



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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First Session

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

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PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT
As of OCTOBER 22, 2013

Honourable Stephen McNeil	Premier President of the Executive Council Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Minister of Planning and Priorities Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Minister responsible for Military Relations
Honourable Diana Whalen	Deputy Premier Deputy President of the Executive Council Minister of Finance and Treasury Board Minister responsible for the <i>Credit Union Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Insurance Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Liquor Control Act</i> Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation Minister responsible for the <i>Securities Act</i>
Honourable Keith Colwell	Minister of Agriculture Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister responsible for the <i>Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act</i>
Honourable Michel Samson	Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism Minister of Acadian Affairs Minister responsible for the Gateway Initiative Minister responsible for the <i>Innovation Corporation Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Utility and Review Board Act</i> Minister responsible for Nova Scotia Business Incorporated
Honourable Leo Glavine	Minister of Health and Wellness Minister of Seniors Chairman of the Senior Citizens' Secretariat
Honourable Karen Casey	Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development Minister responsible for Youth
Honourable Kelly Regan	Minister of Labour and Advanced Education Minister responsible for the <i>Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Workers' Compensation Act</i> (except Part II)
Honourable Andrew Younger	Minister of Energy Minister of Communications Nova Scotia Minister responsible for Part I of the <i>Gaming Control Act</i>

Honourable Geoff MacLellan	Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Minister responsible for the <i>Sydney Steel Corporation Act</i> Minister responsible for Sydney Tar Ponds Agency (NS)
Honourable Zach Churchill	Minister of Natural Resources
Honourable Randy Delorey	Minister of Environment Minister of Gaelic Affairs
Honourable Tony Ince	Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs Minister responsible for the <i>Heritage Property Act</i>
Honourable Joanne Bernard	Minister of Community Services Minister responsible for the <i>Disabled Persons' Commission Act</i>
Honourable Lena Diab	Attorney General and Minister of Justice Provincial Secretary Minister of Immigration Minister responsible for the <i>Elections Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Human Rights Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Regulations Act</i> Minister responsible for Part II of the <i>Workers' Compensation Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act</i> Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Police Complaints Commissioner Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Police Review Board
Honourable Labi Kousoulis	Minister of the Public Service Commission Minister of Information Management Minister of the Voluntary Sector
Honourable Mark Furey	Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister responsible for Part II of the <i>Gaming Control Act</i> Minister responsible for the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

62nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(December 3, 2013)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Stephen McNeil (Chairman)
Hon. Diana Whalen
Hon. Karen Casey
Hon. Labi Kousoulis
Terry Farrell

Hon. Jamie Baillie
Hon. Christopher d'Entremont
Hon. Frank Corbett
Gordie Gosse

LAW AMENDMENTS

Hon. Lena Diab (Chairman)
Bill Horne (Vice-Chairman)
Patricia Arab
Terry Farrell
Brendan Maguire

Hon. Pat Dunn
Alfie MacLeod
Gordie Gosse
Lenore Zann

PRIVATE AND LOCAL BILLS

Stephen Gough (Chairman)
Ben Jessome (Vice-Chairman)
Keith Irving
Iain Rankin
Joyce Treen

Hon. Christopher d'Entremont
Tim Houston
Hon. David Wilson
Gordie Gosse

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Allan MacMaster (Chairman)
Iain Rankin (Vice-Chairman)
Bill Horne
Suzanne Lohnes-Croft
Brendan Maguire

Joachim Stroink
Chuck Porter
Hon. Maureen MacDonald
Hon. David Wilson

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Joachim Stroink (Chairman)
Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Vice-Chairman)
Pam Eyking
Ben Jessome
Gordon Wilson

John Lohr
Karla MacFarlane
Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse
Lenore Zann

HUMAN RESOURCES

Bill Horne (Chairman)
Joyce Treen (Vice-Chairman)
Ben Jessome
Margaret Miller
Iain Rankin

Eddie Orrell
Karla MacFarlane
Hon. Maureen MacDonald
Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

62nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(December 3, 2013)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Patricia Arab (Chairman)
Brendan Maguire (Vice-Chairman)
Stephen Gough
Allan Rowe
Joyce Treen

Eddie Orrell
Larry Harrison
Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse
Gordie Gosse

RESOURCES

Gordon Wilson (Chairman)
Keith Irving (Vice-Chairman)
Lloyd Hines
Bill Horne
Margaret Miller

Alfie MacLeod
John Lohr
Hon. Sterling Belliveau
Lenore Zann

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Pam Eyking (Chairman)
Ben Jessome (Vice-Chairman)
Patricia Arab
Stephen Gough
Keith Irving

Hon. Pat Dunn
Larry Harrison
Hon. David Wilson
Gordie Gosse

COMMITTEE ON ASSEMBLY MATTERS

Hon. Kevin Murphy (Chairman)
Lloyd Hines (Vice-Chairman)
Hon. Michel Samson
Hon. Randy Delorey
Hon. Lena Diab

Hon. Christopher d'Entremont
Alfie MacLeod
Hon. Frank Corbett
Gordie Gosse



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2013

Sixty-second General Assembly

First Session

12:00 NOON

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ms. Margaret Miller

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before we start our daily routine, a quick reminder that there will be no late debate tonight.

We will proceed with the daily routine.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

MR. JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition from the residents of Kings County with 182 signatures. The operative clause of the petition reads:

“Whereas we the citizens of Kings County, Nova Scotia have not received high-speed internet service as has been promised to all citizens of Nova Scotia dating back to 2009, we hereby request that the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia rectify this situation . . . To provide the citizens of rural Kings County with the same access to high-speed internet as is available to the more urban areas of Nova Scotia by the end of the 2014 calendar year.”

Mr. Speaker, I have affixed my signature to the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 12 of the Surplus Crown Property Disposal Act, I beg leave to table the Surplus Crown Property Disposal Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2013.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, it is my pleasure to table the 2012-13 Annual Report of Nova Scotia Business Incorporated.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health and Wellness, I am pleased to table the Report of the Independent Panel to Review the *Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act* and Community Treatment Orders, submitted July 10, 2013.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable Minister of the Public Service Commission.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Employment Equity Report, 2012-2013.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable Minister of Environment.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a document containing some information requested of the Department of Environment by the member for Pictou West in Question Period a couple of days ago. I think this document is for the benefit of the whole House, but in particular, for the member for Pictou West.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House, could we revert to the order of business, Tabling Reports, Regulations and Other Papers.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make a brief introduction before tabling the report. I would direct your attention to the Speaker's Gallery, where we're honoured to have the president of the Nova Scotia Community College, Don Bureaux, with us here today. He's a dedicated leader and former Bedford resident who is committed to the education of learners across Nova Scotia. I would ask my colleagues to give him the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Nova Scotia Community College's 2013 Report to the Community.

MR. SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave for permission to do an introduction in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I draw my colleagues' attention to the east gallery, where I recognize the provincial Ombudsman, Mr. Dwight Bishop, a long-time civil servant, having spent many years in the RCMP and the provincial government. I ask my colleagues to bring greetings to our Ombudsman - our retiring Ombudsman, I should say. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

RESOLUTION NO. 459

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

Whereas Dwight Bishop, a native of Annapolis Valley, was appointed Ombudsman for the Province of Nova Scotia on January 1, 2004, and reappointed in January 2009; and

Whereas Mr. Bishop was a member of the RCMP for 34 years, retiring as assistant commissioner and commanding officer for Nova Scotia, and during his time with the RCMP he led the provincial police force through emergency situations such as the Swissair disaster and 9/11; and

Whereas Mr. Bishop will be retiring from his role as Ombudsman for the Province of Nova Scotia at the end of this month, on December 31st;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly recognize the many years of service Mr. Bishop has devoted to bettering our province and the people of Nova Scotia, and wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

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 Environment.

RESOLUTION NO. 460

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

Whereas ArcticNet brings together scientists and managers with their partners from Inuit organizations, northern communities, federal and provincial agencies, and the private sector to address climate change and modernization in the Arctic; and

Whereas the S. and A. Inspiration Foundation founded by Ms. Sima Sharifi and Mr. Arnold Witzig generously contributes one to five Inspiration Prizes with associated awards totalling \$1 million to distinguished ArcticNet teams on an annual basis and which recognizes and promotes the extraordinary contribution made by teams in the gathering and sharing of knowledge in the Arctic to the benefit of all Canadians; and

Whereas at the 2013 ArcticNet Conference in Halifax, the Arctic Inspiration Prize was awarded to three projects: Ikaarvik: From Barriers to Bridges; the National Strategy on Inuit Education - National Parent Mobilization Initiative; and SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik: Healthy homes in thriving Nunatsiavut communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House welcome the donors, delegates and guests to Halifax, and congratulate the winners of the 2013 Arctic Inspiration Prize.

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 South.

MR. KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Most certainly.

MR. IRVING: I would like to introduce the House to someone who is a friend of mine who is actually one of the team members and team leaders of one of the Arctic

Inspiration Prizes, and she brings an esteemed resume to her visit here - Mary Simon. I'd ask Mary if she would stand up.

Mary has served as the President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference; she has been the Inuit negotiator during the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution; she has served as the first Canadian Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs; and has also served as the ambassador to Denmark. She has most recently been the President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and is now presently the chairman of ITK's National Committee on Education.

I ask all members to join me in a special welcome to Mary Simon. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Community Services on an introduction.

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: I'd like to make a little bit of history today in the House of Assembly and introduce my spouse, Annette Hill, who is the epitome of a political spouse, and took a lot of hard knocks during the campaign for my decision to run as an openly gay candidate.

I ask the House to give her a warm welcome, please. (Standing Ovation)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 461

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

Whereas James and Amanda Kinsman own and operate Windcrest Farm, a 190-holstein dairy milking herd in Berwick, Nova Scotia, and they have doubled the size of their operation in just over the past five years; and

Whereas James joined the family farm in 2001, after graduating from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and worked with his father before taking over management and eventually ownership of the family operation; and

Whereas Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program named James and Amanda Kinsman Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2013 at a national event in Regina;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize James and Amanda Kinsman for their strong sense of stewardship and desire to ensure a solid foundation for the next generation of farmers, and congratulate them on receiving the award of Outstanding Young Farmers for 2013.

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 Justice.

RESOLUTION NO. 462

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

Whereas November 17th to November 23rd was National Restorative Justice Week, with the goal of raising awareness of use of restorative approaches and practices in addressing crime and conflict in Canadian society and the criminal justice system; and

Whereas Nova Scotia hosted a Restorative Justice Conference in November and I had the honour of attending and meeting some of the hard-working, committed professionals whose work helps victims move forward and prevents people from reoffending; and

Whereas Nova Scotia is a leader in restorative approaches, having the most well-developed and well-recognized program in the world for youth aged 12 to 17, with an 80 per cent success rate as well as being the first Canadian jurisdiction to initiate a province-wide restorative approach in schools and offer a restorative justice program for university students;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate everyone involved with restorative justice in this province and for the positive impact these programs have on offenders, victims, and the community at large.

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 Energy.

RESOLUTION NO. 463

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

Whereas the provincially and municipally funded Solar City Program helps homeowners in the Halifax Regional Municipality pay for solar water heating systems that turn solar power into home energy; and

Whereas the Canadian Solar Industries Association's Game Changer Awards recognize the work of those who have provided service excellence, outstanding leadership, and innovation in the Canadian solar industry over the last year; and

Whereas Thermo Dynamics Ltd. of Halifax, the official solar system manufacturer and installer for HRM's Solar City Program was the recipient of the 2013 Solar Thermal Project of the Year award for its leadership role and commitment to helping HRM homeowners use solar energy;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Thermo Dynamics Ltd. on this achievement and offer the company best wishes for future success.

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 Labour and Advanced Education.

RESOLUTION NO. 464

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

Whereas on November 30, 2013 Cresco Homes won the safety award at the Peter Kohler Peak Awards of the Nova Scotia Home Builders' Association in Halifax; and

Whereas this award means Cresco Homes has maintained a culture of safety on the job site, has worked diligently to ensure all workers were safe at all times, and has had no accidents or lost time on any job site during the past year; and

Whereas Cresco is a great example of the safety culture we are working to create in all Nova Scotia workplaces throughout the Workplace Safety Strategy, in fact, this award is one of great significance for the province, the NSHBA, and of course this year for Cresco Homes;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Hossein Mousavi and Taleb Abidali of Cresco Homes on this important award and encourage them to continue Cresco's outstanding safety record in years to come.

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 Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank on an introduction.

MR. BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, today I would have the honour to introduce my friend, Allan Billard, and grandson. I would like the audience to look up at the east gallery - and maybe you could stand - Able Sea Cadet Gabriel Billard, a native of Iqaluit, Nunavut, has travelled from Ottawa to Halifax this week to meet with Rear Admiral John Newton this morning at the dockyard. He has also been able to come to the House of Assembly to see the Government of Nova Scotia in action. Please extend a warm welcome to Able Sea Cadet Billard. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Agriculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 465

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

Whereas the Margaree Fish Hatchery helps maintain healthy waterways and abundant angling opportunities in the Margaree River; and

Whereas the local Margaree Atlantic salmon sport fishery has a value of approximately \$2.5 million per year to the local economy, supports an estimated 70 jobs in the area, and attracts anglers and tourists from across Canada and around the world; and

Whereas the Margaree Salmon Association awards the Cormack Award for groups or individuals who have done the most to conserve the Margaree River;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate the staff of the Margaree Fish Hatchery: Darryl Murrant, Sean Neary, Robert Ingraham, Andrew Morrison, and Wendy MacEachern on receiving the Corkum Award, and thank them for the role they play in maintaining the health of the Margaree River, a Canadian Heritage 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 Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg on an introduction.

MR. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise in my place to make an introduction. As with most of you, my constituency was also changed with the redistribution. With this change I get to work with another MP, whom I haven't had an opportunity to work very much with before. That MP is in the gallery today and I want to introduce the Honourable Mark Eyking, the member for Sydney-Victoria.

I ask that the House give him a warm welcome and remind the House that he is also the husband of the honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes. (Applause)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 29 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998. The Municipal Government Act. (Mr. John Lohr)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

RESOLUTION NO. 466

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

Whereas Dwight Bishop, Nova Scotia's Ombudsman since 2004, will retire on December 31st of this year; and

Whereas Mr. Bishop thoughtfully and professionally served our province during his time as our Ombudsman, performing his duties to the highest standard; and

Whereas Mr. Bishop has raised the standard for future Ombudspersons in our province, ensuring important public issues remain a top priority in Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the contributions Dwight Bishop has made to Nova Scotia and wish him all the best as he starts the next chapter in his successful career.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

RESOLUTION NO. 467

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

Whereas Kevin McNamara was Nova Scotia's Deputy Minister of Health and subsequently the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness for a total of four and a half years, making him the longest-serving Deputy Minister of Health in the country when he was terminated by the new government on October 23rd; and

Whereas Kevin McNamara played a key role in many of the accomplishments and innovations in health care during his tenure, including fair generic drug pricing, Collaborative Emergency Centres, enhanced roles for paramedics and nurse practitioners in long-term care, and Nova Scotia's first mental health strategy; and

Whereas the Globe and Mail's health columnist, André Picard, in an article dated November 7th, wrote that, "Mr. McNamara is one of the most knowledgeable people in Canadian health care - professional and well-respected," that "deputy ministers need to be able to speak truth to power," and that "to do so they need tenure and stability; they need to be leaders not caretakers";

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature thank Kevin McNamara for his years of public service dedicated to improving and strengthening the health care system of Nova Scotia and wish him the best in all his future endeavours.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

RESOLUTIONS NO. 468

MR. ALLAN ROWE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the honourable member for Eastern Shore, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Theresa Young, a long-time resident of East Chezzetcook, is a devoted mother, wife and pillar of her community; and

Whereas Theresa has selflessly given of her time and talents in order to support her community, specifically at her church, Saint Genevieve's, Theresa has offered her time to many church activities such as Eucharistic ministry, reader and Sunday School teacher; and

Whereas Theresa is also an active member of the Cancer Society, an organization which she holds close to her heart, in 1989 Theresa's son, Jeffery, lost his battle with cancer and even though Theresa has faced the devastating loss of a child, she has remained a positive influence on her community and church, inspiring others to take an active role in their communities;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Theresa Young for her ongoing commitment to the community of East Chezzetcook and the Cancer Society.

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. 469

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

Whereas Florence Sassine has been a dedicated civil servant for 32 years, serving our province as the Chief of Protocol; and

Whereas Florence Sassine has played a key role in helping Nova Scotia host ceremonies and events as well as official visits by members of the Royal Family, heads of state and governments, ambassadors, high commissioners and Consuls General; and

Whereas Florence Sassine is a great Nova Scotia ambassador, who always helped our province shine;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate Florence Sassine on her retirement and thank her for her years of dedicated service to 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?

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-Shelburne.

