election held on October 26, 2010. The second is the political contribution regime annual report for the reporting year of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

HON. DARRELL DEXTER (The Premier): Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to speak about a dark period in Nova Scotia's past, but also about hope for a better future. Over a period of four days last week in Halifax, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada heard from Mi'kmaq and other First Nations people from across the province about their experiences at residential schools - in particular, the Shubenacadie Residential School in Nova Scotia.

For many of the children who were taken there and for the parents who were left behind, the Shubenacadie Residential School became a symbol of pain and separation. Last week the residential school survivors shared their stories with the commission, with each other, and with all Canadians. They spoke of their childhoods and how their experiences at residential schools had followed them throughout their lives. The Atlantic hearings gave all Atlantic Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, the chance to learn more and to bear witness to the legacy of 130 years of the residential school system. The stories the survivors told with courage and with tears are now and will forever be part of our shared history.

Today I want to honour our longstanding partnership with the Mi'kmaq and bring to the attention of the House the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. I will also read a resolution on this important matter and I will seek the approval

from the members of the House to deal with that resolution immediately after responses to my statement this evening.

Commissioners came to Nova Scotia earlier this month, prior to last week's public events in Halifax. They visited the First Nations communities of Indian Brook and Eskasoni to gather stories from survivors who might not be able to travel to Halifax. Many survivors are now elderly and frail, and it's difficult for them to travel. The hard work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has created a time and an opportunity for resolution and healing. We cannot undo the damage suffered by so many children and by their own families, but we can respect and honour their stories.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission touches on matters that are still affecting the Mi'kmaq years later. The residential school experience left many people disconnected from their culture, language, families, and communities. Many of the social problems that exist today in the First Nations trace back to these ruptures. In Nova Scotia the Mi'kmaq, the province, and the federal government are working together through the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Tripartite Forum, the made-in-Nova Scotia process and the historic consultation framework.

The three levels of government come together in negotiations, in the spirit of reconciliation. The future for the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia will be better than it has been. As a gesture of reconciliation, our government has established a scholarship to help young Mi'kmaq interested in becoming teachers, to achieve their goals. The scholarship will help to ensure that Mi'kmaq culture and language live on in the public and Aboriginal school systems for generations to come.

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I want to thank the commissioners for holding national hearings in Nova Scotia and for the opportunity that was provided for survivors in Atlantic Canada to heal in this important way. I also want to thank the survivors who shared their stories, often telling of painful experiences. Thank you for your strength and dignity in telling us about a past we will not forget and never want to live again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

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

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier for sending us a copy of his remarks earlier today. I'd also like to applaud the Premier for continuing the good work of the Tripartite Forum. Without full participation from all levels of government, we really cannot address the needs of the First Nations communities in Nova Scotia.

Last week the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was in Halifax and gave First Nations peoples in Atlantic Canada the opportunity to share their experiences and their stories as residential school survivors. The victimization of residential schools continued long after the school doors closed and continues still. Many say the purpose of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is to give a voice to the voiceless and link the present to the past, so that we, as a society, can move forward towards true reconciliation.

Hundreds of people came forward during the proceedings last week, to share stories about the hardships they endured at residential schools. The survivors, and all those who participate in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, should be commended for their courage to come forward and speak to the atrocities endured and the harmful, lasting effects that these abuses have had on their families and on their communities. We need to heal, as a society, from the abuses that happened at these schools and without these stories and without these truths, we cannot move forward.

As long as Aboriginal communities suffer higher rates of violence, higher rates of addiction and higher rates of low income and dire poverty and a lower rate of literacy - as a society, we cannot say we've truly moved forward.

Premier Dexter has announced a scholarship initiative for Mi'kmaq students becoming teachers. This is a step in the right direction and we support it, and many more steps need to be taken. We wish to also recognize those individuals who continue to support the healing process in their community and who support their communities through traditional language and cultural teachings.

The Liberal caucus also wishes to recognize all those who participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and who shared their stories and who want to move forward to help strengthen First Nation communities in a meaningful and sustainable way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in my place today to speak on behalf of my Party, in regard to the statement just made by the Premier. I, too, appreciate that we have been provided a copy in advance of his prepared remarks and I appreciate the comments made just a moment ago by the Leader of the Liberal Party as well.

I'm going to set aside, Mr. Speaker, my own prepared remarks for a moment because I just want to say to the House, personally, that I believe it is a truism and I'm sure all members here believe it is a truism, that when one person or when one culture in our province is diminished, then all Nova Scotians are diminished as well.

That is one of the lessons that we are learning again because of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and so I would say that the work of the commission here in Nova Scotia in the past week to ensure that the stories of 130 years of unfortunate and sad history are told. Stories of children and their families, stories of individual hardship cases, and stories of an entire culture that was suppressed and diminished. These are sad

stories that are painful for Nova Scotians to hear but it's important that those stories are told and documented, that the truth is uncovered.

One of the things we have seen as a result of that process is that the dignity of those who are still among us, the survivors of that awful time - the dignity that they showed in coming forward in great pain to make sure the truth is known and that our province can learn from the past is something that is worth the admiration and the thanks of all members of this House of Assembly.

I am glad that the Premier and the government have brought this before us today. It is not right that a child could be so disconnected forcibly from their own family and that a family can be disconnected from their culture. We all need to pledge that will never be the case again and the place to start in making that pledge is to ensure that we have fully shone the light of day on those past practices. The important thing is that by absorbing the lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Nova Scotia can set itself on the path to a better future.

For example, we understand in our hearts that Nova Scotia is a better place because of the rich culture of the Mi'kmaq people. Indeed, it is at its best when it allows to shine the rich diversity of cultures of all the people who call Nova Scotia home, or who dream to someday call Nova Scotia home. That is why it is so important that we recognize that when one person or one culture is so diminished, that all of Nova Scotia is diminished and we cannot allow that to happen. So I commend the government on the decision to set up a scholarship and we fully support it as I recognize all Parties in this House support it. Thank you. (Applause)

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 1844

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

Whereas it is now widely recognized that over the past century, tens of thousands of Aboriginal children were taken from their families and placed in Indian residential schools across Canada, including thousands of Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia who were placed in the Shubenacadie Residential School only to be punished for their Aboriginal roots and suffer unthinkable abuse; and

Whereas the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has been holding public hearings across the country, providing the opportunity for survivors and their families to share their stories with Canadians in an effort to face what happened and start healing and help Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people reconcile; and

Whereas earlier this month, commissioners held hearings in the First Nation communities of Indian Brook and Eskasoni as well as four days of hearings in Halifax last week:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this Legislature thank the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada for carrying out this important process, thank Nova Scotians for coming out to hear these painful stories and most importantly, thank the survivors and their families for having the courage and strength to share their experiences which will now forever be a part of our shared history.

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 Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 1845

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

Whereas Jack Layton was a man with the rare ability to both lead and unite our country; a man with infectious enthusiasm and a fighting spirit that so many of us, regardless of our political affiliations, came to admire and respect; and

Whereas Mr. Layton was a good friend and a man of great character and inspiration who fought for the underprivileged, and dedicated his life to making sure that no one is left behind - a testament to the true values of New Democrats everywhere; and

Whereas Mr. Layton fought a long and courageous battle with cancer, a battle I'm sorry to say he lost just over two months ago;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House rise together and share in a moment of silence for Jack Layton - a great man, a great leader and a great Canadian.

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.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Deputy Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 1846

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

Whereas the House of Assembly Act requires the appointment of an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission no later than December 31, 2012, to recommend the boundaries and names for the electoral districts comprising this House; and

Whereas the House of Assembly Act requires the appointment of the commission and the issuance of its terms of reference by a select committee of this House and requires that the terms of reference provide that the commission is broadly representative of the population of the province, that the commission prepare a preliminary report and hold public hearings prior to preparing the preliminary report, and that following the preparation of the preliminary report the commission hold further public hearings prior to preparing its final report; and

Whereas the House of Assembly Act requires that the final report of the commission be laid before this House, and that within 10 sitting days after the final report is tabled in this House the government introduce legislation to implement the recommendations contained in the final report;

Therefore be it resolved as follows:

- (1) that pursuant to Section 5(3) of the House of Assembly Act and the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, this House constitute a select committee to determine no later than December 31, 2011,
 - (a) the composition of an independent Electoral Boundaries Commission; and
 - (b) the terms of reference for the commission;

- (2) (a) that the Select Committee be composed of the following members of this House:
 - (i) The Honourable Ross Landry
 - (ii) Gary Ramey, MLA
 - (iii) Michele Raymond, MLA
 - (iv) Leonard Preyra, MLA
 - (v) Jim Boudreau, MLA
 - (vi) The Honourable Michel Samson
 - (vii) Andrew Younger, MLA
 - (viii) The Honourable Christopher d'Entremont
 - (ix) Keith Bain, MLA
 - (b) that the Honourable Ross Landry be the Chairman of the Select Committee;
- (3) that the select committee consult as many interested persons as it reasonably can, including persons of Acadian, African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq communities;
- (4) that pursuant to Section 36(1) of the House of Assembly Act, this House declare that the select committee is not dissolved by prorogation of the House and authorize the select committee to continue its inquiries after the House is prorogued; and
- (5) that the House request that pursuant to Section 80 of the House of Assembly Act and the House of Assembly Management Commission Act, the House of Assembly Management Commission provide the select committee, its members and staff with such facilities and funds as are required to carry out their duties.