RESOLUTION NO. 470

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

Whereas each sitting of the House of Assembly is very different and yet, House staff, Pages and commissionaires tackle each challenge with professionalism and ease; and

Whereas this historic Chamber is in the very good hands of people who are dedicated to democracy and preserving history; and

Whereas although the debate can become heated, it is reassuring to know that the House staff, Pages and commissionaires remain cool, collected and steadfast in their duties;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature thank the Nova Scotia Legislature staff, Pages and commissionaires and all the people who support the work of this historic Chamber, for their hard work in this House this session.

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 on an introduction.

MS. PAM EYKING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to also introduce my go-to guy, my husband, in the east gallery here today, who finished up in Parliament last night and flew in to join us here in Province House today - Mark Eyking. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

RESOLUTION 471

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

Whereas Lisa Holt-Jones of Baddeck, owner of Antiques Boutique in Baddeck, has been interested in history since she was in school; and

Whereas Lisa Holt-Jones was involved in updating the Web site of the American branch of the King Richard III Society during the summer of 2012, while she was receiving chemotherapy; and

Whereas now having received a clean bill of health, Mrs. Holt-Jones has been awarded the Dickon Award of the American branch of the King Richard III Society for her contributions;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly extend their congratulations to Mrs. Holt-Jones for her contributions to the American branch of the King Richard III Society, and wish her good health.

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-Musquodoboit Valley.

RESOLUTION NO. 472

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

Whereas the Colchester Stroke Club, a stroke survivor support group, meets weekly to assist their approximately 25 members who are working to overcome the physical and mental effects of their stroke; and

Whereas thanks to a grant from the Colchester East Hants Health Authority, members of the support group have been participating in music therapy designed to help stroke survivors find stimulating new ways to interact and improve their health through musical instruments; and

Whereas the program, “Music is a Beautiful Thing”, culminated in a Christmas concert for family and friends where the club members played songs they had written with bells, cymbals, and tambourines;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the members of the Colchester Stroke Club on their successful concert and wish them the best on their continuing recovery.

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 Chester-St. Margaret’s.

RESOLUTION NO. 473

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 Liz Breslin, a resident of St. Margarets Bay, has been dedicating herself to volunteering for the Break Away group for 10 years; and

Whereas the Break Away group picks up seniors from their homes once a week and takes them to a fun activity or social gathering such as carpet bowling, knitting classes, and art galleries; and

Whereas Liz also hosts free knitting lessons for kids once a week at her house;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Liz Breslin for volunteering for more than 10 years for the community of Chester-St. Margaret's.

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 Justice.

HON. LENA DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction before my resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Absolutely.

MS. DIAB: Mr. Speaker, joining us in the gallery today are some very special and important people to me. First, I have two of my four children with us today - Antonios and Monica. I also have two very dear friends, Connie Rooney and Sue Kapsalis. You can all stand. All four worked by my side every single day during the election and have been and continue to be an inspiration to me.

We also have a very special person with us today. Her name is Vicky Levack, who is joined by her mother, Joan Levack. Joan drove all the way from Berwick just to be with her daughter today for this special presentation. I would like to welcome all the guests here today and ask that they receive a very warm welcome from the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

RESOLUTION NO. 474

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

Whereas Vicky Levack, a resident in my constituency of Halifax Armdale, who just turned 23 years old last week, is someone who enjoys going out with friends, shopping, going to the movies, drinking large iced cappuccinos, writing romance novels, and learning about vampires - especially her favourite vampire Spike; and

Whereas Vicky was born with cerebral palsy, a disorder that affects muscle tone, movement and motor skills, and needs assistance with every daily task that we take for granted - Vicky brings joy and inspiration to everyone she meets through her zest for life, her talent in writing, her active volunteerism and strong advocacy for young people with disabilities; and

Whereas on Election Day, Vicky was a powerful and vocal volunteer at her polling station, doing what she could do to motivate people to exercise their right to vote;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House thank her for promoting democracy in our province and, most importantly, recognize Vicky for the example she sets for all of us to live life to the fullest, and wish her well in all her future endeavours. (Standing Ovation)

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.

Before I recognize the honourable member, I just want to remind folks in the gallery that it's not parliamentary to show either pleasure or displeasure for anything that goes on in the Chamber here - just doing my job. (Applause)

The honourable member for Pictou East.

RESOLUTION NO. 475

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

Whereas Elizabeth Van den Eynden was sworn in as a Justice for the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, presiding in Truro; and

Whereas Ms. Van den Eynden is equally known for her compassion, understanding, kindness to animals, and her work ethic, as for her legal prowess; and

Whereas all of these traits, combined with experience and insight, reaffirm Justice Van den Eynden's ability;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Justice Van den Eynden on her appointment, and wish her continued success in her new role.

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 Sydney-Whitney Pier.

RESOLUTION NO. 476

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

Whereas on Saturday, December 21, 2013, Eddie Brookman, dressed as Santa Claus, and his two trusted horses, King is Crown and Township Comet, will make their annual Christmas trek through the community of Sydney; and

Whereas this will be the 30th year for this renowned community event; and

Whereas Eddie Brookman and his two loyal helpers will also hand out treat bags to children of the community;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Eddie Brookman and his team on bringing the true meaning of Christmas to the community of Sydney.

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 Labour.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MS. REGAN: I would like to direct the members' attention to the gallery - I can never remember whether it's east or west - to the east gallery, where Hammonds Plains-Lucasville resident Anthony Martin has joined us in the House. Anthony is a resident, as I said, of Hammonds Plains-Lucasville and is often involved in politics, although not always, and a man-about-town. Please give him the warm welcome of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

RESOLUTION NO. 477

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, my resolution has nothing to do with that introduction. I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas 16-year-old Bedford resident Jordan Boyd was an outstanding athlete who played minor hockey with the Bedford Blues, major bantam with Bedford Barons, and was selected by the Acadie-Bathurst's Titan in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League entry draft earlier this year; and

Whereas Jordan was a well-rounded Grade 10 student at Rothesay Netherwood School in New Brunswick, who had many friends there and at home in Bedford where he was known for the his fun-loving nature, kind heart, and considerate ways; and

Whereas Jordan died suddenly in August of this year at the opening camp of the Titan while doing what he loved, playing hockey;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly express their sincere condolences to Jordan's family, his parents Debbie and Stephen, his brother Gregory, sisters Kelsey and Jillian, and his extended family and friends on the passing of a much-loved young man.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 478

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

Whereas on November 7th, the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce handed out the 2013 business awards; and

Whereas Bruce and Jeannie Fagan were honoured with a lifetime achievement award; and

Whereas Bruce and Jeannie Fagan served the people of Kentville and beyond for 38 years as the owners of Phinney's Men's and Ladies Wear;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Bruce and Jeannie Fagan for being awarded the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce lifetime achievement award for their years of dedicated service to the 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 Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.

RESOLUTION NO. 479

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

Whereas Stephen Maher is a political journalist and national affairs columnist for Post Media News, former Ottawa bureau chief of the Halifax ChronicleHerald, winner of the Michener Award, the National Newspaper Award, the Canadian Hillman Prize, and awards from the Canadian Association of Journalists and the Atlantic Journalism Awards, and is also a past resident of Truro; and

Whereas Stephen Maher has written and published his debut novel *Deadline*, a critically acclaimed political thriller set in Ottawa; and

Whereas Stephen Maher presented his novel at a book signing on October 29, 2013 at the Colchester Historeum in Truro, where his mother Elinor Maher is chair of the exhibits committee;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Stephen Maher on the publication of his novel *Deadline*, and wish him continued success in his career as a journalist and a writer.

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 Chebucto.

RESOLUTION NO. 480

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

Whereas Joyce Tynes is turning 100 years old and was born in Halifax on December 18, 1913; and

Whereas Joyce's late husband served with the Canadian Merchant Navy during World War II, she raised two children - son Michael and daughter Linda - who live in Halifax, and has four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and

Whereas her late niece, Daurene Lewis, was the former Mayor of Annapolis Royal, the first black female mayor in Canada, and recipient of the Order of Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Joyce and wish her health and happiness on this momentous birthday.

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 West.

RESOLUTION NO. 481

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

Whereas Mrs. Betty Ann Battist of Lyons Brook, Pictou County, operates the Winnifred Grant Opportunity Shop in Pictou that, in turn, runs the Christmas Star Wish Program; and

Whereas the Star Wish Program helps families in need and provides Christmas gifts for the children; and

Whereas Mrs. Battist has been running the program since she retired from teaching, and 60 families and 104 children will benefit from this program this Christmas season;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Mrs. Battist for her dedication and her generosity to her community, and wish her all the best this Christmas season.

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 New Democratic Party.

RESOLUTION NO. 482

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

Whereas the Hydrostone Groceteria has been serving customers on Isleville Street in Halifax's historic north end for at least 60 years, and has been owned and operated by Lee El-Rabahi since 2002; and

Whereas the Hydrostone Groceteria has a reputation as a friendly and helpful neighbourhood grocery and convenience store; and

Whereas the Hydrostone Groceteria received the Bronze Award in the Best Corner Store category in The Coast's 2013 Best of Halifax Awards;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the owner and staff of the Hydrostone Groceteria for their exceptional customer service over the year, and expresses its appreciation of the value this local business provides to its 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 Fairview-Clayton Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 483

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

Whereas the Bayers Westwood Christmas Party held on Saturday, December 7th, at the St. Andrew's Recreation Centre in Fairview-Clayton Park was a huge success; and

Whereas the Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre is located in the heart of the largest public housing area in metro Halifax and whose programs are offered free of charge to the community; and

Whereas the community and its families came to celebrate the holiday season in what was an incredibly well-put-together event designed to embrace the joys of this time of year;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre for their ongoing support and continued dedication to the community at large.

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 Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg.

RESOLUTION NO. 484

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

Whereas community spirit is key to bringing the Port Morien Fair back year after year; and

Whereas the Port Morien Fair brings the community together and the many volunteers come out in full force to help out; and

Whereas organizer Margie MacQueen works very hard and encourages the people in the community to take part in the parade and the many displays that are available for everyone;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate all the organizers and volunteers of the Port Morien Fair for all their hard work and for keeping the tradition alive and well.

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-Shelburne.

RESOLUTION NO. 485

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

Whereas in the new government's first legislative session, Opposition has lost time because the new Liberal Government has gone against tradition and backbenchers are now asking their own ministers questions in Question Period; and

Whereas some government ministers try to answer a question and then refer it to another minister to again try to answer a question, which both take time off Question Period; and

Whereas in the time allotted in Question Period there never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do;

Therefore be it resolved that "Time and tide wait for no man.", and all members of this House of Assembly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne has the floor.

MR. BELLIVEAU: Do you want me to read it over again, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: No, just pick up where you left off.

MR. BELLIVEAU: I'll read it from the "Therefore be it resolved."

Therefore be it resolved that "Time and tide wait for no man.", and all members of this House of Assembly encourage the new Liberal Government to prepare for the Spring session, when clocks and time go ahead, and the lost time of this Fall Question Period will be made up in the Spring session.

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 Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

RESOLUTION NO. 486

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

Whereas last Saturday, many Glace Bay families lined the streets of our proud community to view the annual Santa Claus Parade, which was an overwhelming success due to the dedication of the host, the Glace Bay Volunteer Fire Department; and

Whereas with all the difficulties we face in the Bay, we appreciate the opportunity to get out with our friends, family, and neighbours to share in the magic of the holiday season and watch the children light up when they see jolly old St. Nick; and

Whereas I was honoured to walk the parade with the Glace Bay Peewee “AAA” Miners, players, and coaches who showed great maturity as we safely handed out candy canes to those attending that evening;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House join me in congratulating the Glace Bay Volunteer Fire Department for providing us with a tremendous parade in 2013, and also help me thank my teammates, the “AAA” Miners: Colin Rosta, Tyler Mortimer, Gavin MacQueen, Bret Baxter, Liam Burke, Aimee O’Neill, Connor MacIntyre, Dylan McDonald, Alec Campbell, Xavier Johnson, Ty Tracey, Nathan MacMillan, Tye Clarke, Adam Wilson, Tytan Donovan, Seth Crowe, Hudson Clarke, Cate Burke, and Dylan White, and also coaches Philip O’Neill and Sean Burke, and trainer Tyler Baxter.

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. 487

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

Whereas the odds of giving birth to identical triplets range anywhere between one in 60,000 and one in two million; and

Whereas Jan and Brenda Van Zutphen of Skye Glen met those odds on September 15th, when Brenda gave birth to identical triplet boys: William, Carson, and Nate; and

Whereas the Van Zutphen family now has six children, all under the age of five;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the efforts of Jan and Brenda to raise the next generation of Nova Scotians, and wish this young family and their dairy farm all future success.

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 Chester-St. Margaret's.

RESOLUTION NO. 488

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 the New Ross Fire Department was founded in 1946 and it is the second-oldest fire department in the Municipality of the District of Chester; and

Whereas the New Ross Fire Department has over 30 professional volunteers; and

Whereas the New Ross Fire Department responds to over 100 emergency calls per year in their small community;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the volunteers who make up the New Ross Fire Department and commend them on the work they do for their community.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Energy.

RESOLUTION NO. 489

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

Whereas since 1884, Woodlawn United Church has been an invaluable member of the Dartmouth East community; and

Whereas Woodlawn United Church recently invested in a multi-million dollar addition to the facility, making it a fully accessible community building, after 10 years of fundraising, planning, and hard work; and

Whereas following this renovation, worshippers, friends and neighbours, including you, Mr. Speaker, celebrated the reopening of Woodlawn United Church on Saturday, November 30, 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize members of the Woodlawn United Church for their commitment to serving Dartmouth East and ensuring barrier-free access for their 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 House Leader for the Official Opposition.

RESOLUTION NO. 490

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 the function of this House of Assembly is made possible by the hard-working individuals at the Nova Scotia Legislature; and

Whereas each session we thank them for their hard work and dedication to helping things run smoothly; and

Whereas the many staff ensure we are never without the resources we need to do our work in this House, and for that we must show our gratitude;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the staff of the Nova Scotia Legislature including the always helpful Legislative Library staff; our Clerks, Neil Ferguson and Annette Boucher; our Sergeant-at-Arms, Ken Greenham; all the commissionaires; Bob Kinsman and the Hansard staff; the Legislative Television staff; Mike Laffin, and Peter Theriault; and the ever-attentive Pages, for everything they do to make our jobs easier and to ensure the important work of the House of Assembly continues as it should. (Standing Ovation)

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 Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.

RESOLUTION NO. 491

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

Whereas 2013 is the 250th Anniversary of King George III's gift of the Halifax Common on June 23, 1763, to and for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Halifax, as Common forever; and

Whereas Peggy Cameron, co-chairman of the community group, Friends of Halifax Common, has created a beautiful booklet entitled *Celebrate the Common 250* as part of the group's celebratory activities and in accordance with their goal to reclaim, preserve and protect the Common lands which are currently less than one-third of the size of the original 235 acres included in the 1763 proclamation; and

Whereas Peggy Cameron and the community group Friends of Halifax Common have printed a booklet that details, through the photographs of Alvin Comiter, and the research of Susan Markham-Starr, the history of construction on Common lands throughout the last 250 years, as well as a chronicle of events that have taken place on the original Common;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Peggy Cameron and the members of the community group Friends of Halifax Common for their dedicated efforts to celebrate, reclaim, preserve and protect the Halifax Common by publishing a keepsake booklet full of pictures and information that tells the story of this important aspect of the history and heritage of Halifax.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Deputy Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 492

HON. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Eastern Shore, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas Jacques Lapointe has been Nova Scotia's Auditor General since March 2006; and

Whereas prior to his appointment he served as Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Internal Auditor for the Government of Ontario, following a career in government finance and audit, and he has been Past Chair of the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors as well as a member of many professional boards, and in 2013 was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Certified Forensic Investigators of Canada; and

Whereas during his 10 years as Nova Scotia's Auditor General, the new comprehensive Auditor General Act was enacted and Mr. Lapointe completed numerous audits and made recommendations for improved efficiency in the spending of government monies;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize the enormous contributions of Auditor General Jacques Lapointe to the Province of Nova Scotia and wish him well as he retires from his position.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: Question Period will begin at 1:07 p.m. and end at 2:07 p.m.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

TIR: COBEQUID PASS - MAINTENANCE/SNOW CLEARING

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Premier. The Cobequid Pass is a vital transportation link connecting Nova Scotians. It is, of course, a toll road that was introduced by a previous Liberal Government. This year is only December 12th and already the pass has been closed twice this season. I'd like to ask the Deputy Premier, will the government review maintenance and snow clearing on the Cobequid Pass to determine why it is so easily closed?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: I thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for the question. There is no question that there have been a number of issues with the Cobequid Pass, as the member and all members of the House are well aware. The reality is it's a very tough area for winter conditions. It gets pounded with sleet and snow all the time and it's very difficult to keep the roads clear in certain weather conditions, which of course we can't control. As the member would know, there have been a number of major incidents there that have led the department to do a number of reviews and studies to try to figure out how we increase support there for commuters and make sure that we keep Nova Scotians safe.