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 Minister of Health and Wellness.

RESOLUTION NO. 1847

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

Whereas we just celebrated Respiratory Therapists Week from October 23-29; and

Whereas respiratory therapists provide advanced life-support to patients in respiratory distress, and during catastrophic events they are always at the patient's side; and

Whereas respiratory therapists are an integral part of a health care team, providing education services, diagnostics, critical care, and routine therapeutics;

Therefore be it resolved that this House recognize the important role that respiratory therapists have in providing advanced life-support that contributes to patient care.

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 Education.

RESOLUTION NO. 1848

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

Whereas the Cyberbullying Task Force and Working Group has been meeting each month to hear from researchers and experts on bullying and cyberbullying to explore the scope and prevalence of the problem and to develop recommendations for solutions; and

Whereas an integral part of this process is listening to what young Nova Scotians think can be done to tackle the problem of cyberbullying at our schools and in our communities; and

Whereas the task force recently conducted 35 focus groups with more than 1,000 students from across the province, and heard from more than 5,000 Nova Scotians through the cyberbullying Web site and on-line survey;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly thank these students, teachers, parents, families, and members of the Cyberbullying Task Force and Working Group for getting involved and helping to protect young people from the harmful effects of cyberbullying.

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 Fisheries and Aquaculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 1849

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: Mr. Speaker, I'll be requesting a moment of silence after I complete this resolution.

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

Whereas Harold MacKay Huskilson, who was an esteemed Cabinet member of this House of Assembly for 23 years, representing the constituency of Shelburne from 1970 through 1993, passed away on October 24, 2011; and

Whereas the late Harold MacKay Huskilson was well-known and respected across Nova Scotia during his lifetime, not only as a member of the Legislative Assembly but also as an astute businessman, as well as a community leader; and

Whereas the late Harold Huskilson was also a proud Nova Scotian who was dedicated to serving his community, his province, and his country;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly express heartfelt sympathy to the family of the late Harold Huskilson on their 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.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. CHARLIE PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I read my resolution, I wonder if I might be permitted to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. PARKER: In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, we're pleased this evening to have two campground hosts who achieved some milestones this year. Campground hosts, for those of you who are not familiar, volunteer their time as enthusiastic supporters of our provincial parks. They were honoured at a reception this afternoon, so we are pleased to have Shirley and David Whiston of Halifax. With them is Pam Grace from the Department of Natural Resources. I would ask them to rise and I ask the House to give them a very warm welcome. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: We welcome all our guests to the galleries and hope you enjoy this evening's proceedings.

The honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 1850

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

Whereas the Campground Host Program in Nova Scotia, since its inception in 1996, has grown from five to 54 volunteer campground hosts who annually welcome visitors to the provincial parks system and to the province; and

Whereas campground hosts provide a valued service by contributing their own unique experiences, skills and knowledge of the province, resulting in an enhanced camping experience for our visitors; and

Whereas in 2011, Shirley and David Whiston of Halifax have provided 15 years of continuous volunteer service, and Heather McLeod of Truro and Sheila and Wayne Welker

of Dartmouth have each provided 10 years of volunteer service with the Campground Host Program;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House acknowledge the years of volunteer service provided by these members of the Campground Host Program, and recognize their dedication and pride in providing exceptional service to visitors in our provincial parks.

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. (Applause)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 65 - Entitled an Act Relating to the Nova Scotia Jobs Fund. (Hon. Percy Paris)

Bill No. 66 - Entitled an Act to Require the Accountability of Nova Scotia Power Incorporated to Ratepayers. (Mr. Andrew Younger)

Bill No. 67 - Entitled an Act to Regulate the Sale of Scrap Copper and Certain Other Scrap Metal. (Mr. Allan MacMaster)

Bill No. 68 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 380 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Public Utilities Act, Respecting Eliminating Bonuses in Power Rates. (Mr. Chuck Porter)

Bill No. 69 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 380 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Public Utilities Act, Respecting Transparency in Power Rates. (Mr. Chuck Porter)

Bill No. 70 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 380 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Public Utilities Act, Respecting Ratepayer Fairness. (Mr. Chuck Porter)

MR. SPEAKER: Ordered that these bills be read a second time on a future day.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1851

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

Whereas recently the residents of Shelburne County, and indeed all Nova Scotians, lost a political and business icon with the passing of Harold Huskilson; and

Whereas Harold proudly served in the Nova Scotia Legislature as MLA for Shelburne for 23 years, and during this time served as Minister of Social Services, Information and Communications, and Provincial Secretary; and

Whereas Harold entered politics to make a difference in the lives of the people he served, and admirably did so throughout his elected career and beyond;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the Legislature extend our sympathies to Harold Huskilson's family - his son Clifford, daughter-in-law Linda; daughter Elizabeth, son-in-law Grant; his two grandchildren, Andrew and Andrea; and his three great-grandchildren - and that we also honour his memory by being ever-mindful of the communities we represent.

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 Progressive Conservative Party.

RESOLUTION NO. 1852

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

Whereas October 30th marked the 55th Anniversary of Nova Scotia's 23rd general election, an election that elected Robert L. Stanfield and his Progressive Conservatives to power with 24 seats; and

Whereas Premier Stanfield became the first Progressive Conservative Premier to win four successive majority governments; and

Whereas Premier Stanfield's Governments modernized our education system, brought in Medicare, established the first economic development agency, established the Voluntary Economic Planning Board, and upgraded the roads and highway system;

Therefore be it resolved that on this important anniversary, all members of this House take a moment to remember the provincial election of 1956 and the important contributions Premier Stanfield made to Nova Scotia and to Canada.

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 Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville.

MR. MAT WHYNOTT: Mr. Speaker, I ask permission to make an introduction if I could?

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. WHYNOTT: In the east gallery, we have a visitor who teaches at Charles P. Allen High School who is a good friend of mine, his name is Nathan Beeler. In the resolution I will explain why he is here tonight, but if the House could give him a warm welcome, please. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: We welcome all of our guests in the gallery and hope they enjoy tonight's proceedings.

The honourable member for Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville.

RESOLUTION NO. 1853

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

Whereas Charles P. Allen High School music teacher Nathan Beeler was a recipient of this year's Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence; and

Whereas Mr. Beeler has helped lead 904, a fusion of visual art, sound, multimedia images, lighting, drama and dance to commemorate the Halifax Explosion; and

Whereas Mr. Beeler has led students on cultural exchanges to Cuba, broadening more than just their academic horizons;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in commending Mr. Nathan Beeler for the positive impact he has had on his students, school and communities, and for being recognized for this with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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. 1854

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

Whereas on October 19, 2011, Nova Scotians were proud to hear that Irving Shipbuilding was the successful builder selected to negotiate the right to build Canada's future combat vessels under the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy; and

Whereas this exciting announcement is a true testament to the high-quality shipbuilding reputation built by both Irving and its valued and highly-skilled employees; and

Whereas this \$25 billion contract offers hope to young Nova Scotians that their future prosperities will lie here in their home province;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly acknowledge October 19th as a great day for shipbuilding in Nova Scotia and congratulate the hard-working staff of Irving Shipbuilding for making our shipbuilding future possible.

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. 1855

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

Whereas recently a long-time resident of Cape Breton North, and a community leader, allowed his name to stand for election thereby strengthening our democracy; and

Whereas with the Cape Breton North by-election, the people of Cape Breton North soundly rejected the NDP's high-tax, high-spending policies; and

Whereas the people of Cape Breton North expressed their support for real leadership, vision and a better way forward for their community and for all of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the new member for Cape Breton North on his recent by-election victory.

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 Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

RESOLUTION NO. 1856

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

Whereas the Bay Ducks of the Nova Scotia Junior Hockey League began to play the season with each Saturday night at the St. Margaret's Centre in Upper Tantallon; and

Whereas the Ducks are the defending Nova Scotia Junior B Hockey Champions; and

Whereas local hockey fans will enjoy entertaining hockey in the St. Margaret's Bay area again this season;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature offer best wishes to the Bay Ducks on and off the ice during this season in the Nova Scotia Junior Hockey League.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice and passage without debate. It's probably the only good news hockey season I'm going to have this year.