We spent additional resources with plowing. We've done some additional salting, of course. We've had some great participation with the RCMP, who is our partner in road safety, so that has been important. We are also endeavouring to do as much as we can with signage. There are electronic signs at either end of the pass to let commuters know that they may be clogged down and stopped, so that it may be a better idea to turn around, and there are also turning lanes for that. We really do get that and it's a very troubling issue for us and I can say, sincerely, that we are doing our very best to keep the Cobequid Pass open in the winter months, thanks.

MR. BAILLIE: Last week a mere four inches of snow led to another closure on the Cobequid Pass. It was the second one in a week where the previous week a four tractor trailer pileup caused the multi-hour closure of the Cobequid Pass, and I'll table the details of both closures for the minister. Mr. Speaker, will the department review road safety rules and regulations on the Cobequid Pass to ensure that they are adequate to protect the travelling public and keep the Pass open, safely, in the wintertime?

MR. MACLELLAN: What the member is referring to is a number of large transport vehicles that were caught in the Pass. Essentially there is a very dangerous area, probably the worst stretch of the Cobequid Pass that gets, again, bogged down with snow and sleet and all the weather that comes in the winter. What happens is the trucks can't get the speed. There are large, broad, long hills and these vehicles can't get the required speed to get up these hills; they get caught halfway and then, obviously, that wreaks havoc on all commuters who are on that road.

Again, it's important for road safety. We do our very best to get the messaging out. I get the member's point about how quickly this happens. The reality is that our crews are hard-working. They do their very best to identify the systems that move into the Cobequid area, and they work very diligently to get them plowed and salted.

To the member's question directly, we have undertaken a review of the Cobequid Pass area, but by all means, it's never too late or never off the table to take another look. I would welcome any suggestions from the Official Opposition. Thank you.

MR. BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that answer. I do agree with the minister, there are very hard-working crews in both Londonderry and Oxford that look after the Cobequid Pass, and they do a great job.

One concern that does come up is whether there is sufficient road-clearing equipment to keep the Pass open, and I'll tell you why, Mr. Speaker: when one lane of the Cobequid Pass closes - for example, because a tractor-trailer has blocked it because of an accident - it is very important that there be adequate equipment to keep the remaining lanes open so traffic can continue to flow. In addition, when the Cobequid Pass is threatened with closure, it's important that we have equipment to keep alternative routes, like Highway No. 4 through the Wentworth Valley, open for traffic that can be diverted through the Valley.

It is a concern in Cumberland County that there is not enough equipment to make sure that we have the alternate routes to the Pass available to travellers when the Pass itself is closed, or to keep at least one lane open when another lane is blocked because of a tractor-trailer or some other vehicle that has been stopped.

I just wanted to share that with the minister. I do remind the House that it's important for Cumberland County, but this is a vital transportation link for all Nova Scotians who are coming and going from our province.

I will ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, will the minister agree to review the supply of road-clearing equipment, including their current placement in Londonderry and in Oxford, to ensure that there is sufficient equipment available to keep the Cobequid Pass open and safe?

MR. MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, we obviously rely on the professional advice from the staff that we have in all regions of Nova Scotia, certainly in that area of Londonderry and Oxford. The regional managers are constantly updating us with the conditions and the situations in the Cobequid Pass.

The obvious assumption for a department and for a government and for all members of the House is that we have adequate equipment. Any time there is switching and transferring of equipment, it would obviously be based on the need not requiring additional equipment in those areas. So if this is an issue of simply having more equipment in that area, there's absolutely no reason why we wouldn't review that.

I would certainly commit to having a review with my regional managers, with the MLA for the area, and with all TIR stakeholders. The Cobequid Pass is important for commuters and it's important economically, and we want to keep it open and safe as often as we can, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

DEP. PREM.: DOOR-TO-DOOR POSTAL SERV. - ELIMINATION

HON. MAUREEN MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that Canada Post has announced a plan to eliminate door-to-door postal service in urban centres, like the HRM. I know that in my community many seniors and many people who have mobility challenges rely on door-to-door postal service as a way to maintain contact with family and friends and to do their business.

My question to the Deputy Premier is whether or not the government has had any contact with the federal government since this was announced yesterday, and what is the official position of Nova Scotia with respect to this plan?

HON. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Opposition. This was just announced yesterday, and I can say that we've had discussions among our caucus and are very concerned about the impact this will have, particularly on seniors and people living with disabilities.

We know that the mail service is an important link for them, for both receiving funds and for maintaining contact with family and friends. We are concerned about the impact, and we will be having further discussions. Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for the answer. We also learned yesterday with this announcement that approximately 8,000 Canada Post workers will be losing employment over the next five years. This will have a real impact on job loss in Nova Scotia. These are good-paying full-time jobs, which this province relies on. We've already taken a hit in the last number of years with the reduction in employment in federal government agencies in Atlantic Canada, and Nova Scotia taking a disproportionate share of that hit.

My question to the Deputy Premier is, does the province yet have any idea of how many jobs will actually be lost in the Province of Nova Scotia as a result of this decision? And what would the government do to mitigate and assist these workers?

MS. WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, we appreciate that question. I'm glad that the issue of employment was raised because that is one of our main concerns with this change in policy. There are many postal workers in this province, and while providing an important service, they also provide a lot to our economies. These jobs are quite well-paid jobs and certainly will be missed if they are phased out in our cities.

Mr. Speaker, we've been looking at the impact of that. It's premature to have numbers yet. As I say, this issue is very recent. I did hear that Canada Post is intending to do a lot of it over time. It's not going to be an immediate thing and there will be attrition, because I believe their average age is something like 47 years of age, so there'll be more people coming up to retirement very soon.

We'll need to look at how those job losses are going to be felt and over what period of time.

MS. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the Deputy Premier for her response. Seniors' organizations are already speaking out fairly forcefully about the impact this will have, particularly on the seniors population. In fact I heard a representative of a very large seniors' organization talk about how this will make it tougher for some seniors to stay in their own homes. The isolation that people experience as seniors is often broken by that contact through door-to-door mail delivery, where they are able to keep in contact with family and friends.

I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, can the Deputy Premier tell us whether or not her government will be in conversation, and how soon they will be in conversation, with seniors' organizations that are hoping there is an opportunity to speak with the federal agency and the federal government in terms of moving away from a plan that will negatively impact seniors?

MS. WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, this will be an issue for our discussions with seniors' groups. I know that the Minister of Health and Wellness, who is also the Minister of Seniors, will be including that in those discussions because this is an issue that will hit many people hard here in urban areas, not just in HRM but in other urban areas in our province. So we certainly will have that on our agenda.

I appreciate the question today because it highlights the importance of this. I would point out that just in recent years, our citizens who live in rural Nova Scotia have already felt these cuts to service, and that this has been an issue that would have been around for the last four years, as well, about rural service. I know that many members here would relate to that, because your people are already losing service from door-to-door delivery.

This extension of their cuts is something that we will definitely be talking to seniors about and trying to mitigate.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

EECD: HIGHLAND CONS. MIDDLE SCH. BLDG. - PLANS

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the honourable Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. The fate of Highland Consolidated Middle School in Westville is an issue that directly affects more than 200 families and dozens of staff living in Pictou East, but it also indirectly affects all the residents of the Town of Westville and surrounding areas.

As the minister may be aware, the junior high students of Highland Consolidated have been moved into the W.A. MacLeod Elementary School building in Riverton for

more than a year. During this time, the Highland Consolidated building has been left sitting empty.

My question today for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development is, has her department made any decisions as to what to do with the Highland Consolidated Middle School building?

HON. KAREN CASEY: Mr. Speaker, thank you to the member for the question. I'm very familiar with Highland Consolidated and the move of the students out of that school into W.A. MacLeod which, of course, caused that to become a P to 8 school. The school board and school community have recognized that the facilities in W.A. MacLeod are not adequate to accommodate a junior high population, and so there has been a request from the school board to the department to consider renovations to W.A. MacLeod to accommodate that junior high population. I know the study committee is currently working in the community and I would encourage the member to ensure that his concerns get to that study group, either through the SAC or some other way so that they have that information, those concerns regarding the junior high population, which at this time is currently housed in a P to 8 facility.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for her comments and would recognize that I have been to all the community meetings. I also met with the staff and students at that school and toured it on different times. The issue for me is, while the building sits empty, school goes on. Currently, the middle school students are housed in the upper level of an elementary school, and these facilities are not age-appropriate for these Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. The school board has applied to the province for \$3.5 million to additions and alterations funding to make the existing building more suitable.

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board has listed the Highland/MacLeod situation as its top priority on its capital construction list. My question today for the minister is, has the minister decided whether her department will approve the funds necessary to upgrade the W.A. MacLeod school, and when can the board expect to receive confirmation of approval of the project?

MS. CASEY: Mr. Speaker, as the member would know, the request comes from the school board to the department. We are currently working on our capital plan for the next school year. We expect that there will be a release of a capital plan before the end of this calendar year, and any capital projects that we have will be there. But I'm fully aware of the request. I understand the importance it has to the students to make sure that they have an appropriate setting, in particular for the junior high students, and that request from the board to the department has been received and is being reviewed and considered.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for her thoughtful, thorough answer there. I know the staff will be relieved to know that they'll be receiving an answer before the end of the calendar year. So the community is looking for a permanent solution,

but they do recognize that this will take time. The students of Highland Consolidated have been unfairly disadvantaged because they have not had access to the same standard of education facilities as those students at other middle schools.

The minister may be aware there is a similar possible situation developing at Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School and with the East Pictou Middle School. The East Pictou Middle School is also facing closure and the students there could be moved to the Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School. The parents in that part of my constituency are obviously worried about what may happen there and whether their kids may get caught in the same transitional disadvantage as the students at Highland Consolidated.

My question for the minister is, what would the minister say to the parents and families of the current students at Highland Consolidated Middle School? But also, has the department learned anything from that experience that I can give assurance to the residents in the other part of the constituency that this won't happen at the Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School?

MS. CASEY: Mr. Speaker, when there was a request that went out from the former minister to ask boards to discontinue their school review process, the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board was one of the ones that chose to move forward with a couple of their projects, recognizing that a delay would seriously impact on the students' education program. Both schools that have been mentioned by the member were part of that process, so I think that should tell the member that the school board and the department both recognize that appropriate facilities for our students for academic programming are a priority.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

ENVIRON. - HILLSIDE-TRENTON: NSP GEN. STA. - EMISSIONS

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is for the Minister of Environment. Members of the Hillside-Trenton Environmental Watch Association have been sharing their environmental and health concerns over the emissions from the Nova Scotia Power generation station with government representatives for a number of years. The former Minister of Environment assured residents that a study would be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Health and Wellness and the Pictou County Health Authority.

My question for the minister is, can the minister confirm whether or not this study has been undertaken?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker, and the opportunity to respond. I just want to notify the House and the member opposite that we actually have a meeting scheduled for January with the stakeholders, including the

Minister of Energy and the Minister of Health and Wellness. Both will be in attendance at that meeting. We are well aware of the environmental and health concerns of the residents of that area.

MR. DUNN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the answer from the minister. The spokesperson for the association, Peter Boyles, expressed great concern over the health impacts caused by the reticulates coming from the plant stacks. My question to the minister is, has the minister had the opportunity to speak with spokesperson Peter Boyles?

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, to answer the question succinctly, not at this time, or not yet.

MR. DUNN: Mr. Speaker, residents of Trenton-Hillside and surrounding area are tired of having fly ash from the generation station covering their homes, vehicles, and properties, and polluting their air. My question to the minister is, when the minister meets with the residents and this particular association, will this particular meeting happen in the area where he'll have an opportunity to see what's happening with the fly ash, the damage it's causing to vehicles and homes and gardens in the surrounding areas, or will this meeting be here in Halifax?

MR. DELOREY: I don't have the location of the meeting on hand right now, but I believe the Minister of Energy does know the location.

HON. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, one of the first steps we took when I became Minister of Energy was to set up the meeting with Mr. Boyles and the Hillside and Trenton group. As he would be aware, and this member may be aware, I tried to get repeated meetings with the previous government over this very issue. Mr. Boyles asked for the meeting to be held in Halifax so that the Minister of Health and Wellness and the Minister of Environment could be in attendance at that meeting, as well as departmental staff. That is happening within, I think it's the first two weeks of January. I've already been out personally to see Mr. Boyles and see there. I have stacks of pictures. I've seen the evidence, and this is a high priority. We've also raised the issue with Nova Scotia Power already and asked them to present us with a plan to address these issues.

It is a joint effort being undertaken by the Department of Environment, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Wellness to see this issue addressed once and for all. We'll certainly keep the member for the area up to date.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: CAPITAL DHA - FOOD SERVICES

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Yesterday and today we heard the Leader of the Official Opposition

use some of the lowest-paid workers at Capital Health as pawns, trying to score political points.

The Progressive Conservatives have a very long history of attacking workers, and now it seems the Liberals are willing to (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid has the floor.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Progressive Conservatives have a long history of attacking workers, and now it seems the Liberals are willing to take a page from the Tory playbook. (Interruptions) Can the minister explain what he's doing to correct the misleading information that the Leader of the Official Opposition has been saying about the food services at Capital District Health Authority?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Official Opposition may like to answer some of that question. It is the season of sharing, so why not? (Interruptions)

It is an issue that is very much being challenged on many fronts, and I know Capital District is looking at food services in a general way, as well as the Tim Hortons outlets. We are at a point in time where we have to look at cost efficiencies right across the health delivery and that is part of what we'll be doing as we prepare the next budget.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservatives try to pretend that this issue is about corporate welfare. This issue is really about the dedicated women and men who provide a core service in our hospitals, a core service to our patients, our patients' families, and hospital workers. These hospitals are places where families gather to support those who have fallen ill - that's who this issue is really about.

The Leader of the Official Opposition believes that you can get French fries at the cafeteria at the hospital. That's completely wrong, Mr. Speaker, and that's the misleading information that they are providing in their comments about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, given the minister's comments in Question Period yesterday, does he agree with the Leader of the Official Opposition that this issue is about corporate welfare?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I guess I'm really challenged to be the minister of peace and harmony here today. (Applause)

This is a serious issue that Capital Health has decided to review and, as minister, I have to respect how they will handle the situation. They have been under a lot of public scrutiny on this issue. I know that the people at Capital Health will deal with this - they will honour contracts, and they'll handle this in the proper manner.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, the workers we're talking about here are an important component of the health care team at Capital Health. Their current pay scale for this group of employees is actually \$14.80 to \$15.42 an hour. Once an employee in this pay range surrenders their deductions, their benefits, and taxes and EI, they're making about \$10 an hour take-home pay. That might be excessive for the Progressive Conservative Party, but I believe that it is a challenge to raise any family on \$10 an hour. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid has the floor.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all heard the minister's comments yesterday, so is it this minister's plan to try to save money on the backs of some of the lowest-paid workers at Capital Health?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, one of the areas that we will take a look at is the food costs right across the districts, right across the province, to make sure that no one area is in excess in terms of contractual arrangements.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**COM. SERV.: INCOME ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS
- POWER RATE INCREASES**

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the honourable Minister of Community Services. In The Annapolis County Spectator yesterday there was a heart-wrenching story about a woman who finds herself living in a dark trailer without a heat source or food - her power has been cut off and she cannot afford to catch up on her bills.

There's another 3 per cent power increase coming in January, so, Mr. Speaker, my question through you to the minister, what is her department doing to help the increasing number of people who are having their income assistance swallowed up by skyrocketing power rates?

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: I thank the honourable member for the question. It's an issue that is all across this province, including those in my own riding.

Since coming on as the Minister of Community Services, I have endeavoured to take on a very comprehensive review of all the programs, so that the money that is available to the department is going for the best investment in helping people live not only in their daily lives in the short-term, but effectively if they want to remove themselves from the income assistance system to be able to do that, so supports are there for them to do that.

I understand it is very challenging. I have lived those challenges for nine years, as a single mother on income assistance. I know what it's like to go to a food bank; I know what it's like to have difficulties in paying utility bills. We are absolutely evaluating those programs so that we can help people like this constituent.

MR. ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, in 2011 Feed Nova Scotia reported that there was a shocking 59 per cent increase in the number of families needing assistance from a food bank in the Annapolis Valley/Yarmouth region since 2008. According to data compiled by the Annapolis Valley Health, about 47 per cent of the people in Valley communities are earning less than \$20,000 per year.

My question again to the minister is, what does the minister have to say to the shocking number of families and the people who are being forced to go to food banks?

MS. BERNARD: Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of the rates that food banks are going up. That's certainly a volunteer sector organization that you don't want to see succeed, in terms of people going to food banks.

Unique situations happen in rural areas. People in rural areas are taxed with different problems, in terms of what their daily and their monthly budget might be. A lot of it has to do with transportation, their ability to get to social services, and their ability to find a job.

As I said previously, we are in the very beginning of looking at all of the investments within the income assistance and really trying to transform that system over the next couple of years, to meet the needs on a more here-and-now basis for people living in poverty.

MR. ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, what is most alarming is that 4,100 people in the Annapolis Valley lost their job in the last year, that's like every person in Berwick and Middleton losing a job. This government has released a plan to create jobs and although it sounds like it, it doesn't give anything to give families for relief on their power bills.

My question again to the minister is, will the minister sit down with the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism to come up with a plan to get people back to work and get them to get their own relief from power bills?

MS. BERNARD: Mr. Speaker, we talk about this every time we meet in Cabinet. It is an issue. We all know that our departments are inter-related and how it depends on what's going on in one department into another.

In terms of energy bills, we are dedicated and committed to removing the energy efficiency tax off power bills so that power bills will go down in the interim. I know that

my colleague, the Minister of Energy, is working very diligently to ensure that Nova Scotia ratepayers have the best opportunity for stabilization of rates in the coming years, with Muskrat Falls.

We all know that the work we do is inter-related; we talk to each other every day about that. They know the pressures I have within my department in trying to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Nova Scotians. We're all on the same page for that, I would say that everybody in this Chamber is on the same page for that so that's what will happen in the coming months.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Chester-St. Margaret's.

SENIORS: BUDGET CUTS - ADVISABILITY

HON. DENISE PETERSON-RAFUSE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Seniors. The Liberals promised a 1 per cent cut, which results in \$44 million per year to almost every single government department, including the Department of Seniors. In Nova Scotia we have about 1,000 Nova Scotians turning 65 years of age each month. In fact, the number of seniors in Nova Scotia is expected to double by 2026.

My question to the minister is, does the minister think it makes sense to be cutting funding from the seniors' budget when more and more seniors actually need government help?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member opposite that when our Continuing Care Strategy comes out and how much it will further embrace seniors and looking after them, she will see that the \$28 million being cut across departments won't have any effect on seniors.

MS. PETERSON-RAFUSE: Thank you to the minister for that. I'm very glad to know that there will be no budget cuts that affect seniors in Nova Scotia. While going door to door, however, seniors I talked to were actually pleased about the fact that there was a commitment to financially assist seniors with hearing aids that couldn't afford those hearing aids, and it's a big problem throughout the province. Can the minister tell low-income seniors in Nova Scotia whether or not they will be able to purchase hearing aids with the help of the program that was promised?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the member opposite is that the details of what we will be doing around seniors' programs for the future will definitely have to wait until we're into a new budget year. There was no allotment put forward for this year, and all those programs we'll be taking a look at, and some cost analysis of whether it is possible to do.

MS. PETERSON-RAFUSE: Thank you very much, minister. I certainly hope that that answer didn't mean no, because my understanding is that during the election, the candidates for the Liberals had told people throughout the province that they were going to keep with commitments that were coming forth from the government. I would like to also talk about the fact that hearing properly is so important to seniors, for them to be able to participate more fully in society and interact with their loved ones, their families. So it certainly does enhance their quality of life. And also, not being able to hear properly is a health and safety issue.

So I'd like to ask the minister, will the minister ensure that his government stands up for low-income seniors just like they have been doing for Nova Scotian senators?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, what I can assure the member opposite is that seniors will be prominent during our time in government. We're moving the Department of Seniors in with Health and Wellness so that their needs, as they move through the advanced years and more frail years, that their health needs, in a full way, will be given every consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

TIR: DOUBLE CHIP SEAL - EFFECTIVENESS

MR. TIM HOUSTON: My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Mr. Speaker, under the NDP's road strategy, we saw a significant increase in the amount of roads chip sealed and double chip sealed. Today I want to talk about double chip sealing. If you live in rural Nova Scotia, you now know that double chip sealing means that your road is going to be de-paved; they are going to pulverize your pavement and turn it into double chip sealed road, which is essentially a gravel road. The NDP felt that double chip sealing roads was better than patching them. My question for the minister this morning is, does he agree that double chip sealing is an effective tool and will the minister continue to use it aggressively?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: This is something that has been an important topic for us as we look at the capital plan moving forward and how we're going to accomplish looking after the roads for Nova Scotians. Obviously we do our very best with the large-scale capital projects that we have for highways as well as the local roads, and again, we're trying to accomplish as much as we can with, obviously, a limited budget.

With the chip seal, I think, there is a function for it and I think there is a value. There is a combination of things: single chip seal, double chip seal, of course the patching that goes on within the department. To answer the question very honestly and frankly, I rely on the experts who are in my department. I ask the questions about what's the most economical and what increases, or at least maintains, the health of the road. I rely on them.

I know that they are doing a good job for our department and for the people of Nova Scotia. I will take their suggestions, and I will follow the plan that they put forth.

As of right now, we'll use a combination of tools to make sure that we do as many roads as possible in the upcoming season. Thank you.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer. I do agree that there may be applications for double chip sealing in the process, but I'm just curious about how those decisions are made. I mean, essentially, if you bought a house on a paved road in rural Nova Scotia, you might now be living on a gravel road, and that has disappointed a lot of residents in my constituency. I'm thinking in particular of the residents of the Marsh Road in Thorburn. The Marsh Road was scheduled to be paved in 2014, but instead, interestingly, was double chip sealed just before the writ dropped. So I know that there are many variables that come into play in deciding whether a road should be chip sealed or double chip sealed, and presumably it's things like traffic volume and the number of houses on a road.

My question for the minister is, can he share information on how the department will make these decisions going forward? Because people who live on these roads really don't want to go backwards and now live on a gravel road.

MR. MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. You know, the reality is, again, that we're doing our very best to keep roads as healthy and as stable as possible. There are a number of categories for roads, whether or not, in what year they were built originally and what maintenance was performed. The member is absolutely correct, there's a formula. A lot of it has to do with the amount of traffic in those areas, number of homes and whatnot, but I can say to the member that I would certainly be willing to meet with him about this specific road.

I don't know the details of why it would be originally paved and then double chip sealed. I honestly don't have that information. So if the member would like to speak about this, by all means we're available. I'm sure he hears from the residents and we would like to hear their concerns. We don't want damages to vehicles because of a certain process we're using, and we want the best roads possible. So if the department has deemed that this is one that we have to look at, then let's look at it. Thank you.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer. Now, in terms of roads that have already been double chip sealed, I can tell you that a couple of weeks ago we started getting a number of calls into our constituency office about the slippery condition of these roads. This is even really before we started the winter season. So there's a big issue developing in that double chip sealed roads can't be salted. They have to be sanded, and sand is only loaded into the trucks after all the roads have been salted. So you can imagine how this really diminishes the winter service level of the people who live on double chip sealed roads. It impacts their lives.

So my question for the minister is, now that there are less paved roads and more double chip sealed roads - so less to be salted and more to be sanded - will the minister instruct his department to look at the allocation of trucks to salt versus trucks to sand and possibly even equip rural Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal Department offices, such as the MacLellan's Brook depot - surely we have to show some love to the MacLellan's Brook depot - with access to additional trucks, so that they're able to get sand to those necessary roads quicker instead of those people waiting until the end of the line?

MR. MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, it may be a conflict of interest for me to look at that road, so I don't know if I could do that. (Laughter)

In all seriousness, I think what the member is bringing forth is a very important question. We're sort of in the early stages with respect to the amount of double chip sealing we do in the province. So certainly if there are safety issues and there's a balance, or a question between salt and sand, then look, that's something that the department has to consider. I mean obviously we're talking about vehicles, we're talking about commuters, so the paramount issue for us is keeping Nova Scotians safe while they travel the roads.

So if there's an issue, I will certainly endeavour to talk to my department immediately about this, with some of these safety issues with respect to the double chip seal. If we're making roads that are unsafe, then we've got to obviously take measures. We can't be price-sensitive to the safety of Nova Scotians, so we'll definitely look at that and I can let the member know.

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

ERDT - SOUND STAGE: DEPT. - INVESTIGATION

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that the film and television industry of Nova Scotia is a very important part of our creative economy and needs our continuing support to remain healthy and vibrant. We once had a fine sound studio in Halifax, the Electropolis, where interior scenes for numerous films and TV series were shot - including in fact one, Lexx, which was a very popular TV series which this member had an opportunity to perform in. Many film companies from outside the province were also attracted to shooting here in Nova Scotia so they could have the benefit of using a sound stage, as well as our beautiful environment; also, film crews could work in Halifax without a long trek outside the city.

When this facility was sold, Mr. Speaker, nothing replaced it, and without it Nova Scotia will lose some major opportunities for big-budget films with their high-paying jobs

for locals, and lucrative economic spinoffs. My question for the minister is, can he please tell me where his department is in the process of looking into a new sound stage for this important industry, and whether he is willing to invest in a new sound stage to help build the creative economy of Nova Scotia?

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: I thank the member for the question; I know she has a personal interest in this. The fact is that Nova Scotians can be very proud that we have a vibrant film industry, and with the support of our Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, through the generous tax credits that are made available for the film industry, we will continue to work very closely with them in addressing the needs, whether it be a sound studio or some of the other challenges that they face.

The fact is that there are a number of productions currently being done here in Nova Scotia, and we have truly made ourselves into a province where filmmakers and TV documentaries want to come and do business here in Nova Scotia.

MS. ZANN: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the answer from the minister. In Law Amendments Committee on December 10th when union presenters came to discuss changes to the Trade Union Act, I asked Gary Vermeer - the President of IATSE, the union representing Nova Scotia's film crews - other than leaving this bill unamended, what do you think the film and TV industry needs most in Nova Scotia in order to grow and thrive? Mr. Vermeer's answer, a sound stage.

Mr. Speaker, would the minister agree to meeting with me and representatives from the film and TV sector sometime in January to discuss this important issue?

MR. SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, we take it as very important to meet with all of our stakeholders. Allow me to say that I'd be more than happy to meet with the member and any other stakeholders in helping to grow the film industry and to grow the economy of Nova Scotia.

MS. ZANN: Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, thank you, and I look forward to our tea and chat.

Mr. Speaker, this time my question is for the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage. Artists of all mediums, and the creative industries as a whole, contribute millions to Nova Scotia's economy and, I would say, an immeasurable amount of value to the health and happiness of all people no matter what their socio-economic situation. Under our last government, while we worked hard to get back to balance, arts, culture and heritage were deemed as already cut to the bone after the previous Progressive Conservative Government had also gutted the sector's arm's-length Arts Council.

We recognized the importance of arts and culture in this province in the past by re-establishing the Arts Council and committing to keeping the funding the same and, in

fact, doubling the amount of money to the new Arts Council, so will this minister commit to the members of this House, and to the hard-working artists across Nova Scotia, many of whom struggle to live above the poverty line, to protect arts and culture by not cutting any funding to artists' programs?

HON. TONY INCE: Thank you for that question, and I am grateful for the question from the honourable member. As acknowledged in the Throne Speech, our government has committed to helping the arts community. We are looking at the cultural end of the arts community, and I will assure the member across the floor that we are looking and really considering anything that has to do with arts and the culture.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

TIR - CLUB RD. (HARRIETSFIELD): CLEAN UP - STATUS

MR. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. As long as I can remember, Club Road in Harrietsfield in Halifax Atlantic has been a dumping ground for public waste. In previous discussions with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, there has been a commitment to begin a cleanup. My question to the minister is, can the minister please provide an update on this cleanup?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: I thank the member for the question. This is an issue that the member has brought forth to me personally, and as he has mentioned, it has been an issue for the department for a number of years. First and foremost, we are committed to a cleanup right away. The Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal staff that are in the area are going to use their opportunities when there is a little bit of a break in the winter services that we provide for Nova Scotians to clean up this Club Road, so that's happening right away and we'll be on that immediately.

The bigger problem though, Mr. Speaker, for this road and for the residents and the people who are in that area, is the fact that it's widespread and large-scale illegal dumping. So you're talking about things like furniture and appliances, and it's pretty hard to believe that in 2013 we're still enduring littering and illegal dumping of that nature. That's a problem for us. We're looking at ways for surveillance, to see how we can monitor this area. We've got to find violators and make sure that we spread the message, that in Nova Scotia and in our society, it is no longer acceptable to dump things illegally. So we are going to clean up and we are going to get that done.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

FIN.: AFFORDABLE LIVING TAX CREDIT - THRESHOLD

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question on the Affordable Living Tax Credit for the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. Cost of living increases in the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security for a senior couple can push them over the \$30,000 threshold and result in a clawback of this benefit. Will the minister index the threshold to eliminate the clawback to maintain the spirit for which this tax credit was created?

HON. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question as Minister of Finance and Treasury Board. To the honourable member's point about the Affordable Living Tax Credit, that will be looked at in the comprehensive tax review that we're undertaking. I think the members of the House are aware that we'll be looking at not only taxes, but fees and regulations as well. It's a large project, and it will be undertaken beginning in January. We're going to be getting that underway. Thank you.

MR. MACMASTER: I thank the minister for the response. It is positive. This issue was brought to me by a couple in my constituency, and I have no doubt that members from all across the province have constituents who are affected by this. It was created and built into a past budget model. Good fiscal management should make it part of the upcoming Spring budget at the amount it was originally intended for. Will the minister give us some indication as to how serious she is about this specific matter and having it resolved?

MS. WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, it is a concern to us; 50 per cent of Nova Scotians fit into the lowest tax bracket, actual taxable income in the lowest tax bracket, so we're aware of the fiscal pressures and the difficulty of people trying very hard to work hard and have a decent life here in Nova Scotia. Certainly measures to alleviate poverty are important to us, and they actually cross jurisdictions, they cross different departments. We'll be working collectively to try to build the best possible plan for the coming year.

MR. MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the NDP introduced this tax credit when they introduced their HST tax increase, and I'm hoping - and I think many Nova Scotians are hoping - that we're going to see a change with this government in that they will look at the high taxes that we are paying in this province and address that for people. It's making life less affordable. One final question for the minister, can the minister give us some hope that this government will be different from the previous government come the Spring budget?

MS. WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, we certainly want to give more than hope, we'd like to give you every assurance that this government will be different than the last government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

NAT. RES.: PROVINCIAL PARKS ACT - MANDATE REVIEW

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Nova Scotia has some of the most beautiful beaches and provincial parks in the country. These natural surroundings provide excellent opportunities for camping, hiking, beachcombing, photography, and simply enjoying nature. However, I am concerned to see many of our beaches in our province eroding.

My question to the minister is, if the minister hasn't already, will he commit to finding the time to review the legislative mandate of the Provincial Parks Act, which includes the provision for a variety of outdoor recreation areas?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member for the question. The erosion of our beaches is a continual concern for staff in our department. Our department works continuously to identify risk areas and to work with those affected communities to ensure that they have been well informed of what the risks are, especially if there is anything that can relate to flooding. Our department will continue to do that. If there are any specific lands that are in question, I'd be happy to hear what they are from the member.

MR. DUNN: Mr. Speaker, the Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia, for the period 2011-2020, entitled *The Path We Share*, lists one of the goals as protection of natural and cultural heritage. One of the most beautiful beaches in the province is located 15 minutes outside New Glasgow along the Northumberland Strait. Melmerby Beach continues to erode, and due to a lack of maintenance, sand continues to blow over the dunes. We are in danger of losing this beach.

Mr. Speaker, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. My question to the minister is, will the minister commit to providing the necessary funding, within the Spring budget, to help alleviate the erosion that is occurring at provincial beaches?

MR. CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, what I will commit to is ensuring that that particular beach is looked at by department staff, and I will request that our staff provide me with a recommendation related to the maintenance and protection of that beach.

MR. DUNN: Mr. Speaker, the seasonal employees at Melmerby Beach are incredible workers but they don't have the budget to properly maintain the beach. Wooden walkways and fences on top of dunes are not replaced. The main road to Roy's Island needs additional repairs and dune grass is no longer planted to slow down erosion. Thousands of loyal visitors are worried about the future of this provincial park beach.

In the season of harmony, Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is, will the minister commit to visiting Melmerby Beach with me to examine the deterioration that continues to occur?

MR. CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I've actually been looking forward to walking along a beach with a member of the Opposition for some time, so accept that as a yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS - SENIORS DEPT. ELIMINATION:
GROUP OF IX - CONSULT**

HON. MAUREEN MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is to the honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, also responsible for the Department of Seniors. Yesterday the Minister of Health and Wellness said there was some consideration being given to rolling the Department of Seniors into the Department of Health and Wellness, and today I believe he said that, in fact, that was going to occur.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is really quite simple, has there been any consultation with the seniors' organizations, the Group of IX, with respect to the elimination of the Department of Seniors?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, maybe I needed to provide a little bit more clarity there. One of the areas that seniors now feel a great need to speak often about is their health and wellness issues. So when I'm talking about moving the Department of Seniors, it is having the department actually within the Department of Health and Wellness so that we can have greater lines of communication, greater opportunities for them to be able to raise their urgent needs as well as long-term planning for continuing care. So in actuality, the Group of IX, the department will have a greater voice and greater opportunity to present their needs to the minister.