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. 1857

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

Whereas Nova Scotians are paying more taxes every day thanks to the decisions of this NDP Government; and

Whereas Nova Scotians are paying higher and higher power bills as this NDP Government stands on the sidelines; and

Whereas Nova Scotians are paying more at the pump every time they fill up their cars because this NDP Government refuses to take the tax off the tax and deregulate gas - I see I have the Premier's attention;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly urge the NDP Government to give up their attack on Nova Scotians, change their misguided ways and listen to what people across the province are telling them - the NDP needs to stop trying to tax Nova Scotians into submission.

MR. SPEAKER: The notice is tabled.

The honourable member for Argyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 1858

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 on July 1, 2010, the NDP Government raised the harmonized sales tax by 2 per cent and in a year took in about \$650 more in taxes for every man, woman and child in this province; and

Whereas even after the NDP squeezed every dollar from the pockets of Nova Scotians, they went on to force cuts to front-line services in classrooms and in health care facilities; and

Whereas Nova Scotians have found that their hard-earned dollars went to pay for more government and consulting fees;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly condemn the NDP Government for raiding the pocketbooks of Nova Scotians and breaking their promises to families.

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 Minister of Community Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 1859

HON. DENISE PETERSON-RAFUSE: Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 was Tim Hortons Camp Day; and

Whereas this year the two local Tim Hortons in Chester-St. Margaret's, the Chester and Tantallon Tim Hortons raised over \$5,000; and

Whereas, this year, over \$9.9 million was raised across Canada which helped send more than 14,000 kids to camp this past summer;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulates and thanks all volunteers and staff who helped out on Camp Day, as well as everyone who went to Tim Hortons on that special day.

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. 1860

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

Whereas this NDP Government has seen fit to call back the Nova Scotia Legislature tonight, Halloween, so it can say it sat from October to December; and

Whereas a 13 per cent HST is now just a ghostly memory for most Nova Scotians because the NDP raised the tax to 15 per cent after promising it wouldn't raise taxes; and

Whereas the residents of southwestern Nova Scotia have been reduced to mere skeletons because this NDP Government is starving the community following the cancellation of the Yarmouth ferry;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House agree the NDP Government is the scariest in memory, giving all tricks and no treats and ought to be sent to its room without any candy.

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 Cape Breton West.

RESOLUTION NO. 1861

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 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has a mandate to learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and document the truth of what happened by relying on records held by those who operated and funded the schools, testimony from officials of the institutions and experiences reported by survivors, their families, communities and anyone personally affected by the residential schools; and

Whereas over four days last week, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was in Nova Scotia allowing survivors to tell their stories, share their pain, and educate all of us about a sad and unjust part of our history; and

Whereas through courage and dignity, the survivors of the Shubenacadie Residential School are ensuring the injustices done to them will never be repeated;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada for the work they have done in Nova Scotia and across Canada and honour the survivors who shared their suffering with great dignity in order to promote healing and reconciliation.

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 North.

MR. JIM MORTON: Mr. Speaker, before I read my resolution, could I make an introduction?

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. MORTON: I would like to draw members' attention to the east gallery opposite me. I'd like to welcome Rev. Dr. Randy Crozsman to the House. He has been a visitor here before. Dr. Crozsman is the minister of St. Paul and St. Stephen United Church. He is the past president of the Kentville Rotary Club. He has a long history of association with this place, having participated in a variety of youth parliaments and many roles and is certainly interested in the work that we do here in a deep way. Dr. Crozsman plays a very important set of leadership roles in Kings County. Please give Dr. Crozsman your usual warm welcome. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: We welcome all our guests to the gallery and hope you enjoy tonight's proceedings.

The honourable member for Kings North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1862

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

Whereas the Village of Canning has been without a summer fair for at least a decade; and

Whereas Marjorie and Jim Smith decided to change that by conceiving, planning and organizing the first annual Canning Community Fair, held July 23rd and 24th, 2011; and

Whereas Marjorie and Jim and their team created a diverse and exciting event, including a Little Miss Canning Pageant, fireworks, music, a grand street parade, horse pulls, antique tractor display, concession stands, a dog show and much more, making Canning a destination for visitors from near and far;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate Marjorie and Jim Smith on their success in resurrecting the Canning Community Fair and all of the volunteers for their leadership and commitment to improving community life.

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. 1863

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

Whereas the Minister of Health and Wellness has decreed that all DHA budgets will be cut by 3 per cent next fiscal year; and

Whereas while the minister downplays her cuts, the real impact for each and every DHA will be in the vicinity of 5 to 6 per cent; and

Whereas the minister's decree, coupled with inflationary and wage pressures will cut anywhere from \$80 million to \$95 million out of the health care system starting April 1, 2012;

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Health and Wellness recognize the devastating impact her decree, coupled with inflationary and wage pressures, will have on front-line patient care.

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 Inverness.

RESOLUTION NO. 1864

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's government is growing another 5 per cent this year while Nova Scotians pay the highest taxes in Canada; and

Whereas spending in government departments will grow by over 5 per cent and reach \$8.3 billion this year, an increase of almost half a billion dollars over last year's total of \$7.8 billion; and

Whereas the Department of Finance is growing by 15 per cent;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly condemn this NDP Government for standing by as families struggle to make ends meet while government is gorging on high taxes and more spending.

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 Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

RESOLUTION NO. 1865

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

Whereas the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is committed to thoughtfulness in matters of faith, individual liberty, freedom of religious expression and the celebration of the diversity of spiritual experience; and

Whereas the Universalist Unitarian Church established the Unitarian Universalist Initiative for PEACE, where PEACE stands for peace, equity, action, community, and environment; and

Whereas the first annual PEACE symposium was held on October 30, 2011, at Saint Mary's University to explore the issues of peace and food security;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax and the organizers of the 2011 PEACE symposium for their commitment to a just society and to promote understanding and mutual respect among people of all faiths.

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. 1866

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

Whereas each year Eva's Initiatives of Toronto, along with CIBC, hand out awards to community groups for their innovation in programs and services for homelessness and priority youth; and

Whereas Phoenix House has created the Phoenix Prevention Program which works to support communities and families and helps to keep young people from becoming homeless; and

Whereas the work of Phoenix's Prevention Program in Mulgrave Park was 2010's Eva's Innovation Award winner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Phoenix Prevention Program on their award and thank them for their great efforts in fighting youth homelessness.

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 North. (Applause)

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, may I please make an introduction before I read my resolution?

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. ORRELL: I'd like to introduce members of my family: my beautiful wife, Jane; my son, Bryden; my mother, Virginia; and my sister and her husband, Lesley and Steve Taylor; and a good friend of mine, Mr. Jack Penny. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: We welcome all our guests to the gallery and hope you enjoy tonight's proceedings.

The honourable member for Cape Breton North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1867

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

Whereas in late August, Nova Scotia lost the quintessential constituency politician, who truly cared about the people who elected him, when Senator Bob Muir passed away; and

Whereas Senator Muir devoted half a century to public life, first serving on municipal council and as chairman of the Miners' Hospital before becoming the Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament for Cape Breton-The Sydneys in 1957 and being re-elected a remarkable eight consecutive times; and

Whereas in 1979 Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau appointed Mr. Muir to the Senate, where he continued to serve the people of Cape Breton until 1994;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly extend sincere condolences to Senator Muir's wife, Mary, his family and his many friends and salute the senator's dedication to the people of Nova Scotia, with a moment of silence.

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.

[A moment of silence was observed.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Truro-Bible Hill.

RESOLUTION NO. 1868

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

Whereas Cavanagh's Food Market, a family-run business, closed its doors on October 15th after serving Truro-Bible Hill and the surrounding areas since 1956; and

Whereas Cavanagh's has always been noted for being a community-minded business, generously giving to many customers, sports groups and charitable organizations over the years; and

Whereas Cavanagh's Food Market has had a loyal following of customers from the Truro-Bible Hill area during its 55 years of operation due in large part to their superb customer service and friendly staff.

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Cavanagh's Food Market for providing 55 years of service and support to the community of Truro-Bible Hill while extending our sincere regrets for their recent closure.

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 Clare.

RESOLUTION NO. 1869

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

Whereas every day that the NDP has been in office, life has become more and more expensive for Nova Scotians; and

Whereas Nova Scotians from across the province have been struggling to make ends meet, faced with higher taxes, rising power rates and gas prices, and a seemingly endless stream of fee hikes from this NDP Government; and

Whereas the NDP promised to make life better but have only made it more difficult for Nova Scotians to keep up with the rising cost of living;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly strongly urge the NDP Government to end their campaign of high taxes, increasing power rates, high prices for gas and remind the NDP Government that they cannot continue to tax Nova Scotians into submission.