MS. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear about any consultation having occurred with the Group of IX. I want to ask the minister, what assurance can he give this House that seniors' voice will not be lost in the vast Department of Health and Wellness?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite. It is an important question. I think the fact that we put right at the top of our agenda that we would review and refocus the Continuing Care Strategy - it's one that within the first 100 days, in January, we will have several . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The time allotted for the Oral Question Period has expired.

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During Question Period today a member of the Third Party asked the Minister of Health and Wellness to describe the Progressive Conservative position on a health care issue - I'm not sure that's in order - and that same member of the Third Party mischaracterized our position on this same issue.

I will say that that member of the Third Party is a former Minister of Health and Wellness, and is the one who actually ordered that money to be spent on the Tim Hortons. One can only wonder about that member of the Third Party and how many more nurses and doctors we could have hired with the \$1.4 million that that member of the Third Party directed to the Tim Hortons and other fast food outlets.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to rule on my point of order regarding the question in Question Period by the member of the Third Party.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll rule. What the Leader of the Official Opposition just rambled on about was completely false. He is the one out there misleading Nova Scotians on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm going to take a brief pause. (Interruptions) We'll move on to orders of the day. I'll take your point of order under advisement, and I'll get back to you.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, a very wise ruling on your part in light of the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, I move that you do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

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

The motion is carried.

[2:10 p.m. The House resolved into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Ms. Margaret Miller in the Chair.]

[2:24 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened with Deputy Speaker Margaret Miller in the Chair.]

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

THE CLERK: That the committee has met and considered the following bills:

Bill No. 13 - Ladies of the Sacred Heart at Halifax Act.

Bill No. 14 - Justices of the Peace Act and Provincial Court Act.

Bill No. 15 - February Holiday Act.

Bill No. 20 - House of Assembly Act.

each without amendment, and

Bill No. 12 - Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Bill No. 19 - Trade Union Act.

which were reported with certain amendments by the Committee on Law Amendments to the Committee of the Whole House, without further amendments.

The chairman has been instructed to recommend these bills to the favourable consideration of the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ordered that these bills be read a third time on a future day.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the House, I would request that the bills that were just considered in the Committee of the Whole House on Bills be added to the order paper and considered for third reading this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the order of business, Public Bills for Third Reading.

PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 1.

Bill No. 1 - Electricity Reform (2013) Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 1 for third reading.

Mr. Speaker, let me just leave it at this - I know that the members of the Opposition have indicated they have something to say on this bill, so let me just say I'm very pleased by the report out of McInnes Cooper recently, actually just last week, that noted that this will be a transformational bill in the electricity market in Nova Scotia and have significant benefits, in the report that they released just the other day.

I'm also pleased by the editorial in the New Glasgow News the other day which also noted that this is an extremely important first step for Nova Scotia and, in fact, takes some long overdue and much-needed steps.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the members of the Opposition will get involved in the review of the electricity marketplace coming in the near future. I will also finally say that I am pleased that the department is also preparing an analysis of the three bills that the Opposition brought forward this session, and we will be providing it for them because I think they should be aware of some of the unintended consequences that were in their bills that may - in fact, two of them would result in significant rate increases almost immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to providing that to them so that hopefully we can incorporate some of those ideas - because there were some good ideas in those bills - into the review that we are taking forward, and actually some of the other items that were in their bills are things that we had already put in the review before they tabled them, and so we're excited about having their input. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable House Leader for the Official Opposition.

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, I'll speak for just a few moments, and I want to thank the minister for those very short remarks. I know that was really hard for him.

So my quick comments are just simply this - I mean this is the government's break-the-monopoly bill. They went through a whole election talking about breaking the monopoly and, quite honestly, I think what it does is it complicates the system far more than they intended. It is a very complicated matter and one I think that maybe they should have taken a little more thought and a little more work as it rolled around. But we do have the bill before us and we do have an issue looming that it doesn't fix, which is the 3 per cent increase that we are going to be getting in January regardless of anything that government has done. So we'll be monitoring that one over the next bit.

The issue of renewable producers - if they are actually capable or available to provide energy to the retail market will be an interesting one to see. The second piece of that one is whether or not Nova Scotia Power, in their capability of transmitting that energy to our households, will do it at a premium or not - what kind of transfer fees will be included in that one.

And, finally, the issue of when there is no renewable energy to be purchased, as a homeowner or as a business owner, at what rate are you going to be purchasing it from Nova Scotia Power directly? Are they going to be giving it to you at the blended rate or are they going to be giving it to you at something higher than that because you are not buying power from them regularly?

So those are a number of pitfalls that we do see within this bill and one that we hope the government will find ways to get around, as time goes on. Mr. Speaker, again, this was one we don't necessarily agree with, as it rolls around, and of course we will be voting against this bill. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 1. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Deputy Government House Leader.

MR. TERRY FARRELL: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 5.

Bill No. 5 - Importation of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Prohibition Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I would like to move third reading of Bill No. 5.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: I was honoured to speak about this bill a couple of weeks ago and I just want to say we all live in a beautiful province and it is really our responsibility to maintain that. This bill will definitely ensure that Nova Scotia is being responsible to its citizens, which we definitely always should be. With fracking comes waste water. If Nova Scotia isn't ready for fracking then we aren't ready to process waste water. I want to say that our caucus has taken a very clear position on hydraulic fracturing from the very beginning. We will not support fracking in this province unless there is

scientific proof that it will not endanger our groundwater. Our caucus supports the moratorium on fracking and will maintain that support until we are shown scientific evidence.

We look forward to reviewing the Wheeler Report when it comes out in the Spring and as long as the moratorium remains in place, we believe that we should not allow the importation of fracking waste by-products from other provinces. I just want to let you know that we have reaffirmed our stand on Bill No. 5. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants West.

MR. CHUCK PORTER: I, too, just want to take a moment - having lived, and still do live, in an area where we have seen waste water disposed of and we all know in this province we do not have the mechanism to have this waste water safely disposed of in any way, shape or form. This was something that was done in the past, a couple of years ago. For those of you who don't know, it was put into the Avon River. Of course that stirred up a lot of people and still tests were done and you can be doing tests for years because you really don't know what this all takes in.

It is important that this bill goes through and I know that my caucus and I, as has already been said, are happy to support it because there is a long, long, long way to go as far as we're concerned. We'd love to see things move forward. If there is technology, someday, that allows it to be done safely then perhaps it can be considered but we also have to be aware that anything that affects our groundwater in this province or in this country - anywhere for that matter - jeopardizes where we live and we just can't have that, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to add my comments to this and to support this bill. I look forward and am glad to see it going through quite speedily today. Thank you.

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

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, I, too, am pleased to see this bill come forward, although as I did mention in the Law Amendments Committee the other day, it doesn't address the issue of transporting this hazardous waste material from place to place within Nova Scotia. It only addresses it coming in from outside of the province. So the same problems can occur if it's being transported by trucks or whatever, or even by trains, within the province. I think we need to pay attention to that and I would hope that the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy are both paying careful attention to this as well.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there's an energy company that has been granted permits to drill two test wells for natural gas in Pictou County, along the Foord coal seam near Stellarton. Drill sites need to pump large quantities of water from coal seams. This water is known as

formation water. Formation water has been found to contain high levels of chlorides, arsenic, barium, and even radioactive materials or NORMs.

There is a Lafarge cement plant near my constituency, in Brookfield, which is looking for approval from the Department of Environment for a pilot project to use fracking waste water that is currently stored in Debert for the making of cement in their kiln. They are obviously going to have to get that waste water from Debert to Brookfield so, in fact, this is still part of the problem. I would think that, in reaching a decision on the proposal from Lafarge on using this fracking waste water, that the ministers will all consult and perhaps hold a public forum in Brookfield about this issue. Those are my comments on this bill, but I approve of the bill otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: If I recognize the minister it will be to close the debate.

The honourable Minister of Environment.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members who spoke and, in particular, who spoke in support of this legislation. It pleases me greatly to have had the opportunity to move my first piece of legislation through the House. It's such an important piece of legislation that we've heard loud and clear from the people of Nova Scotia of their concerns with the importation of fracking waste water from other jurisdictions.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 5. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 7.

Bill No. 7 - Public Service Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. ANDREW YOUNGER: I move third reading of Bill No. 7.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 7. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 9.

Bill No. 9 - Accountability in Economic Development Assistance Act.

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

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to move third reading of Bill No. 9. This was a campaign commitment made by the Premier and our government to ensure better transparency for Nova Scotians in being able to see from the comfort of their own home exactly how their tax dollars are being invested by our government in efforts to create jobs and grow the economy.

Clearly this is something that will provide better transparency and allow Nova Scotians to ask questions on this. Not only will the deals be put on the Web site for Nova Scotians to access but as well, any amendments that are brought forward to myself, as minister, will also be provided on this Web site and hopefully give Nova Scotians better assurances that their money is being invested in a proper and transparent fashion.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I move third reading of Bill No. 9.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to offer a few brief comments on this bill. This is a bill that doesn't address the real problem of corporate bailouts. Nova Scotians that I talk to are disappointed that the government has skirted around the issue, and I disagree with the minister, because it doesn't meet the campaign promises of the government.

Nova Scotians want to see better spending decisions made on the front end with their money, and providing Nova Scotians with a Web site that they can visit and learn about bad deals after they are already done doesn't really speak to the issue. Nova Scotians deserve better decisions with their money, and Nova Scotians deserve new ideas in

government. It's certainly not a novel idea to take information and put it on a Web site. Greater transparency into a failed system still leaves you with a failed system.

Sadly, this is just another example where this government said that they would fix a problem, but once elected they have not. We have seen it with energy rates, and now we're seeing it with corporate bailouts. Nevertheless, I am still optimistic that at some point this government will find the courage to tackle head on some of the problems that Nova Scotia faces. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: If I recognize the minister it will be to close the debate.

The honourable Minister of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Pictou East for his comments. When the member said it is not a novel idea to put this type of information on a Web site, I would just remind him that we're the only Canadian jurisdiction that will be doing this. Back home we would call that a novel idea, but again, we're in Cape Breton and you're not, so I guess we have different ways that we look at things. I'm sure my colleagues in your caucus from Cape Breton would see it that way as well.

Again, we've announced a review of the economic tools that we use. I think the fact that we have the Ivany commission coming forward is something that we're all looking forward to, to find new ways. We remain open to hearing the suggestions coming from the Opposition, and as I mentioned earlier, there are a number of companies within the Opposition members' ridings which are knocking at our door. When we're in the position of having to decide whether to provide support or not, it will be interesting to see whether the members of the Opposition will continue to say we should not assist some of the businesses in their own backyards, but only time will tell.

With that, I would hope, as the member said, that he remains a bit optimistic. At the end of the day we will let Nova Scotians judge us by our actions, and we are clearly committed to ensuring that their dollars are invested in a proper fashion. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 9.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 9. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 10.

Bill No. 10 - Maritime Link Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 10.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is to adjourn debate on (Interruptions)

MR. YOUNGER: I could, if you want. (Laughter)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader. (Interruption) Are we done yet? (Laughter)

The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: I don't know what I'm in now. Maybe I should have Question Period. I mean, I'm looking at the Minister of the Public Service Commission to give me questions during this one, so maybe I can ask him a question now, fire them at him.

I'll speak quickly to this bill. The Maritime Link is probably one of the biggest question marks, I think, we've had in this session. I know the minister and the Liberal Opposition of the time spoke against the Maritime Link, spoke many times against it. Sometimes they were a little bit for the construction, but were really uncertain of what it meant to energy costs and what it was going to mean to ratepayers in Nova Scotia.

I think that that still resonates with Nova Scotians. They don't know what the Maritime Link is going to do for them. Is it going to mean increased power costs over the long term? What is that power going to cost when we get it to our homes, when the project is complete?

I know during some questions that we did ask the minister some time ago - or maybe even during second reading of this - the minister quoted some prices of what power would be from Muskrat Falls as of that day, but we don't know what the total cost of the project is going to be in the end. We're already hearing about cost overruns. We're already hearing about extra issues. Some of these things won't be known until after the project is complete and probably a year down the road. So what does that mean to the project? We all know that as time goes on, every project gets a little more expensive.

This is really to match up with the federal loan guarantee to help them out, but it still comes to the point that when the URB was asked whether it was going to be going forward with the Maritime Link or not, there were eight questions that were put forward by

the government. There wasn't a denial of the project or a hey, by the way, we still don't think this project should go forward. It was, well, can you meet these eight items?

The minister says that the eight items were accepted by the URB, but they're sort of contained within the document. So I guess we're going to have to take the minister's word for it, that they are actually all there, that this is a good project for Nova Scotia.

We've always said that we think the project itself is a good project. We just feel that the deal is still not right for Nova Scotians. With that, I guess we're going to have to see how it turns out in the end. So with those quick comments I thank the House for the opportunity to speak to the Maritime Link Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a few brief words on this bill. I think Nova Scotians need to recognize that the past government, the current government and then the future government are going to have to pay attention to how we receive and generate power here in Nova Scotia.

I had the opportunity to spend three days at the URB hearings, the last hearings. I learned a lot. I think Nova Scotians, if they have the opportunity in the future - especially with something that's so important to all Nova Scotians, and that's energy costs - that they take the opportunity to maybe go down and listen to some of the proceedings. It's important to do, it's important as an elected official, it's important as Nova Scotians to understand where we need to go into the future to try to get a handle on energy costs. We know that for far too long in this province, we've had a dependency on fossil fuels. That source of energy has seen an increase over the last decade that is a result of the power rates we have today.

With this project, the Maritime Link, being approved and hopefully seeing that project land here in Nova Scotia, it will put Nova Scotia in a position that will be part of an energy circuit or loop now, where for far too long this province has been at the end of an extension cord when it comes to how we purchase energy for our residents. I look forward to this project going forward. I believe, when it was first proposed, it was a good project. I believe it is a good project now and our caucus will support the endeavours of this project coming through Nova Scotia, to finally place us in an energy loop and not at the end of an extension cord.

MR. SPEAKER: If I recognize the minister it will be to close the debate.

The honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. ANDREW YOUNGER: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few comments to wrap up debate on this. The member for Argyle-Barrington raised the issue that the Liberal

caucus was against the project in Opposition. Of course, he knows that is false, and we tabled pages of Hansard by myself and the Leader showing us repeatedly speaking in favour of the project in Opposition. As well, what we raised were the impacts to Nova Scotians in terms of risks. I remember very clearly the issues we brought up. We said what happens if there's an issue with the water management rights? What happens if there's an issue in the Northern Pass or with the northern clays? What happens if the project is delayed?

Well, Mr. Speaker, for the first time, as a result of the conditions that we put before the board, which were ultimately rolled into the final agreement, even if those things still happen, and I can stand here and say that I don't know that those things won't happen, but what I do know is that Nova Scotia ratepayers and Nova Scotia taxpayers now bear zero risk as a result of any one of those issues happening.

For example, a question that the previous Premier was unable to answer was, what happens if Newfoundland and Labrador loses the court challenge by Quebec on the water management issue? Well, now we know the answer. Nova Scotians are indemnified by Nalcor and Emera against any risks and it is up to those parties to solve that problem. The risk disappears. Before we did not have a guarantee that surplus energy would be available. We now not only have that guarantee but we know that price will never exceed market prices, which for the first time in Nova Scotia history, for the first time in the years of this deal, we now know that the price paid for that pool of energy will never exceed the market prices, which means that Nova Scotia will not have the highest energy prices in Canada as a result of that.

So, the honourable member is correct. Can we say what that price will be in 20 years? No, but he also can't tell me what the price of coal will be in 20 years. (Interruptions) He can't tell me what that fuel cost will be despite the fact that the federal government has said that those plans need to be rolled out or rolled off line by that (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Minister of Energy has the floor.

MR. YOUNGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He can't tell me what the cost of that fuel will be. I can tell you, though, what the difference in that spread will be and the spread shows that the price will be cheaper than the average generation cost to Nova Scotia, which means despite the fact that - the member opposite says we will still be burning coal for many years to come, that's absolutely true. That's absolutely true, but the fact is the other day, on December 3rd, the generation cost of coal was still more expensive than the cost would have been under the Maritime Link surplus power, which means that brings the average price of power down.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are the guarantees that we now have. We have guarantees of the maximum price that we will pay for imported or other surplus energy - guarantees.

We have a guarantee that the competitive market has created. Those are all things that we did not have before. The former Clerk of the Executive Council for Newfoundland and Labrador wrote a letter to the editor in The Telegram on Tuesday, noting that Nova Scotia - as a result of the work that this government has done over the past few weeks - has a significantly better deal and a stronger deal in place, a deal that protects ratepayers. He only wished that Newfoundland and Labrador could have just as good a deal as Nova Scotia now has, as a result of the changes in the Energy Access Agreement and the decision of the board.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 10. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Minister of the Public Service Commission on an introduction.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an introduction in the House here. As we all know, Nova Scotia's most valuable asset is our people, and within government the most valuable asset we have is all the employees of the Public Service Commission. With that I would like to make an introduction to the east gallery: we have Public Service Commission administrative professionals here on an orientation today, and a big round of applause from the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, I think that's the most speaking the Minister of the Public Service Commission has done this session.

Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 17.

Bill No. 17 - Executive Council Act and Public Service Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Premier I move third reading of this bill. The amendments to the Executive Council Act and Public Service Act are necessary to establish the new Treasury and Policy Board, and update language in the Act to reflect this change and recent changes to department names and mandates. The majority of these amendments formalize changes we have already announced. The others simply update and align provisions in the two acts. But these are an important step to allow

us to move forward and get to the work that Nova Scotians want us to do, so I am pleased that they are moving forward in a timely manner. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 17. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 12.

Bill No. 12 - Occupational Health and Safety Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I now move Bill No. 12 for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 12. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 14.

Bill No. 14 - Justices of the Peace Act and Provincial Court Act.

HON. LENA DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move Bill No. 14 for third reading, and just want to stress for the House that these amendments that are proposed in the bill were set out as the result of a Supreme Court of Nova Scotia ruling that demanded that we have a fair compensation process for the Justices of the Peace, and we believe we've done that with this amendment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 14. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 15.

Bill No. 15 - February Holiday Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I now move Bill No. 15 for third reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill 15. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 19.

Bill No. 19 - Trade Union Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I now move Bill No. 19 for third reading.

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

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say very briefly that this bill will do nothing to create a single job in the Province of Nova Scotia, when unemployment is one of our biggest problems. In fact, we continue to be concerned that this bill, along with its predecessor NDP bill, puts jobs at risk.

Important employers large and small, whether they are Michelin, Sobeys, or the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which represents our small businesses - they have all been unanimous in saying that first contract arbitration, at a time when our economy is so weak, is a strike against our province in any form. It is a black mark against

our province for those who may wish to invest here, start a business here, or employ Nova Scotians here.

The Liberals joined us in Opposition in opposing it, when the bill was brought in by the NDP. They then indicated they would be prepared to compromise with the NDP on first contract arbitration. Today we see the Liberals doing exactly that, compromising the NDP's bill here in the House.

I will say that at a time when our economy is so weak, when families are struggling, when young people are moving away, every action we take in the House should be to create more jobs not to create fewer jobs, not to put jobs at risk that are already here, not to tell important employers, whether they are the largest in the province or small and growing ones of the future like Egg Studios, that the government is prepared to continue with that risk albeit in a reduced form.

I know that the government is going to say that the presenters who came to this House said that they were okay with the amendments. Let us all just be clear for the record - the record at the Law Amendments Committee shows that the presenters who came representing employers, large and small, said clearly in each case that their preference remains to repeal first contract arbitration altogether, which is exactly the position of the Progressive Conservative caucus. It was before the election, it was during the election, and it remains our position today. This is not a time to have a strike against the province when people look to invest here and employ Nova Scotians.

I am disappointed that rather than do the right thing for our economy and repeal the bill altogether, the government has decided to just take a watered-down version of the NDP bill. For that reason, just like we opposed first contract arbitration at this time in the first place, we continue to oppose it today and will be voting accordingly. Thank you.

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

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, I stand in my place today on third reading of this particular bill. I was in the Law Amendments Committee meeting and I heard the people come and give their presentations. In fact, when asked, the gentleman who was representing all of the different businesses, who had concerns when this bill was first brought to the House, said not one of those businesses has actually been affected, not one of those businesses has lost business, not one of them has left the province.

Then he went on to say he was concerned that businesses would not be attracted to come to Nova Scotia, when, in fact, what has shown to be the truth is that in the last four years Nova Scotia is now the number-one province or state in North America to have attracted international business from outside the province to Nova Scotia. I would say that,

in fact, the bill, as it was, was doing its job in creating a workplace environment that was good for everybody - for workers, for owners, and also for the unions. (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River has the floor.

MS. ZANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, I just want to say that in the two short months that the Liberal Party has been in government, it has been very difficult to be clear about where they stand when it comes to both business and labour. In fact, just in the Law Amendments Committee the other day, when these businesses came forward to say that they were not happy about the holiday in February and that this was not good for small businesses or medium-size businesses and that they were not consulted - that sends one sign to some of the people in Nova Scotia, yet this particular bill sends another signal to the workers of Nova Scotia that, in fact, business is more important to this government than labour.

As somebody who stands here in my place as the great-great-great-granddaughter of the first union representative in New South Wales, Australia, who started the first federation of coal mine workers, it hurts me to see this kind of behaviour coming from this government. Working people are the backbone of this province, and I think we all need to remember that. With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I will take my place.

MR. SPEAKER: If I recognize the minister it will be to close the debate.

The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to just make a few remarks in closing. This government listened and acted quickly to restore balance and responsibility to first contract arbitration in Nova Scotia. We're keeping our commitment. It's in everyone's best interest when employers, employees, and unions can resolve their differences through collective bargaining and without labour disruptions.

The legislation passed in 2011 left Nova Scotia with one of the most extreme forms of first contract arbitration in the country. We said we would fix this problem, and that's what we're doing. Unlike the other two Parties, we are not slaves to a rigid ideology; we don't think unions are universally the answer to everything, nor do we think that the unions are universally the Devil, which is what the other two Parties seem to bounce between.

The amendments I introduced last week will remove the time limits on conciliation and eliminate automatic access to first contract arbitration. These changes restore balance to the process and bring Nova Scotia's legislation more in line with what is used by the federal government and numerous other provinces.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the members of the Labour Management Review Committee for their important input. I would note that that particular committee includes representatives from labour and from management from companies that have unions as well. They achieved unanimity on this bill, which I think speaks to the fact that it is balanced and fair. Their feedback, along with what we heard from business owners, the employers' round table, and a prominent labour lawyer has resulted in a better bill for all Nova Scotians.

Mr. Speaker, these changes ensure first contract arbitration is a tool of last resort. I now move that we close debate on Bill No. 19.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 19. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the order of business, Private and Local Bills for Third Reading.

PRIVATE AND LOCAL BILLS FOR THIRD READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 13.

Bill No. 13 - Ladies of the Sacred Heart at Halifax Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

MR. JOACHIM STROINK: Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 13.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No.13. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the order of business, Public Bills for Third Reading.

PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 20.

Bill No. 20 - House of Assembly Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. LENA DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 20.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 20. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill do pass. Ordered that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: 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 Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank, and you have 39 minutes remaining in your time.

MR. BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I'll try to get it a little under the 39; I'm not promising much more.

I look forward to the continuation of my Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne as the MLA for Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank, and when we closed debate two days ago I was just getting into the issues that I had found in my election and what I've heard from some of the community people I talked to - so I would just like to continue with that. Some of you have probably heard some of these. One is the traffic issue - and I'll speak to that very quickly - safety issues of Highway No. 118 and Highway No. 102 in the morning and evening.

The issue is safety concerns for potential accidents. My personal involvement in travelling the 100-Series roads in the last few mornings, in the last couple of weeks is the safety issue, the tie-ups in traffic beyond the turnoffs could result in major accidents and concerns for the community. We need to have that recognized as an issue and properly dealt with by TIR.

Also in Beaver Bank, it's not the issue of safety, it is the issue of the number of vehicles on the Beaver Bank Road. There is not an alternative route for those people in that community to use, so they have to contend with traffic tie-ups on a continuous basis, every single day. So TIR has to consider some alternative ways of new roads being built - there was one that was proposed in the 1980s to go from Mount Uniacke to Beaver Bank to Wellington and up to the airport, and that highway needs to be resurrected, so to speak, and brought back in place by TIR.

Another issue in my riding, particularly in Fall River, is the lack of central water due to none being available at the moment. We need to have a look at water issues. It's really an HRM concern, but I have to show, I want to show, and we do need to have central water in place in the Fall River area. We have on the books a couple of projects, a restaurant that would like to go in, but can't because of lack of water. Also, two seniors' homes for adult living are proposed by community members and companies, but they can't get them done because we don't have the water. We have talked to HRM and we've talked to the Halifax Water Commission, an agency for HRM, and they have said they're willing to build them if we have the money. So I will be proposing sometime in the near future possibilities of receiving funding from, I hope, the Government of Nova Scotia to assist residents, schools, recreation centres, and these proposed projects in order to get water that is affordable by the community.

I would also like to talk a little bit about mental health and bullying, specifically bullying resulting in teenage suicides, the need of more attention by our government, and the need for awareness programs to help teenagers being bullied to know who they can turn to, to help parents to recognize this issue, and to be able to receive help and assistance through government experts and school assistance. In my riding alone, parents of a young teenager who committed suicide several years ago have started on an annual basis a one-day conference about mental health and bullying issues. This has been very successful, with a big turnout the last two years. I've attended both and participated in the discussions with a dozen experts on bullying and mental health. Candid discussion concerning this

issue has taken place and will continue on a yearly basis. Hearing from MLAs' response to their speeches, mental health and bullying issues are a high priority for government at this time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just give you a little flavour of some of our communities and some of the things that happened in our community over the years. I'll start with the first area, Waverley. It was founded in 1847. Gold was found in 1866 through to the 20th Century and the 1930s. So there were actually three gold rush times. Family names that are important to our community in this area, in Waverley: Allen, Blois, McDonald, Wyse, Smith, Hilchie, Crosby, and Hudson.

One of the major community recreation facilities is Cheema Aquatic Club. It has been deemed the past two years as the national aquatic canoe clubs champions. Cheema has been going on for many years, and it has been very productive of high calibre and Olympic team members.

The second icon in the community is the Shubenacadie Canal system, which goes through the Waverley area and continues on up through the lake system of Lake William, Lake Thomas, Lake Fletcher - which I live on - and Grand Lake, and then down to the Shubenacadie River to the New Minas and Maitland area.

It's very important for us to get this canal system operational. It will be a tremendous tourism program. We hope that we can get support from the provincial government, again, to help the canal system, to open up the locks - there are six locks - at least a portion of it so that we could attract tourism. Tourism is needed in our particular area, and a demonstration project of a timed ship of the day to go through the canal system, at least one or two locks, would be a very good tourism project to attract the cruise ship people that come to Halifax in the summers. I would like people to keep that in mind, and the MLAs, keep that in mind as a project.

Some of the area of Lakeview has been very cognizant of the search and rescue for Halifax Regional Municipality Search and Rescue Association. They have been very prominent and passionate about responding to lost people in the woods. In many cases, they have recovered live people, finding them in the woods and bringing them back. Lakeview is the home of the HRM Search and Rescue.

Windsor Junction was the junction of rail transportation from Windsor, the Valley, bringing in goods and people to Halifax, and also the junction of where the rail from Truro came into Halifax for over 150 years. It was very prominent in that area and hopefully someday we'll be having transportation to metro Halifax from the Fall River area by train. It's something that could be quite successful in helping to reduce the amount of transportation.

Now from Windsor Junction the roads go to Beaver Bank and Kinsac in northern Beaver Bank. Beaver Bank was founded in 1776 by Loyalists from the U.S. Such family names as Barrett, Lively, Grove, Gilby, Margison, West, Campbell, Merrigan, and Lewis - all prominent names in the community of Beaver Bank-Kinsac.

Now I would like to come back a little bit and go from Windsor Junction towards Fall River. Fall River is a community of small business owners, and I'd like to discuss that community, Fall River, and the area business association, FRABA. An association of over 110 members - mostly home businesses - meets regularly every month, creating jobs, doing entrepreneurial skills in the community, and moving small business issues, and promoting local issues like having an annual golf tournament open house to meet the members. This association is chaired by Barb MacLellan, a local lawyer and a great friend to the Fall River area.

Some of the important issues in Beaver Bank are the radar base that's been there for many years, from 1954 to 1962. It also was an RCAF station. It was the home of No. 22 Aircraft and Control Warning Squadron, and is part of NORAD and is an important early warning radar base.

For all of those who enjoy golf, golf can be found in Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank. There are three courses. One is New Ashburn in Windsor Junction, Oakfield Golf and Country Club, and Lost Creek Golf Course in Beaver Bank. Also, we have a number of beautiful parks used extensively by many residents of Nova Scotia, not only in our own community. The Charles McDonald Park, which I happen to be chair of, is quite a recreational park for Cheema for training, for the schools, they use it for their field trials and races. The second and third are two provincial parks, Laurie Park and Oakfield Park on Grand Lake, which is one of the largest lakes within the HRM area. It is, I think, about the third-largest in Nova Scotia. It's about 10 miles long and a mile wide.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come to a conclusion, which I seem to have lost. What I really want to say is that it has been a wonderful election. The turnout was good for us. I'd just like to say, at this time, everyone have a happy vacation, have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. We'll see everybody in the new year, in the Spring session. Hopefully things will go as well as they have gone in this session. To everybody, thank you very much. (Applause)

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Madam Speaker, I rise in response to the Speech from the Throne but my mind today is on the recent designation of, "Royal", for Colaisde Na Gàidhlig/the Gaelic College. Many people in the Gaelic community are disappointed with this and that it was done without consultation. Now I certainly wish no ill will towards Queen Elizabeth II or the Royal Family. I do know, as well, that especially during times like Remembrance Day, many people in my area sing God Save the Queen. They

remember from times in the past when our country fought with other countries in the Commonwealth where we joined together and I respect that.

Madam Speaker, the reason I'm rising to speak is, for me, and I think for a lot of other people, about loyalty to one's people and it's about understanding history and the importance of knowing from where you came. It is also about a small group of people asking to put a title on a school that is causing ill will and conflict.

My question to those people is, why not let people enjoy their heritage and their culture, free of oppressive memories of the past? (Applause) Thank you, members, for the applause. Honestly, Madam Speaker, I cannot sing God Save the Queen. Some people may say well why is that? I will draw attention to the second verse of that song where it talks about:

May by thy mighty aid
Victory bring
May he sedition hush
And like a torrent rush
Rebellious Scots to crush
God Save the King.

For me to sing that song would be an act of treason against my own people and I can't do that.

If I go back in my family tree, I had three members of my family - they were Beatons - my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather and two of his brothers fought at the Battle of Culloden, in 1746.

Madam Speaker, I'm not here to talk at length about war but we can see that language and culture, both in the past and in the present, certainly mean something to some people. One of my colleagues suggested that I deliver this speech in Gaelic and I would love to do that. As much as we smile about that, I think about Gussie Campbell, a man I visited, in the appropriately named community of Gussieville, in Hillsdale, in Judique. Gussie was an old man, really, when I met him. When I was going to university one of the projects I did in Celtic Studies was to visit with a member in the community who could still speak Gaelic, so I visited with Gussie. I'll tell you one of the reasons why I can't deliver this speech in Gaelic today is because there was a concerted effort to stamp out Gaelic. Gussie remembers as a young boy being in school where he was made to feel ashamed of his language and where he was also, in fact - I don't know how serious it was - he described it as being beaten if you were to speak Gaelic.

Madam Speaker, that is one of the reasons why I can't deliver a speech in Gaelic today. Now I certainly went to university and I spent some time learning Gaelic and I can speak a little bit of it. It's ironic, I had a message today of all days, when I'm going to give

this speech, from a person I used to work with in my office, Rachel Daigle, she's married to a Beaton now. Rachel sent me a little text today and said, Allan, it would be nice if you'd come up to the manor to meet with some of the older people because they are talking about how they would love to be able to converse in Gaelic. Sadly, a lot of those people don't have people to converse with in their native tongue. This is why it is such an emotional issue for me and this is why I want to speak about this here today.

Just a little bit of history so people have an understanding of where this started, we go all the way back to the 1600s with the Statutes of Iona that required Highland Scottish clan chiefs to send their heirs to other parts of the country to be educated in a different language and essentially to be changed, ethnically cleansed. I'm going to read a quote from a piece of legislation that was drawn up by King James VI in First Privy Council; this was in 1616, after the Statutes of Iona, where the influential gentlemen in highland society were brought, they were tricked, were taken prisoner and were only released upon their promise to sign an agreement. It was to promise to follow the Statutes of Iona and I'm going to read something, I'll quote this and I'll be happy to table it. This is from 1616:

“Forasmuch as the King’s Majesty, having a special care and regard that the true religion be advanced and established in all parts of this Kingdom, and that all His Majesty’s subjects, especially the youth, be exercised and trained up in civility, godliness, knowledge, and learning, that the vulgar English tongue be universally planted, and the Irish language . . .” and I will say for the benefit of the members of the House, Irish language at that time meant Gaelic - “. . . which is one of the chief and principal causes of the continuance of the barbarity and incivility amongst the inhabitants of the Isles and Highlands, may be abolished and removed.”