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 Hants West.

RESOLUTION NO. 1870

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

Whereas the brave men and women of the HMCS Charlottetown made their country proud by deploying to Libya to take part in a recent NATO mission, providing humanitarian assistance and working to enforce a no-fly zone over the troubled country; and (Interruptions)

MR; SPEAKER: Order, order please. Order. The honourable member for Hants West has the floor and I'd ask you to start over again.

MR. CHUCK PORTER: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that.

Whereas the brave men and women of the HMCS Charlottetown made their country proud by deploying to Libya to take part in a recent NATO mission, providing humanitarian assistance and working to enforce a no-fly zone over the troubled country; and

Whereas under the leadership of Commander Craig Skjerpen, the men and women of HMCS Charlottetown acted with the utmost professionalism at all times, remaining calm and effective despite being fired upon twice; and

Whereas the officers and crew of HMCS Charlottetown have safely returned home to Halifax, casualty-free, after playing a leading role in the liberation of the Libyan people;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the brave officers and crew of HMCS Charlottetown for their exceptional efforts in the recent Libyan conflict. Bravo Zulu.

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 Queens.

RESOLUTION NO. 1871

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

Whereas the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute in Queens County has completed an innovative expansion project within the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve, with its grand opening held on October 15, 2011; and

Whereas this carbon neutral field station facility will provide the opportunity to observe green technologies in use at the scale of a private home, including geothermal energy, wind power, and solar panels for both electricity and hot water, allowing people to see the potential for their own homes; and

Whereas the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute's expansion will bring many benefits to the community, including increased capacity for collaboration with local landowners and businesses on research initiatives and more opportunities for training camps and workshops with universities and school groups;

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly recognize and congratulate the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute for bringing sustainable and carbon-neutral green technologies to the public eye, in addition to increasing the opportunities for research and education in the Queens County 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 member for Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1872

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

Whereas the NDP promised not to raise taxes, to have balanced budgets, and to make life better; and

Whereas since being elected, the NDP have been busy breaking their promises at every turn and making life less affordable and more expensive for Nova Scotians across the province; and

Whereas the NDP broke their promise and raised the HST, broke their promise and failed to balance the budget, and broke their promise by making life more expensive and less affordable for all Nova Scotians;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly remind the NDP that a promise broken is a promise broken and that they cannot tax Nova Scotians into prosperity.

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 Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

RESOLUTION NO. 1873

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

Whereas in September, Nova Scotia recorded the largest increase in consumer prices in the country at 4.2 per cent, led by higher prices for gasoline, food purchased from stores, and fuel oil; and

Whereas this increase in prices means an average single-income family in Nova Scotia will pay \$1,000 more for necessities like shelter, utilities, and food; and

Whereas at the same time as prices are going up, the average full-time wage for a Nova Scotian has gone down 0.6 per cent;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House agree that higher prices and lower wages are two examples of how the NDP are taking Nova Scotia in the wrong direction.

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 Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

RESOLUTION NO. 1874

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

Whereas Special Olympics is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities to compete in Olympic-style events; and

Whereas Special Olympics Nova Scotia hosted their annual Summer Games in July 2011; and

Whereas Kathy Miller, 16-year-old Heather Miller, and 19-year-old Nicole Miller of Lower Sackville volunteered their time as a family to assist with the event;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly commend Kathy Miller, 16-year-old Heather Miller, and 19-year-old Nicole Miller for volunteering their time as a family to assist with Special Olympics Nova Scotia's annual Summer Games in July 2011 and hope that their example encourages others to give back to their 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 Dartmouth East.

RESOLUTION NO. 1875

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

Whereas the Canadian Cancer Society has declared October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and

Whereas the Dartmouth Destroyers Minor Football Association held their second Crucial Catch event in aid of breast cancer research and awareness this month; and

Whereas Crucial Catch more than doubled the amount of money raised this year over last year's event to almost \$9,000;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating co-chairmen Zack Scott and Tom Scott, as well as Dartmouth Destroyers president Louis Velocci and all of the players and volunteers for contributing to this fundraising and awareness effort.

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. 1876

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's Irving Shipyard has won the \$25 billion contract to build combat ships for the Royal Canadian Navy, cementing Nova Scotia's reputation for building the best ships in the world; and

Whereas Irving won the contract fair and square, in a fair, independent and transparent process; and

Whereas the process to award the shipbuilding contract was untainted by political influence and handled by senior civil servants and a private sector fairness monitor, who judged proposals based on merit;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the federal Conservative Government for sticking to a fair and accountable process that ensured the shipbuilding contract went to the most qualified bidder.

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 Pictou East.

RESOLUTION NO. 1877

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

Whereas on June 23, 2011, Paul Budreski and Tye Zinck were unloading their diving gear when they were approached by a woman seeking help for swimmers unable to get to shore and caught in the undertow at Melmerby Beach; and

Whereas the two men, along with Chief Don Wadden of the Little Harbour Fire Department and members of the department, worked together to bring the girls to the safety of the shore; and

Whereas the quick actions of all involved resulted in positive outcomes for the swimmers:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly recognize and commend Mr. Budreski, Mr. Zinck, Chief Wadden and members of the Little Harbour Fire Department for their team effort to bring the swimmers safely to shore.

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. 1878

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

Whereas October $31^{\rm st}$ is traditionally celebrated as Halloween originating in Pagan celebrations since the $8^{\rm th}$ Century; and

Whereas master magician, escapologist, stunt performer, actor, historian, film producer, pilot, debunker and escape artist Harry Houdini died 85 years ago today; and

Whereas Halloween has since evolved into a celebration for children and children at heart and this year for Legislators in Nova Scotia, returning to this historic House;

Therefore will all members of this House of Assembly join me in welcoming everyone back to the Legislature for Halloween and hope the NDP doesn't follow in Houdini's footsteps, with a disappearing act for answers in Question Period.

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 Argyle. Before you start, honourable member, I would like to wish you a Happy Birthday today. (Applause)

HON. CHRISTOPER D'ENTREMONT: It's good to be 40 years old with a couple of years experience.

RESOLUTION NO. 1879

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 Nova Scotia's labour force has shrunk by 5,100 people since the NDP Government was elected in 2009; and

Whereas Stats Canada figures shows that 5,100 people have either gone down the road to find a job or given up hope of finding one at home in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the highest taxes in Canada, the highest prices in Canada and a bite-the-bullet energy plan have taken their toll on Nova Scotia workers;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly condemn the NDP policies that have shrunk Nova Scotia's labour force and extinguished hope for 5,100 people.

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 Halifax Atlantic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1880

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

Whereas today is Halloween and a time for costume, revelry and children's feasting, when young people throughout North America go from house to house collecting candy or like Harvest for Hunger, collecting nonperishable foods for the less fortunate, while vitamin- and fibre-rich pumpkins light the night and find their way to the street the next morning; and

Whereas nearly all Nova Scotia households display a pumpkin jack-o-lantern, artfully carved and lit by candles within and tens of thousands of pumpkins are grown by local farmers for the purpose every year; and

Whereas Nova Scotia pumpkins are already famous from the seeds of Howard Dill's record-breaking Atlantic Giant;

Therefore be it resolved that this House wish trick or treaters happy trails, congratulate all participating in this year's Harvest for Hunger to collect food for Feed Nova Scotia and encourage all Nova Scotians to lead the way in pumpkin culture by cooking and eating their jack-o-lanterns whether as soup, stew or muffins, freezing them for later use in winter but not first forgetting to candy the peel and roast the seeds.

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 Preston.

RESOLUTION NO. 1881

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

Whereas Sport Nova Scotia is the voice for sport and provides the benefits of health, personal development and achievement for all participants; and

Whereas every year Sport Nova Scotia awards outstanding teams, players, coaches and associations for their dedication and work in growing the world of sport; and

Whereas this year, Jason Downey of North Preston was awarded the Male Individual Athlete of the Year in the sport of boxing;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jason Downey for this outstanding accomplishment and wish him every 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 Cape Breton West.

RESOLUTION NO. 1882

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

Whereas Nova Scotia has one of the highest rates of MS in Canada; and

Whereas last June the federal Minister of Health gave the go ahead for clinical trials after a scientific working group agreed unanimously that a clinical trial should proceed at the phase one and phase two levels; and

Whereas in this House on April 12, 2011, the Minister of Health said, "We've said as a province we certainly will participate in clinical trials when the scientific panel recommends that clinical trials proceed";

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly urge the Minister of Health and Wellness to make good on the promise she made last April and immediately prepare the clinical trials to move forward here in Nova Scotia.

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 Halifax Chebucto.