Today when we see a college being named Royal, that just brings back memories of what Royal meant in the past to my people. What happened after they signed the agreement, any man who had an estate, who owned 60 head of cattle or more, was required to send his son, and all his sons, to be educated in the English language. What this did was essentially separated the leadership from the common people and thus began the breaking of the society.

My immigration story comes out of that because if we fast-forward to 1746 and the Battle of Culloden, the fallout in Highland society after that led to the immigration of my people. I know if you've ever travelled to Inverness County, there is a stone house which was built in the 1820s by two MacMasters who came over in 1802. That house still stands; they built it with their hands. What is interesting about it is it is actually not parallel to the road, it's off at an angle because it was built before the road was built. So they walked up the banks of those hills and they created a life for themselves.

I have some other points here, but I know we're getting handy the Lieutenant Governor's arrival. I do want to make one quick point, and this may be of interest to

members, we often wonder why we see Highlanders in uniform, say up at the Citadel, because, of course, they were fighting the British not long before that. In a lot of cases they were forced into service and the only alternative was, basically, to starve because things were made so bad for people living on such small pieces of land that there really was no way to have a living and that's why many of them came here.

If we look in North Carolina, in the Cape Fear area, many of the Highlanders there sided with the British - why? Because they saw what happened to them in their homeland and they didn't want it to happen again. They knew that the British were often successful in their war exploits, so they joined the British forces and, of course, they lost in the wars of independence. This is also how history can be confused, and I know for young people it's probably confusing. It was confusing for me when I learned it and I, incidentally, didn't learn it through the education system in this province; I had to learn it outside the education system.

I want to finish up by saying that I want to tell you a couple of quick stories. I was in Atlanta, Georgia, a few years back, and I was at the centre devoted to Martin Luther King. I was struck by a woman there who was obviously overtaken by what she was seeing. We were in a room that showed the cart that pulled his coffin on the day of his funeral. That cart was hauled by two mules, to symbolize his humility. When we think about what he went through and how he was able to live through all of that hate without fighting back, I think that is something very honourable and it's something that I admire.

My point in telling this story is when I looked at the woman who was weeping, I was thinking about how important this moment was for her, and who knows where she was from, she was probably from somewhere in the U.S. and she may have been thinking of relatives of her own who faced hate and lived with it. Thankfully, Madam Speaker, we are moving ahead from days like that.

I know in the world we are also thinking about Nelson Mandela this week. I visited South Africa as well. There are still certainly remnants there of the past but we see that country turning the corner.

My point in my speech today, Madam Speaker, is why don't we let people enjoy their heritage and culture, free of the oppression of the past? I do give this speech in hopes that it helps to provide the government and all members of this Legislature with a clear understanding of this issue. It is not to be sensitive about it but it is to be respectful of it. I think that any one of us, no matter what our cultural background is, can point to some type of persecution in the past.

My goal in this Legislature is to speak to ensure that our young people know about their past and that they have an ability to learn more about it and to live it, so they don't forget about things that have happened. Madam Speaker, I do think that the board of the Gaelic College should revisit their decision. That is certainly for them to do, and it is up to

them, but I do think they should revisit the decision and consult with people in the Gaelic community, to see if this is actually something that is desired. With that, I take my place.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg.

MR. ALFIE MACLEOD: Madam Speaker, I really wanted to rise and have a moment to say a few words, as we are in the dying moments of this session of the House. First, I want to congratulate His Honour, Lieutenant Governor J.J. Grant, for bringing forward the Speech from the Throne. I also want to acknowledge and say to you congratulations for being chosen as the Deputy Speaker in this wonderful institution, and as well as to our new Speaker and certainly to all the members of this House who have been here for the first time.

I have been fortunate enough to be elected on numerous occasions but it never ceases to amaze me, when I come into this building and look around at the history and the heritage of this building, what it means to the Province of Nova Scotia and the people of Nova Scotia. To be able to be part of that, regardless of what our backgrounds are, regardless of what our beliefs are, we are here to work with the people of the Province of Nova Scotia, for the people of the Province of Nova Scotia. This House is for them.

We may be here representing different Parties but at the end of the day, Madam Speaker, our job is to make sure that the people in the Province of Nova Scotia have a voice that is heard. I firmly believe that everybody who is here - the majority at least - want to get to the same place. I've often said and I'll say it again, sometimes we want to get to Yarmouth, some of us are going down Highway No. 103, some of us are going down Highway No. 102, but at the end of the day, the journey takes us to the same place. That is how I see Party politics in the Province of Nova Scotia, Madam Speaker.

I, like most of you here, have seen the boundaries of my constituency changed in the last election. A portion of the area that I had the great pleasure of being a representative for, for a number of years, is now part of the riding of the member for Cape Breton-Richmond. I'll tell you, they are good people and he has a big job to make sure that they are served well. But on the other side of that coin, Madam Speaker, I know he'll work hard to serve that part of the constituency. I was fortunate to pick up a new part of my constituency, an area that I was not familiar with. I had an opportunity, like most people here, to go and meet and talk to and really get to know them, and was fortunate enough to get re-elected again.

Somebody would say this - and I'm sure the newer members and some of the old members have heard this a number of times - why in the world would you ever get in politics? What's wrong with you? Well, Madam Speaker, I've got to tell you, the first time that I got involved in politics, my answer was that I had three reasons. My three reasons that day were my daughter Sandra, my daughter Jessica, and my son Daniel. That's

changed now. That's changed. I've got four new reasons - my four grandchildren. It's about them that we actually get involved. It's about what this province can be for those people.

The constituency I live in, I've lived in for the best part of my life. It's on a wonderful island - the number one island in North America. I must add that in: the number one island in North America, number three in the world - and I've finally figured out why it's number three. I'm sure the member from Glace Bay will understand this when I say it. The reason we're number three in the world is one of the judges hasn't made it to Cape Breton yet, but when he does we'll be number one in the world as well. (Applause)

The area that I represent has a number of very interesting places. Louisbourg is a national historic site, the beginning of where a lot of what we know as Canada started. Places like Port Morien, where the first coal mine in North America was, where the first Boy Scout troop in North America was. Places like Main-à-Dieu, the world's lobster capital - right there in Main-à-Dieu. A little place called Little Lorraine, which next year will be celebrating 300 years in existence. My village that I come from, a little place called Gabarus Lake. Right now we have 42 people that live in my community. Right next door to us is the Village of Gabarus, where there was a major problem with a seawall, and the provincial, municipal, and federal governments came together and helped find a resolve for that problem. In two years, they'll be celebrating 300 years of being a community.

One of the reasons that I wanted to get up here was, like most of you, to thank the people who gave me the opportunity to be a part of this fantastic Assembly. Like all of you, there are many people I need to thank. We had over 130 people involved in our campaign, but my campaign manager, he and I became friends a great number of years ago, in 1992, and he's been with me in every political endeavour that I've ever done. He, like so many other people, got involved in a system - the system that we have and we take for granted so many times.

You know, we talk about the poor voter turnout that we see in the Province of Nova Scotia and other areas. Mr. Speaker, I'll never forget that one time I read this book, and it said, do you know that bad politicians are elected by good people who don't vote? Because if people don't take part in the system, then indeed, they never know what exactly they're going to get as a representative.

There are so many things that I would really like to say, but I think the thing that I want to leave the other members of this House with, as we move into the Christmas season - when I first got elected in 1995, in October, two months later my wife was diagnosed with MS. It was a tough day, but you know, Mr. Speaker, we live in a great province and in this province there are many opportunities for someone who has a disease like MS, and there are many other diseases that have affected other families, but we try and we work towards helping the people who have those diseases. My biggest supporter, the person who really makes me do what I do, gives me the ability to do what I do, is my wife Shirley. You can

never say that enough about your family because all of what we do, no matter what it is, no matter how we feel, no matter what political Party we belong to, if we forget about family, about why we're really here, then indeed we have failed.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in this season where we celebrate the birth of Christ and we celebrate the things that we take for granted as Nova Scotians and Canadians, I want everyone who is a member of this House, who works in this House, who shares with us our concerns about where we're going, to indeed remember we have to be true to our families. We have to be true to what that means and, at the end of the day, that will make us better members of this House of Assembly, that will make us better legislators, and in the end we will indeed do what is best for the Province of Nova Scotia, working together. (Standing Ovation)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: Mr. Speaker, I'm so thrilled to be able to do my Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne - and it has only taken a couple of bottles of alcohol to the House Leader, and some money and a few other things, because it was important to me to do, so I really appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to reply to the Speech from the Throne. That privilege is entirely bestowed upon me by the people of Dartmouth North, whom I proudly represent in this House of Assembly. This diverse community with its many strengths has been the cornerstone of my community work over the past decade, and I am honoured to be their representative in government for the next four years. I have knocked on over 8,000 doors in Dartmouth North and learned about issues unique to the riding, the enduring strength that people face every day when they face those difficult situations, and the pride of community from people who have been raised there, raised their children there, and then contributed to neighbourhoods, and lived in their homes for decades.

I have witnessed the wonderful community and youth engagement work of the Take Action Society, the Dartmouth North Association, Farrell Hall Benevolent Society, the community paper, the Echo, and many other groups and individuals who believe in the place where they live. My riding encompasses the northern shore of Lake Banook, Crichton Park, the older Dartmouth neighbourhoods along Victoria Road, Highfield Park, and all of Burnside Industrial Park.

Every neighbourhood has its challenges, Mr. Speaker, and every neighbourhood has its strengths. Community safety, affordable housing, economic and community development are the priority issues for many people of the riding - they are my priority both as an MLA and as a minister. It is truly an honour to be their MLA and to look forward to the work ahead. My quest for all things political began at the age of eight when I wrote then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau protesting the seal hunt. He answered my letter, and I was hooked.

My academic path saw me earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Mount Saint Vincent University, and then on to Acadia University to earn my Masters. All of this was done as a single mother on income assistance, a pivotal program of the department of which I am now the minister - Community Services.

The program supports an investment. That department chanced on me for nine years, ending 15 years ago, and has contributed to me standing here today delivering these remarks. I know that I wanted to make sure that my caseworker during that time knew that, so on the first day of my job as minister, I called and thanked her. It brought us both to tears.

My work in community development and the non-profit sector is something I'm very proud of. My development of the Marguerite Centre, where women can recover from addictions, remains today a testament to what can be accomplished when a caring group of individuals come together to fill a gap in services to people in need. I led that development for three years and celebrated successes with the women who walked through its doors. For the last nine years my work with Alice Housing and, most notably, as the architect of Healing the Bruises, have fed both my heart and soul. I walk away from this amazing organization with the satisfaction of a job well done and look forward to witnessing its direction with my successor.

My political career began over two years ago when I was nominated as the Liberal candidate in Dartmouth North. It was a responsibility I took very seriously as I worked with the many volunteers in the Party who were committed to my election as their MLA. I extend my sincerest thanks to campaign manager Jim Goddard, official agent Michelle Kelly and the rest of the executive and campaign team including: John Nicholson, Mary Kelly, Doris MacDonald, Vera Errington and many, many others. They all include many old and new friends and family, all of whom gave their time, their money, their expertise on behalf of that and the riding association.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the two people in my life who supported me, protected me and encouraged me to follow my dreams. Deciding to seek elected office is a family affair, with different considerations for each person and their families. My decision came with the added value of knowing I would be running as a candidate who is openly gay. I thank Annette, who you all met here today, my wonderful spouse, who stood beside me on days that were hard, in difficult times which were not hers, and with grace, which truly touched my heart. To my son Taylor, who has always been my biggest and proudest accomplishment in my life, he probably paid the price the most for my ambition to get through school - no money to do fun things, no money for the fun toys; going to the food bank wasn't fun. We were a team and we still are.

The work I have done in the community has always been based on my belief that every person has something to contribute and every person deserves to have a good day. It is personally satisfying to me that I lead a department of professionals who deliver on those

beliefs every day, to the best of their ability. Their work is difficult. Their work is rewarding. The work is vital to thousands of Nova Scotians and to them I say thank you. At a time when I needed someone to believe in me, the department was there. You can believe in me to represent, to the best of my ability, your work.

To the Premier, thank you for this privilege and your trust in my abilities and heart. I will not let you down. As I approach the next four years, I do so with the values, beliefs and philosophies instilled in me by my parents, whom I lost too soon. I take my role very seriously, as their only child, to honour their legacy. It guides me in everything that I do. Thank you very much. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, that concludes the government's business for today. I move that the House take a recess until such time as His Honour is able to make his way to our Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is to recess.

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

The motion is carried.

[3:55 p.m. The House recessed.]

[4:15 p.m. The House reconvened.]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor is without.

MR. SPEAKER: Let His Honour enter the Chamber, please.

[The Speaker and the Clerks left the Chamber.]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

[The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable J.J. Grant, preceded by his Principal Secretary, and by Mr. Ken Greenham, Sergeant-at-Arms, bearing the Mace, entered the House of Assembly Chamber. The Lieutenant Governor then took his seat on the Throne.

The Sergeant-at-Arms then departed and re-entered the Chamber, followed by the Speaker, the Honourable Kevin Murphy, the Chief Clerk of the House, Neil Ferguson, and Assistant Clerk Annette Boucher.

The Speaker, with the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Assistant Clerk on his right and the Clerk on his left, took up his position at the foot of the Speaker's Table.]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: It is the wish of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that the ladies and gentlemen be seated.

MR. SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

THE ASSISTANT CLERK:

Bill No. 1 - Electricity Reform (2013) Act.

Bill No. 5 - Importation of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Prohibition Act.

Bill No. 7 - Public Service Act.

Bill No. 9 - Accountability in Economic Development Assistance Act.

Bill No. 10 - Maritime Link Act.

Bill No. 12 - Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Bill No. 13 - Ladies of the Sacred Heart at Halifax Act.

Bill No. 14 - Justices of the Peace Act and Provincial Court Act.

Bill No. 15 - February Holiday Act.

Bill No. 17 - Executive Council Act and Public Service Act.

Bill No. 19 - Trade Union Act.

Bill No. 20 - House of Assembly Act.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

In Her Majesty's name, I Assent to these Bills.

[The Speaker and the Clerks left the Chamber.]

[The Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Honour, the Speaker.

[The Speaker took the Chair.]

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the members to please rise and join me in the singing of our national anthem.

[The national anthem was sung by the members.]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Please be seated.

The honourable Deputy Premier.

HON. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, just before we break before the holidays I'd like to say a few words on behalf of the Premier.

As you know this is our first session of the Legislature since the election, and I want to commend everybody for the tone in the Legislature, the level of debate, and the work that we've accomplished here in the last few weeks. It has certainly, I think, been an improved tone and we appreciate the co-operation from all sides of the House. Thank you very much. (Applause)

This is also our opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank the staff who make it possible for the Legislature to operate so efficiently and to accommodate the needs of the legislation moving through the House, so thank you very much. (Applause)

I would like in particular to mention the staff at Hansard who, I know, work long hours to record everything that has gone on here in the Legislature; the Legislative Library staff, who, again, respond so quickly to our requests; Legislative TV; and certainly, the Clerks who join us here in the House, as well as the Pages who support our work, so a round of applause for all of them would be very much in order. Thank you. (Applause)

Again, we are so lucky to be doing our work in this historic building. For the operation of Province House, we thank Mike Laffin and Peter Theriault, who make sure decorum is maintained throughout Province House. So thank you to Mike.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention Legislative Counsel, who are often working. We may not see them all the time, but they are working to prepare the bills and bring them forward. Also the Commissionaires, who maintain the security and peace of the House - thank you to the Commissionaires, as well. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, as we rise today I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday, a Merry Christmas, safe holidays, and safe travels throughout. We look forward to joining

here again to continue the work of the people of Nova Scotia in the new year. But in the meantime, Merry Christmas to everyone.

With that, Mr. Speaker, and members of the House of Assembly, I move that this General Assembly be adjourned to meet again at the call of the Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Just before I make the motion, I do want to interject a comment. I don't know if it's proper or not, but I too want to extend a very warm thank you to each and every one of the members here, new and experienced alike. It has truly been a pleasure to preside during this First Session of the 62nd General Assembly of the Nova Scotia Legislature.

For your co-operation, I thank you all, and I very much look forward to coming back in the Springtime - and of course, getting back to our constituencies to do the good work on behalf of all of our friends, families, and neighbours. I want to extend a very warm holiday greeting to everybody. I wish you safe travels back to your home ridings.

With that, we have a motion that the House is to now adjourn and meet again at the call of the Speaker.