MR. HOWARD EPSTEIN: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to introduce to the House three visitors, in fact they're visitors to Nova Scotia from the Bahamas. They're seated in the gallery opposite the east gallery. I want to take a just a quick moment to explain their presence.

Members will recall that in 1992, the Third Party and government privatized our publicly-owned electrical utility and it was subsequently reorganized as Emera. In the way of such companies, it began to acquire electrical utilities elsewhere, including in the Bahamas. Unfortunately, many residents in the Bahamas are of the opinion that they're not being fairly dealt with and our visitors are from Operation Justice of the Bahamas. I would like to introduce to the House Mr. Troy Garvey, Mr. Jonathan Glinton and their visit is being filmed by Mr. Nguyen Stewart who accompanies them. I would ask all three to rise they have – and I would ask the members to give them a warm welcome. (Standing Ovation)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We welcome all our visitors to the gallery and hope you enjoy tonight's proceedings.

The honourable member for Antigonish.

RESOLUTION NO. 1883

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

Whereas since 2005 the Province of Nova Scotia has partnered with Pengrowth Energy Corporation and Pengrowth Management Limited to award scholarships to Nova Scotia students pursuing energy-related studies; and

Whereas Eileen Haskett of Antigonish was recently awarded one of the Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Energy Scholarships, valued at \$2,500 a year, renewable for four years for university students; and

Whereas Eileen Haskett, a graduate of Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School in Antigonish, is now attending Acadia University pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Legislature congratulate Eileen Haskett and the other recipients of this year's Pengrowth-Nova Scotia Energy Scholarships and wish them all the best 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 Colchester North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1884

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations is an independent, volunteer, provincial organization; and

Whereas members of the federation are interested in working together for the benefit of all children and youth, at home, in schools and in communities; and

Whereas the federation encourages ongoing communication and co-operation among parents, teachers, administrators, school boards, and the community in making decisions which affect the educational system;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations as they celebrate their 75th year.

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. 1885

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

Whereas out-migration from Nova Scotia to other provinces reached 19,151 people in 2010-11 according to Statistics Canada data, the highest number since 1989-90; and

Whereas Statistics Canada figures show approximately 60 per cent of Nova Scotians leaving for other provinces are in their 20s; and

Whereas Nova Scotia has the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over in Canada and the lowest proportion of people under the age of 15;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly agree that the high-cost, job-killing policies of this NDP Government are to blame for the alarming amount of young people leaving our province.

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 Cumberland North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1886

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

Whereas Art "Sonny" Foster was presented the award as CTV Maritimer of the Week at a special ceremony held at the Amherst Little League Complex on Friday, the 15th of July, 2011; and

Whereas Cumberland North and CTV recognized Art as an important community figure who has devoted years of volunteer service to the baseball community; and

Whereas the people of Cumberland North are forever thankful to Art for his contribution to the community;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly join me in thanking and honouring Art Foster for his many years of contribution to the community of Cumberland and Cumberland baseball and wish him the very best in his continuing 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. 1887

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

Whereas Yarmouth County resident Lena Fevens is the owner and operator of Lena's Designer Cakes, a business specializing in the design and creation of unique cakes and desserts for all occasions; and

Whereas Ms. Fevens was recently named a 2011 Student Entrepreneur Nova Scotia Champion in a national competition operated by Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship and program supporter CIBC; and

Whereas Ms. Fevens recently opened her own bakery, aptly named Goodies, in beautiful downtown Yarmouth;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ms. Fevens on this prestigious honour, recognize her hard work, talent and entrepreneurship and wish her new bakery great success and longevity.

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 North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1888

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

Whereas Irving Shipbuilding has a world-class reputation for excellence in shipbuilding that earned them the \$25 billion federal contract to build new ships for the Royal Canadian Navy, a contract that will stretch over 20 years, providing stability for the shipbuilding industry and having far-reaching economic benefits for the Atlantic region; and

Whereas all Nova Scotians are proud of the committed men and women whose hard work at Irving Shipbuilding secured the contract through the fair, merit-based procurement process; and

Whereas shipbuilding is an important maritime tradition passed down for many generations and in Nova Scotia records of shipbuilding date back as far as 1606;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly recognize the tremendous work ethic and skill of the Irving Shipbuilding workers to establish the yard as a world-class facility and congratulate them on securing the federal shipbuilding contract to build ships for the Royal Canadian Navy.

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 Lunenburg.

RESOLUTION NO. 1889

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

Whereas the Lunenburg Queens Business Excellence Awards are presented annually to recognize and celebrate inspired business excellence throughout the region, with participation from seven different chambers of commerce, boards of trade throughout Lunenburg and Queens counties; and

Whereas the New Business Award recognizes businesses that have been in operation for less than two years, show a unique business approach and vision and are committed to establishing a reputation of superior customer service; and

Whereas Ironworks Distillery in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, a micro-distillery that crafts spirits with a love of traditional methods and attention to detail, while highlighting local flavours, won the New Business Award;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly congratulate Ironworks Distillery of Lunenburg for winning the New Business Award from the Lunenburg Queens Business Excellence Awards on October 18, 2011.

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 Digby-Annapolis. (Applause)

MR. HAROLD THERIAULT: It's good to be back, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the treat on my desk. With that, I shouldn't play any tricks on you tonight.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you had your treat.

RESOLUTION NO. 1890

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

Whereas the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame is the world's only national hall of fame established to recognize the accomplishments of medical heroes; and

Whereas each year, medical pioneers are nominated and selected to be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame; and

Whereas Dr. Clarke Fraser, originally from Bear River, Nova Scotia, will be inducted into the Medical Hall of Fame on March 21, 2012, for his role in creating the discipline of medical genetics in North America;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Legislature congratulate Dr. Clarke Fraser for this prestigious honour and extend our appreciation to him for his contributions to the medical science and research and the role it plays in making the world a better, healthier place.

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. 1891

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

Whereas Bowater Mersey employs about 500 full-time employees and supports the jobs of more than 1,000 people in forest management and harvesting operations, private sawmills, trucking firms, and other suppliers; and

Whereas electricity is Bowater's single largest cost and the company is facing a 12 per cent increase in power rates; and

Whereas at URB hearings last week, Bowater officials said that higher power rates hurt their competitiveness and could contribute to the closure of the plant;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly agree that the NDP's expensive "bite the bullet" plan to increase power rates threatens jobs at Bowater Mersey and the economic health of the South Shore.

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.

I want to remind all of the honourable members in here this evening that it may be Halloween, but there is a lot of chatter in here tonight. So I'll remind you to please take those conversations outside so we can listen to the honourable members in the Chamber.

The honourable member for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

RESOLUTION NO. 1892

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

Whereas on April 30, 2011, the Moose River Gold Mines Museum Society held a 75th Anniversary commemoration of the Moose River cave-in and rescue of April 1936 - an observance attended by veterans of the rescue efforts of three-quarters of a century before, as well as by a host of dignitaries, historians, and residents past and present of Moose River, the Musquodoboit Valley, and Nova Scotia as a whole; and

Whereas the rescue of Alf Scadding and David Robertson on April 23, 1936, was the heroic accomplishment of a large assembly of coal and hard-rock miners, drillers, and a great many volunteers gathered in response to the emergency from all across the province; and 2892

Whereas the epic narrative of the rescue, as reported live by J. Frank Willis of the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission, seized the attention of the world and maintains a significant place in media and broadcasting history, as remembered vividly by Ernest J. Dick, historian of sound and moving image, in his keynote address to the 75th Anniversary commemoration:

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia House of Assembly join the people of Nova Scotia in remembering the Moose River cave-in and rescue on its 75th Anniversary, and acknowledge with appreciation the contribution of the Moose River Gold Mines Museum Society to upholding the memory of Moose River.

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. 1893

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

Whereas Bedford resident John F. "Jack" Cruickshank was a well-known Nova Scotia businessman, who was a co-founder of CFDR radio station in Dartmouth, a former member of the board of Air Canada, and who operated Sackville Downs Raceway for over 30 years; and

Whereas Jack also immersed himself in community service, serving as a director of Rainbow Haven for 32 years and as Liberal federal campaign manager for Nova Scotia, and serving on the national campaign committee under Prime Ministers Lester B. Pearson and Pierre Elliott Trudeau; and

Whereas Jack is most recently known as "The Head Turkey" after he founded the Turkey Club in 1978, a charity which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the less fortunate at Christmas;

Therefore be it resolved the members of this House send our sympathies to the family of Jack Cruickshank - his wife June, daughters Lynn McRae and Christine Andrews, and their families - on his passing on October 6, 2011, Jack was a man who was passionate about his family, his work, and his community, and he will be missed.

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. 1894

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

Whereas earlier today the Finance Department released a chilling analysis of "Halloween . . . by the numbers"; and

Whereas this foreboding analysis has unmasked the chilly trend of fewer "little monsters" in Nova Scotia as a share of our overall population while the price of treats in Nova Scotia has more than doubled; and

Whereas the spectre of these fundamental issues in the province - fewer young people and more expensive food - has only been made worse by the NDP's spine-chilling tax hikes, spooky refusal to take the tax off tax from gas, or deal with the monstrous power rate increases and horrifying user-fee jumps;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly urge the NDP to consider their ghastly economic policies which have only worsened the already frightening trends of fewer young people and higher food prices in Nova Scotia.

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

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

Is it agreed?

I hear several Noes.

The notice is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Clayton Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 1895

MS. DIANA WHALEN: It's pretty hard to top that one.

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

Whereas since the NDP took office, gas prices have risen by more than 25 cents per litre; and

Whereas the NDP have refused to admit that their failed economic policies have hurt businesses in regions across the province and have made Nova Scotia uncompetitive; and

Whereas the NDP has hiked the HST, raised user-fees, refused to index income tax, and have ensured that Nova Scotians pay more for everyday items and keep less of their hard-earned income;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly condemn the NDP for making everything more expensive in the province and for making life harder for all Nova Scotians.

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 Colchester North.

RESOLUTION NO. 1896

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

Whereas five major partners of education from across the province have joined together in a united voice against the NDP Government's indiscriminate cuts to public education; and

Whereas those partners representing teachers, parents, home and school associations, elected school boards and education administrators, including the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, la Federation des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, and the Association of Nova Scotia Education Administrators; and

Whereas each of the partners has spoken out against the cuts to public education imposed by this NDP Government and the devastating effect that these cuts will have on our students;

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Education respect the position of these education partners and stop the cuts to public education funding.

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 Digby-Annapolis.

RESOLUTION NO. 1897

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

Whereas many people take pride in their gardening, but none as proudly as Giny Proulx of Deep Brook, Annapolis County; and

Whereas Giny has worked in many areas of gardening, such as running a bedding plant business, giving naturalist tours, holding numerous workshops, and entering flower shows, to name a few; and Whereas all of Giny's hard work and love of gardening has earned her the Outstanding Gardener of the Year for Western Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate Giny Proulx and wish her many more seasons of gardening.

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. 1898

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

Whereas the minister's announcement of a 3 per cent cut, coupled with wage and inflationary pressures, will impact wait times and programs being delivered in the districts throughout Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the overall bottom-line impact to the IWK will result in a reduction of \$9.3 million, while Capital District will have to find \$33.6 million in budget cuts to honour the minister's decree; and

Whereas last week at the IWK annual meeting the minister spoke and indicated that DHAs simply have to be creative when it comes to addressing cuts to DHA budgets;

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Health and Wellness clearly explain to Nova Scotians how any amount of creativity which involves removing a global amount of \$80 million to \$95 million from DHA budgets will not impact patient care.

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 Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1899

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

Whereas sports such as women's baseball continue to grow in our province; and

Whereas every year Baseball Nova Scotia sends a senior women's team to the National Senior Women's Baseball Championship; and

Whereas this year's team included two of my constituents: Constable Meghan Bremner and Crystal Dorton;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Constable Meghan Bremner, Crystal Dorton and the Nova Scotia Women's Baseball Team on their success and stand together in encouraging more young women to participate in the great sport of baseball.

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. SPEAKER: 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 the adjourned debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be now resumed.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle.

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, as much as I would love to stand and speak for another 40-odd minutes, I would ask for maybe unanimous consent of the House to allow the new member for Cape Breton North to take some time and speak in reply.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been a request for the new member for Cape Breton North to reply to the Speech from the Throne.

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 North. (Applause)

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say thank you to all the members of this House of Assembly for making this day such a nice, easy transition for me and for such a warm welcome. I'm sure every day will not be like this. (Interruptions) I want to say what an honour it is to stand here in this House to represent the citizens of Nova Scotia. To be one of 52 people to represent over one million residents in this province is really an honour and I really plan to make good on the promise I made to represent the people, especially the good people of Cape Breton North and Cape Breton in general.

I'd like to thank those residents for putting their trust in me to be their elected representative. I would also like to thank my volunteers. Without a good team of volunteers, being in this position today would almost be impossible. My family, for all their support and life is not going to be easy for all those days I'm not home that, as we had last night, wind storms when there were problems with fences and windows, you have to make phone calls. I really appreciate their support.

To the other candidates that ran in the by-election against me - Liberal Brian MacGean, NDP Russell MacDonald - I'd like to thank them for the great campaign they ran, the high road, the clean campaign. It was such an honour to run against those two. (Applause)

Transition to political life hasn't come without challenges. I would like to thank the members of the PC Caucus for all the help they gave me in the last month or two to make transition to political life a lot easier. I would also like to thank the residents and volunteers of Cape Breton North who put their trust in me and I hope that I can deliver what they need and deserve to the area of Cape Breton, especially Cape Breton North.

I would also like to thank a former member that was here with us, Cecil Clarke, who has been a big help to me in my campaign and since I went into political life. I'd like to thank all the members very much; I appreciate your warm welcome and hope we'll work together in the future. (Interruption) I do look forward to coming back to speak another time. And yes, Mr. Dexter, I will teach you how to hit a baseball. (Applause)

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

MR. GARY RAMEY: Merci beaucoup, Madame le Président. It gives me great pleasure to rise in my place and speak tonight about matters near and dear to my heart, namely, the people of the constituency of Lunenburg West and the area constituted by its borders on Nova Scotia's scenic South Shore and in the broader context to reflect on the work being done to serve all the wonderful folks who people our province from south to north and east to west.

Before doing so, however, I wish to thank Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of our fair province for the grace and dignity with which she conducts the duties of her office and I wish to thank you, Madam Speaker, for your fairness and firmness in upholding the rules of this House so that we might carry out the important work we do for all Nova Scotians in this historic Chamber.

I wish to welcome back all members of this House and offer my sincere hope that this will be a civil, productive and rewarding session of the Third Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly, and I wish to welcome in particular the newest member of the Legislature, the member for Cape Breton North. May you find your sea legs quickly and may you sail on tranquil waters.

I wish to thank the citizens of the constituency of Lunenburg West for putting me here so that I may play a part in the development and growth of our beautiful province. I am most grateful to you and will continue to do my best to see that your needs are met and your concerns addressed. My able and efficient constituency assistant, Ms. Janet Calhoun, daily amazes me with the exceptional service she provides to all those who need her help. Words cannot adequately express how much her dedication and expertise are appreciated.

I wish also to recognize all members of the Lunenburg West Constituency Association who deserve a huge round of thanks. I'm sure all members of this House are aware of how important and helpful these constituency workers can be and I appreciate their trust and support and wise counsel at all times.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the love and support of my wife Debbie and my sons Stefan and James, who are willing to forego my absence on many occasions so that I may serve the daily needs of my constituents. Your love and support are always appreciated, more than words can express, and it constitutes for me, the most valuable treasure that I will ever possess.

In 2009 when I spoke in Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne, I talked extensively of the beautiful hamlets which stock my constituency, often located on scenic rivers, lakes, brooks and streams, or on the raw Atlantic with its many daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal vicissitudes. As I was naming off these communities in my 2009 address to this House, I recall the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal breaking into a chorus of the Hank Snow tune *I've Been Everywhere*, so I will spare all of you the pain and grief of hearing that rendition from my colleague again by not citing them all by name on this occasion but reassure all that they are still there and they are still very beautiful.

At that time I spoke of our cultural history, talking about the original inhabitants, the Mi'kmaq, who so recently lit their sacred fire on the grounds of this very building and I spoke of their contribution to the cultural mosaic of our region.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of hardy German and French stock who arrived from faraway places like the Swiss and German cantons, the Upper Rhine and the principality of Mont Billiard, and who settled the historic and beautiful town of Lunenburg where our beloved Bluenose II is being refit. I then explained in some detail how these settlers fanned out from there, developing the rural economy in my constituency through shipbuilding, logging, farming and fishing, thus laying down the foundation of these industries which still thrive today in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke about other settlers who came to the area from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and noted that for a period of time Fort Point - formerly known as St. Marie de Grace, in the community of LaHave, on the lovely river of the same name - was the capital of New France. The museum at Fort Point houses a magnificent collection of materials chronicling the spirit of settlement by Samuel de Champlain, de Razilly and others, adding another chapter to our proud and colourful history.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke of volunteerism being alive and well among the people of Lunenburg West, citing the 12 fire departments which serve the region, the YMCA, Scouts, Cubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, 4-H, the United Way, the Interchurch Food Bank, and countless other volunteers and volunteer organizations that make life better on a

daily basis for our citizenry. I noted how fortunate we are to have quality schools, a large regional hospital, and a thriving legion, Branch No. 24, of which I'm a proud member and which helps in our efforts to honour and keep alive the memory of our veterans, like my beloved father who gave so much for each and every one of us and whom we honour on every day, but particularly on November 11th which will soon be here.

Mr. Speaker, Lunenburg West is home to the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre. We call it the LCLC, which is currently under construction. This \$33 million project has been cost shared by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. I'm proud to say that our government has invested in this important recreational piece of infrastructure which includes a six-lane pool, an NHL-sized rink, a walking track, community meeting rooms, and a home for the library.

In a day and age when our government is encouraging preventive medicine as a key to our healthcare plan, it is a signature piece in implementing the strategy. It is a fine example of how all levels of government can work together to serve the common good and I thank Mr. Paul Belliveau, a driving force locally for the project, along with his able team of volunteers, the mayors of the various jurisdictions and our local MP Gerald Keddy, for the hard work and support given by all throughout the development of this project. I'm a big believer in the adage, credit where credit is due.

The region is growing both in population and business activity. Michelin Tire Canada Incorporated is a major employer in the area, but many businesses, large and small, continue to thrive and grow in Lunenburg West. Many retail chains have recently set up shop in the Town of Bridgewater and in the past year several new car dealerships have arrived, while others have expanded. Developers are building apace. The population continues to grow, both from immigration, particularly from Germany and Switzerland, but more recently from various parts of the United Kingdom. Many expatriated Nova Scotians are returning home and we continue to get new residents from British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. We expect this trend to continue in light of the recent shipbuilding contract. I can report that Lunenburg West is on the move and growing. (Applause)

Madam Speaker, when I spoke on Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne on October 26th, 2009, almost exactly two years ago to this day, I cited a number of reasons as to why I decided to enter the political arena. I said that I had come to believe "... that we should be able to present a kinder, gentler landscape in which our citizenry could manoeuvre through their lives." I said "that I heard much talk about ordinary people, but always believed that we are all ordinary." My contention was that some of these ordinary people simply go on to do extraordinary things and I referenced a number of people like Nelson Mandela and Dr. Frederick Banting, as examples. I noted that it was my belief that, and I said this and so I will quote it again, "... a single mom with two children, trying to acquire an education to make a better life for herself and her children, while at the same time endeavouring to maintain some semblance of family life, is an extraordinary person. Indeed, that person, in my opinion, is truly extraordinary."

I believed that then and I believe it even more so now. The difference is that since that time, I'm proud to say, our government has taken measures to provide this mom and others like her, a better compass with which to navigate through the troubled waters and has provided her with a better vessel to help her along: The Affordability Tax Credit, the Poverty Reduction Tax Credit, changes to ESIA policy, permitting recipients to keep more of the money earned while on assistance, the Target 100 Program with Co-op Atlantic, the removal of the HST from home energy - opposed by the Opposition Parties - the removal of the HST from children's clothing, footwear and feminine hygiene products. All these measures ensure that this mom has the best chance in years for a better life for her children and herself. I want to thank the Premier and my colleagues for not forgetting this extraordinary person and others like her, and for taking the time and energy to make sure that life is better for her and her family.

Madam Speaker, in that speech I said also, "During the campaign, we were criticized by some for producing a pamphlet that the average citizen could actually decode and understand. It was not an unreadable tome, just seven basic goals laid out on the front with a report-card-like four-year plan, which allowed the reader to check off the goal when accomplished. All these goals were aimed at making life better for Nova Scotian families and putting money where it can best be utilized to make life better for them." I said this on October 26, 2009, so recently, maybe because of my educational background, I resurrected that report card to have a look. Since it wasn't a tome, I didn't even have to blow the dust off of it. I have it here but since it's inappropriate to hold up a prop, I'll simply give you a synopsis so those assembled here listening can determine if we said what we meant and we meant what we said.

Madam Speaker, I said that our report card had seven major areas of focus. The first of these was to create the secure jobs Nova Scotia's economy needs. It sounds like a good idea, how did we do? Well, in 2009, our first year in government, we said we would maximize federal funds to build the infrastructure that communities needed, and we did. There are countless examples across the province, including the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre in my constituency.

We said we would create 2,200 jobs, through a 10 per cent manufacturing and processing tax credit, and we did just that. We said we would initiate a one-year program to rebate 50 per cent of the HST on new home construction to stimulate the home-building sector, and we did. We proposed to boost the equity tax credits to promote investment in communities, and we did. We explained to local fishermen that we would challenge (Interruptions) I know this disturbs the other side, I know, I understand. However, please bear with me.

We explained to local fishermen that we would challenge Ottawa to ensure its fishery policies reflected the needs of independent fishermen, and we did. To protect land for primary resource and public access, we have already begun a vigorous campaign of acquiring lands for this purpose, banking hundreds of hectares, the most recent acquisition

being the Five Bridge Lakes Wilderness Area outside of Halifax, for which Natural Resources Minister Parker and Environment Minister Belliveau have been deservedly praised. (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, we did not rest on our laurels there. Since 2009 we've created a prior learning assessment pilot program, and put in place a 10-year farm strategy to improve competitiveness and profitability. We believe in agricultural sustainability. Our farmers feed us and they are important to the growth of the rural economy. This program has proof in the pudding that there's recognition by our government that farmers and farms are important.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to work vigorously toward increasing renewable energy, both through promoting wind energy and the tidal power project, and by becoming signatories in an agreement with Newfoundland and Labrador to bring renewable energy from the Muskrat Falls development to our shores. This is a \$6.2 billion project that will create hundreds of jobs for Nova Scotians and was, until recently, one of the biggest projects to come to Nova Scotia in years.

Perhaps most significantly for all Nova Scotians is the deal announced on October 19th of this year, a day that will long be celebrated in Nova Scotia's history. The shipbuilding contract is by far the largest project ever announced in our province. (Applause) It is a deal that will increase the GDP of this province by \$900 million during the peak production years, a \$25 billion deal over 30 years that will create a minimum of 11,500 jobs and countless spinoff and peripheral employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a game-changer for Nova Scotia. I'm proud to be part of a government that has made such significant progress in creating economic opportunities to make life better for Nova Scotians now and in the future.

I want to take this time to congratulate the Premier, Minister Paris, all members of the Cabinet and caucus, and as well offer my congratulations to Mr. Jim Irving, Mr. Steve Durrell, and all the workers at the Irving shipyard. Also, I would be remiss if I did not extend my thanks to the Honourable Stephen McNeil, Leader of the Liberal Party, and the Honourable Jamie Baillie, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, and all members of their respective caucuses for supporting this terrific effort. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I will remind the honourable member that naming members is not appropriate in the House. I will ask the honourable member, when you are referring to the member, please refer to the Leader of the Official Opposition or the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party.

MR. RAMEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have been so warned.

I would like to acknowledge the support of all members of my constituency, all Nova Scotians, all Maritimers and all Canadians who supported the Ships Start Here

program. In spite of what some may say, I for one think this campaign really did make a difference. I'm glad we did it, I'm proud of those who organized it. There is no doubting here, all those in this Chamber know that ships start here, and now, indeed, everyone in Canada and around the world knows it too.

Mr. Speaker, going into our third year of governing I would argue that this has not been a bad effort on the economic front, and indeed I would further argue that it has been the biggest, best, and most significant effort in our 250-year history.

Our second area of focus involved health care and specifically was aimed at keeping emergency rooms open and reducing health care waits. I believe that there's no one in this room - or no one listening, or who will read this in Hansard at a later date - who will suggest that this is an easy goal to meet. Successive governments have tried and failed to make this happen. Our government, led by an extremely capable minister, the Honourable Maureen MacDonald, and her dedicated team, has made significant progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I'll remind you again - I know it's a rookie mistake. I will remind you again that naming a member is not allowed in the Chamber, so please refer to the honourable member, the member's seat, or the minister responsible for that department. Thank you.

MR. RAMEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do refer to the Minister of Health and Wellness, and her dedicated team has made significant progress. A commitment was made to open the hospital beds needed to admit patients stuck in ERs, and this process has begun. The Rapid Assessment Unit at the QE II Health Sciences Centre has diverted more than 1,000 patients in the past year, helping them receive the care they need sooner. An Emergency Department Protection Fund has been set up to hire needed doctors to keep ERs running.

We said we would set up pre-hab teams to reduce wait times for orthopaedic surgery, and this has been implemented. We said we would hire a provincial adviser to lead emergency care improvement, and we did. The report of Dr. Ross was widely acknowledged as a seminal document in rectifying ER difficulties. Implementation of his report continues apace.

The Health and Wellness Minister also promised ministerial accountability for emergency departments, and this has been implemented. Important to me - very important to me - was the commitment to provide coverage of expenses arising from out-of-province accommodation and travel. This was also expanded to caregivers, and was instrumental in helping one of my very young constituents receive a highly specialized surgical procedure in California. This child was in California for six weeks, and had this policy not existed, her mother would have found it very difficult to accompany her, causing untold hardship for this family. I applaud the minister and our government for making this change and reducing stress and hardship for family members at a very difficult time.

We made a commitment to hire more nurse practitioners, and we have. We introduced the Fair Drug Pricing Act and set up the widely used 811 helpline. To provide better care sooner, we have opened our first Collaborative Emergency Centre in Parrsboro, and we have three more planned for Pugwash, Springhill, and Tatamagouche. We have extended the ER hours and follow-up services for patients at the Cobequid Health Centre, taking pressure off other ERs in HRM. Through the RESTORE program, clot-busting drugs are now available on all ambulances in this province. This is a significant development, as these drugs save lives when administered in a timely manner.

All of these measures address systemic problems embedded in the system. Too often there has been a rush to pour more money into the system to solve problems. It is our contention that many of the problems encountered in health care are structural, rather than monetary. As ministerial assistant to the Minister of Health and Wellness, I am extremely pleased with the significant progress that has been made to date.

Thirdly, we made a commitment to ensure that young people stay here and build a life in Nova Scotia. For far too long the out-migration of our young people has been a serious problem. It means our younger citizens leave Nova Scotia and grow the economies of Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and other parts of Canada while we stagnate. We wanted to change that - not talk about changing it, but actually do it. We said we would provide tax incentives to keep Nova Scotia university and community college graduates here in Nova Scotia to grow our economy, and we did just that. We said that we would create 250 new community college seats, targeted at high-demand trades and professions, and we did it. In light of the new ships contract, we will be opening even more.

We are fixing Canada's weakest student assistance program by capping tuition and investing \$30 million in student bursaries. We said we would provide targeted support to keep community schools open and address shortages, and we did. We created 250 subsidized daycare spaces to allow single parents and other caregivers to return to school. Simply put, under the watchful eye of the current government, the single best opportunities for career advancement of our youth in the history of our province are now in place and available to any person who wishes to access them.

The fourth plank in our plan was to take the HST off home energy to make life more affordable for Nova Scotia's families. Our first step in this regard was to roll back the Progressive Conservative's 8 per cent tax on electricity. We promised and initiated an independent review of auto insurance to ensure the lowest, fairest rates. Both of these initiatives have been popular and affect the bottom line of the average consumer, making life more affordable for Nova Scotians and an important commitment made to residents of our province in the last election.

A fifth tenet of our plan was to fix rural roads and keep communities strong, and we attacked this with a vengeance. We budgeted 50 per cent more to resurface rural and secondary roads, acquiring chip sealing and paving equipment to keep us competitive. (Applause) We said we would initiate a five-year paving plan and make it available to the

public, which we did, while at the same time enhancing bridge and truck inspections to improve safety.

We launched a suburban priorities team to strategically address challenges facing suburban communities. To continue to strengthen rural communities, we doubled provincial targets for immigration and initiated an immigration job strategy. Our government established after-school Lighthouses Programs to give youth positive alternatives to occupy their time after school; and to support the important work carried out by women's groups in many communities across our province, we increased and stabilized funding for transition houses and women's centres. This is the first time that there has been a funding increase in 10 years, and I am proud that our government recognized this need and addressed it. (Applause)

Like many of the members on this side of the House and those opposite, I have a significant number of seniors in my constituency. Our seniors are among our most valued citizens. They laid the groundwork on which our communities are built and have provided the base on which we, as the government, must build. The sixth stipulation in our plan was to give seniors options to stay in their own homes and communities longer. It is my belief that as MLAs all members want to see this happen, regardless of political stripe.

Moving forward on this file we began by eliminating security deposits for seniors in long-term care facilities. We implemented self-managed care allowances and personal alert assistance programs. We increased the number of long-term care beds and hired nurse practitioners to augment care in nursing homes. Changes to the cost of generic drugs through fair drug-pricing legislation have also been a terrific benefit for our seniors.

I am of the opinion that this government and governments in the past and those to come in the future will be and should be judged, at least in part, in relation to how well they have cared for their seniors.

Finally, we told the people of Nova Scotia in the last election campaign that we would do everything that I've just reviewed while living within our means. We knew then, as we know now, that this would be a very difficult task. We also knew that the credit card was maxed out. Responsible administration could not and should not move forward on borrowed dollars crippling future generations with a mountain of debt.

This being the case, we requested and carried out an immediate audit to determine the true state of the province's finances. As expected, it was not a pretty picture. Years of borrowing and living beyond our means had created a debt of \$13 million, a structural deficit that was forecast to balloon to \$1.4 billion by 2014 if immediate action was not taken. We decided to have a conversation with Nova Scotians about this. The Minister of Finance undertook the most extensive consultation with the citizenry of this province that has ever been carried out. He is to be applauded for taking such a grassroots approach. (Applause)

When the consult arrived in my town, I observed folks of all political stripes in the large audience that attended. Everyone who wished to speak did. The minister, to his credit, spoke little but listened a lot. It was the consensus of Nova Scotians, after the compilation of all the data collected from these meetings, that the most practical and reasonable approach to managing the fiscal mess handed to us was to increase the HST by 2 per cent across the board, but while so doing, try to reduce the impact on the most vulnerable citizens in our population, using a series of exemptions and tax credits, to which I have referred earlier in my remarks. This was a bold but, I would argue, necessary step.

Mr. Speaker, those jurisdictions where serious measures have not been taken to control government spending are now seeing the folly of their inaction. I know all members here are aware of examples in the world, on our continent and in our country where the attempts at expenditure control have not been tough enough or soon enough. Indeed, the world economy has been on the brink on a number of occasions simply because certain jurisdictions are unwilling to enact the tough measures required.

Mr. Speaker, through bold leadership we weathered the storm and, I am proud to report, we are winning the battle. To help small business we reduced the small business tax rate in 2010 for the first time since 1992, then we further reduced it this year. We downsized Cabinet, changed the way MLA expenses are reported, underwent an expenditure review with a target of one per cent savings, and balanced the budget. At the same time, we made two payments on the debt - the first in 20 years. Prior to this only seven payments had been made on the debt in the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, we said we would get back to balance and we are getting back to balance. (Applause) Although not commitments during the campaign, on the environmental front we put a lifelong ban on uranium mining in Nova Scotia, banned the use of non-essential pesticides, put a cap on greenhouse emissions, and extended the moratorium on drilling on Georges Bank indefinitely.

Because we are aware of the importance arts and culture plays in our daily lives and how it contributes to a healthy and vibrant society, because we know that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it, and because we have a wonderfully strong, proud and colourful heritage, we created the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to preserve and promote these values. We improved the film tax credit and we are establishing Arts Nova Scotia to recognize the many positive contributions made by the artistic community, including the significant impact contributed by the arts to our economy. Mr. Speaker, an artless society is a dead society and we know it.

Mr. Speaker, back in October 2009, near the conclusion of my remarks, I said, "You see, we practise what we preach. We support today's families in this province, but internally we operate as a family as well. We know the whole is more important than the sum of its parts. We know that it is our duty to look after one another, as well as our constituents; we know that everyone is an equal at the table, and we know that united behind our Leader we will build a kinder, gentler, more equitable Nova Scotia that treats all

with dignity and respect, while growing the economy and returning Nova Scotia to its rightful place within the confederation of our sister provinces in this country."

Mr. Speaker, I was not waxing poetic when I said that two years ago. The people wanted change, and change they got. They have received the most positive changes in decades on the environmental front, on the societal front, and on the economic front. Perhaps most importantly, all this was accomplished while living within our means.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of our mandate I used to be asked by Nova Scotians, what have you been doing to make Nova Scotia a better place to live and raise a family? I'm no longer asked this question because the people are watching. The people wanted results and they are getting them, in aces from this government. (Applause) (Interruptions)

I know it's hard to take.

May we continue to have the health, strength and support of all Nova Scotians to stay their course and do the hard work that lies ahead. May God bless Nova Scotia and may God bless Canada.

Monsieur le Président, merci beaucoup. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. FRANK CORBETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the last two speakers. One was a little bit shorter than the other - I may have liked his content, but I liked your style.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the government's business for tonight. (Interruptions) We can do anything with the will of the House, you know, if we so wish. I'm going to drop the hammer here and say that concludes the government's business for today. We'll ask to sit again tomorrow at the hour of 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. After the daily routine the government will be calling Bill No. 65.

I move we do now rise to meet again at the hour of 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that the House now rise to meet again tomorrow at the hour of 2:00 p.m.

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 stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

[The House rose at 9:15 p.m.]