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. (Applause)

[The House rose at 4:27 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 493**

By: Mr. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program offers small and medium-sized enterprises the opportunity to work with Nova Scotia universities and colleges to help become more innovative and productive; and

Whereas successful applicants are an example of the entrepreneurial spirit that helps to drive the economy of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Creative Kids Education Centre & Birch Hills Academy was a successful applicant in the latest round of the Nova Scotia Productivity and Innovation Voucher Program with their Social Communication Skills Project;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Director Pamela Streeter, as well as the entire staff of the Creative Kids Education Centre & Birch Hills Academy on their successful application and wish them the best success in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 494

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site celebrated its 300th Anniversary of the founding of Louisbourg in 2013; and

Whereas Fortress Louisbourg has worked continuously since 1976 to support Parks Canada and improve the tourism experience on site at the attraction; and

Whereas in recognition of Fortress Louisbourg's significant role in enhancing and supporting one of the most significant attractions in Nova Scotia, Louisbourg was awarded the 2013 Ambassador Award;

Therefore be it resolved that we congratulate Fortress Louisbourg on this honour and continue to recognize and appreciate their impact on tourism on a national and international basis.

RESOLUTION NO. 495

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Whidden's Park Campground and Cottages, located in Antigonish, was awarded the Tourism Business of the Year Award for 2013; and

Whereas the Tourism Business of the Year Award commends outstanding commitment to quality and excellence in the delivery of the tourism product; and

Whereas Whidden's Park Campground has flourished in the Antigonish area since 1961 and over five decades has continued to seek ways to improve and deliver an authentic camping and tourism experience for all those who attend at their site;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature congratulate Whidden's Park Campground and Cottages on this achievement and wish them continued success in providing their services to the Province of Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 496

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Richmond Pee Wee baseball division playoffs championship game was held on Sunday, August 25th; and

Whereas the Petit de Grat Richmond Angels won the gold medal; and

Whereas the team consists of: Dawson Samson, Laurier Fougere, Dylan David, Joel Fougere, Ethan Dorey, Fabian Richard, Karly Benoit, Dobson Boudreau, Chris Benoit, Dawson Leblanc, Karie Boudreau, Spencer MacNamara, and their coach, Brandon Boudreau;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate the Petit de Grat Richmond Angels on their gold medal victory.

RESOLUTION NO. 497

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Canadian Bodybuilding Federation Bikini, Figure, Fitness and Physique Championships were held in New Westminster, B.C., on August 17, 2013; and

Whereas Janelle Garon, a L'Ardoise native, competed and finished second in Figure Class A and fourth in Figure Short for the masters class;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Janelle Garon on the impressive showing.

RESOLUTION NO. 498

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas on November 19, Mitacs held the 3rd Annual Mitacs Awards Reception honouring outstanding researchers and innovators; and

Whereas Andre Bezanson undertook a Mitacs-Accelerate Internship as a PhD student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Dalhousie University; and

Whereas Andre Bezanson was awarded the Mitacs PhD Award for Outstanding innovation as a result of his creation of a miniature, low cost, high resolution ultrasound probe, which assisted to advance critical clinical research;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature congratulate Andre Bezanson on this achievement and wish him continued success in his research in the biomedical field.

RESOLUTION NO. 499

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Carl Sparkes, of Devonian Coast Wineries, was awarded the Tourism Innovator Award in 2013; and

Whereas the Tourism Innovator Award recognizes a tourism business or person whose innovation has enhanced Nova Scotia's tourism product offering; and

Whereas Carl Sparkes is committed to enhancing the recognition of growers and winemakers in the region and through Devonian Coast Wineries has provided financial incentives to fund industry growth, focused on quality improvement, and identified unique new approaches to the way wine products are promoted;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature congratulate Carl Sparkes on this achievement and wish him continued success and growth in marketing and promoting winemakers and growers in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 500

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Casino Nova Scotia continues to play an important role in the Nova Scotia economy and contributed over \$26 million to the province in 2012; and

Whereas Casino Nova Scotia has locations in Sydney and Halifax, employs over 500 people, and has adapted innovative programs to ensure the highest level of customer service; and

Whereas in recognition of its leadership in the development of the tourism workforce, Casino Nova Scotia has been awarded the Human Resource Leadership Award;

Therefore be it resolved that we congratulate Casino Nova Scotia and wish them continued success in their efforts in contributing to the tourism sector in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 501

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Delta Hotels - Halifax and Barrington were awarded the Crystal Tourism Community Service Award; and

Whereas the Crystal Tourism Community Service Award is a new award this year that recognizes people who are making significant contributions to the community in which they do business; and

Whereas Delta Hotels - Halifax and Barrington have been heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity and through their efforts have initiated local contributions of five newly-build homes, purchase of land for four sets of duplexes, a retrofitted men's shelter and a legacy of \$445,000 to date;

Therefore be it resolved we congratulate Delta Hotels - Halifax and Barrington on this honour and wish them continued success in their efforts to encourage community service as a fundamental part of their business culture.

RESOLUTION NO. 502

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Gillespie House Inn was presented with the 2013 Sustainable Tourism Award; and

Whereas the Sustainable Tourism Award is presented yearly to a business that has recognized and integrated the principles of sustainability into their operations; and

Whereas the Gillespie House Inn has developed a code of environmental excellence through its use of solar panels which preheat water supply, converting to a radiant heat system and implementing a pesticide-free landscaping policy;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature congratulate the Gillespie House Inn and wish them well in their continued efforts to incorporate sustainable practices throughout their operations.

RESOLUTION NO. 503

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Friends of the Public Gardens have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable tourism by fostering and protecting the Public Gardens since the society's formation in 1984; and

Whereas the Halifax Public Gardens is one of the most highly visited sites in Nova Scotia, and North America's only true Victorian garden; and

Whereas in recognition of their continued dedication to the protection and preservation of the gardens, the Friends of the Public Gardens was awarded the Parks Canada Sustainable Tourism Award which is presented each year to an organization that supports economic viability, environmental sustainability, and cultural appropriateness;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature congratulate the Friends of the Public Gardens and recognize their ongoing efforts to conserve and maintain the Halifax Public Gardens.

RESOLUTION NO. 504

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Jim Laceby was the recipient of this year's Alastair and Frances Campbell Tourism Achievement Award; and

Whereas the Alastair and Frances Campbell Tourism Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated special commitment, energy, and service, to the tourism industry in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Jim Laceby and his family have been part of the tourism landscape in Nova Scotia since 1980 when they purchased a local seaside inn on the Amherst Shore and later a second inn located in Wolfville in 1988, and through Mr. Laceby's perspective and insight these properties have continued to flourish with a reputation for gracious hospitality and quality culinary experience;

Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature recognize and congratulate Jim Laceby for this achievement and his continued efforts to support the tourism industry in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 505

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas this year's Global Hospitality Award was presented to the New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee; and

Whereas the Global Hospitality Award is presented to an event which has inspired a community to recognize the principles of service and hospitality; and

Whereas since its inception in 1995 the Jubilee has grown into a highly anticipated event, attracting tourists on a national and international level to the New Glasgow area each year; and

Whereas the New Glasgow community has responded to the popularity of this event by welcoming over 13,000 attendees, with the assistance of hundreds of local volunteers;

Therefore be it resolved that we congratulate the New Glasgow Riverfront Jubilee on this well-deserved recognition, and thank all the volunteers and contributors for their efforts as they continue to make this event a huge success for Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 506

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas on Saturday, September 28, 2013, the Little Anse Hawks won their first Richmond Amateur Baseball Association championship since 1995; and

Whereas the team members are Ray Samson, Laurier Samson, Ryan Samson, Tyler Babin, Craig Richard, Codie Forrest, Noah Landry, Mitchel Farrell, Rod Samson, Alexander Samson, Clem Fougere, Cody Marchand, Brendan Landry, Brandon Boudreau, Eric MacDonald, and Kailum Rogers;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Little Anse Hawks on their well-earned RABA championship.

RESOLUTION NO. 507

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre hosted the first annual Breanna Lundrigan Memorial Soccer Tournament on October 18th and 19th in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas Breanna Lundrigan was an exceptional young woman, taken far too soon in a tragic automobile accident; and

Whereas the school has retired her jersey and put her No.20 on girls soccer jerseys at the school as a lasting tribute;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize this wonderful legacy, and the Lundrigan family, Karen, Ben, Scott, and Brent.

RESOLUTION NO. 508

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the 9th Annual Martell-Richard Mini-Marathon took place on September 28, 2013, in Arichat, beginning and ending at Lenoir Landing; and

Whereas 143 registered runners, between the ages of 2 and 71, took part in races of 5 Km and 10 Km; and

Whereas next year, which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the race, it is anticipated the event will grow by adding a half-marathon to the mix;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate the organizers and participants on another successful race.

RESOLUTION NO. 509

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Richmond County Mosquito baseball playoffs were held on Sunday, August 18th, in L'Ardoise; and

Whereas the St. Peters Cougars won gold in the tournament; and

Whereas the team consists of Diego Marshall, Temeka Stevens, John GooGoo, Mason Robinson, Matthew Calder, Mylan Tousnard, John Grimes, Alex Snow, Ellie MacAuley, Catherine Rioux, Benn Murray, Naudia Medeiros, and Gracie Pike, as well as coaches Brad Stevens and Tara MacAuley;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the St. Peters Cougars Mosquito baseball team on their championship season.

RESOLUTION NO. 510

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the St. Peters Cougars Pee Wee baseball team finished first in the regular season and took silver at their year-end tournament; and

Whereas the team consists of Alicia Fougere, Celine Martell, Coady Mariner, Rory Mackay, Brandon Boucher, Bryton Bernard, John-Michael Johnson, Austin Cotie, Evan Cotie, Xander Gilby, Brett Dakai, and Ethan Crane, as well as coaches Brad Stevens and Wayne Reynolds;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the St. Peters Cougars Pee Wee baseball team on their successful season.

RESOLUTION NO. 511

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Sasha Repko will be representing Nova Scotia at the Special Olympics Nationals in Vancouver in 2014; and

Whereas Sasha is a regular with the Antigonish Special Olympics group; and

Whereas the soon-to-be 18-year-old SAERC student enjoys running and the shot put, and is dedicated to her training and healthy eating;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate Sasha on her impressive accomplishment, and wish her the best of luck at the nationals.

RESOLUTION NO. 512

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Isle Madame Boat Club has launched a permanent sailing school to serve the children of Richmond County; and

Whereas they had the assistance of funding partners - the Municipality of Richmond, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, Nova Scotia Department of Recreation, Saint Joseph Credit Union, and Richmond County Community Fund; and

Whereas the school will be up and running for the sailing season of 2014, and will offer eight weeks of lessons each year;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Isle Madam Boat Club on this wonderful opportunity for children in the area.

RESOLUTION NO. 513

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas The Shelby Shines On Acts of Kindness Society held its annual fundraising night on Saturday, September 28th, in Louisdale; and

Whereas countless family, friends and volunteers worked tirelessly to put on the event, which featured a silent auction, live auction and dance; and

Whereas the Shelby Shines On Acts of Kindness Society puts on various events and undertakes numerous initiatives to help young people;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in thanking The Shelby Shines On Acts of Kindness Society for everything they do in the community, carrying on the legacy of an amazing young woman.

RESOLUTION NO. 514

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas on September 27th and 28th the SAERC Saints girls volleyball team won the Niki King Memorial Volleyball Tournament; and

Whereas the Saints defeated Memorial High of Sydney River 16-14 in an exciting third set; and

Whereas the team consists of Megan MacNeil, Hannah MacDonald, Rebecca Acker, Cailey McNamara, Madison Timmons, Jenna Pierce, Melissa Bland, Emilie MacKinnon, Jenny Beaton, Inma Perez, Cassie McNamara, Annick Coudreau, Hannah MacNeil, Carly Carter, and coaches Solange Landry and Dave MacIsaac;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the SAERC Saints girls volleyball team on winning the Niki King Memorial Volleyball Tournament.

RESOLUTION NO. 515

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Labour and Advanced Education)

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

Whereas Bedford resident Fred George, proud Nova Scotian, businessman, philanthropist, and recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, is now a member of the Order of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Fred George, an immigrant to Nova Scotia, created a Halifax mining company, which is the largest gold and silver producer in Mexico, and with an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary's University and numerous business awards, is listed among the top 10 CEOs in Canada; and

Whereas Fred George supports numerous causes and institutions, including Bridgeway Academy, Sacred Heart School, St. Francis Xavier University and Canada's Navy, veterans and military families, for which he was appointed Honorary Captain of the Royal Canadian Navy;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Fred George, a man who has generously shared his time and talents and earned the recognition and respect of his peers.

RESOLUTION NO. 516

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Taste of Nova Scotia Prestige Awards annually honours the best the province has to offer in culinary products and experiences; and

Whereas nominations are brought forth by Taste of Nova Scotia members, as well as the general public, are judged by a panel, and then approved by the Taste of Nova Scotia Board of Directors; and

Whereas Haskapa Haskap Juice, a product of LaHave Forest Inc., of Blockhouse, was named Innovative Product of the Year by Taste of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the owners and staff of LaHave Forest Inc. for their innovations and for enhancing Nova Scotia's reputation as a place to do business.

RESOLUTION NO. 517

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Taste of Nova Scotia Prestige Awards annually honours the best the province has to offer in culinary products and experiences; and

Whereas nominations are brought forth by Taste of Nova Scotia members, as well as the general public, are judged by a panel, and then approved by the Taste of Nova Scotia Board of Directors; and

Whereas Terra Beata Cranberry Farm in Heckman's Island was named Producer of the Year by Taste of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the owners and staff of Terra Beata for its continued growth and success locally, nationally, and abroad.

RESOLUTION NO. 518

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas internationally-recognized fabric artist and Lunenburg resident Laurie Swim began her studies in the Fine Arts Program at Mount Allison University and later earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design; and

Whereas she has been commissioned to create internationally-applauded works such as the *Lunenburg Heritage Story Quilt* with dozens of volunteer quilt makers from the area in honour of the town's 250th Anniversary; and

Whereas Laurie Swim of Lunenburg has been awarded the coveted 2013 Portia White prize;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Laurie Swim on her honour and wish her continued success and happiness in her career.

RESOLUTON NO. 519

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Lower Branch resident Gary Mailman has closed 250 transactions in his real estate career; and

Whereas he is an employee of EXIT Realty Inter Lake; and

Whereas the company inducted him into the company's prestigious Sapphire Circle by EXIT Realty Corp. International;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Gary on achieving this honour and wish him continued success in the profession of real estate.

RESOLUTION NO. 520

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a community with an invaluable service; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters put their lives at risk to protect the communities we live in; and

Whereas David Custance has served 20 years as a volunteer firefighter with the Oakhill & District Fire Department;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate David on his valued service to the communities he helps protect.

RESOLUTION NO. 521

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas for over 50 years, Lunenburg Auto and Sporting Supplies Company Ltd. has been serving the needs of South Shore consumers; and

Whereas the store was opened by David Creaser under the Handy Andy franchise in 1963, and today is run by Ian Creaser, focusing predominantly on the auto parts, service, and industrial supply business; and

Whereas Lunenburg Auto and Sporting Supplies Company Ltd. continues to be a second-generation enterprise;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Lunenburg Auto and Sporting Supplies Company Ltd. for more than half a century of business.

RESOLUTION NO. 522

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been helping shape young Canadians into citizens who give back to their community and strive to be the best they can possibly be; and

Whereas youth between the ages of 14 to 24 have been participating in the program nationwide since 1963 to complete the three levels of standards, being bronze, silver, and gold; and

Whereas Caitlin Creaser of Martins Brook has achieved all the requirements set out by the bronze standards of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Caitlin on her hard work and tremendous achievements in earning her bronze standard.

RESOLUTION NO. 523

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been helping shape young Canadians into citizens who give back to their community and strive to be the best they can possibly be; and

Whereas since 1963 youth between the ages of 14 to 24 have been participating in the program nationwide to complete the three levels of standards being bronze, silver and gold; and

Whereas Zechariah Suederick, of Garden Lots, has achieved all the requirements set out by the bronze standards of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Zechariah on his hard work and tremendous achievements in earning his bronze standard.

RESOLUTION NO. 524

By: Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas epilepsy is a physical condition characterized by sudden, brief changes in how the brain works; and

Whereas the condition is often an obstacle to leading a physically active life without concern of seizures; and

Whereas Jack Creaser, one year removed from brain surgery to relieve the symptoms, returned to the ice as captain of the Charlie's Pizza South Shore Mustangs;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jack on his successful surgery and the return to the sport he loves above all others.

RESOLUTION NO. 525

By: Mr. Stephen Gough (Sackville-Beaver Bank)

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

Whereas Shane Shaw is a dedicated teacher at Millwood High in Sackville, Nova Scotia, and has held several teaching positions including math teacher, film and video teacher and three years ago he became involved in the Career Development Program, which guides students in making decisions on furthering their education; the O2 program - Options Opportunity - consists of 20 students and includes regular high school plus career development and co-op placements and students must have 19 credits, including O2, to graduate from this program; and

Whereas as the O2 teacher of Millwood High, Mr. Shaw, is like a dad to his O2 class, he really cares about his students, providing tutoring when needed, working with other teachers on his students' behalf, providing transportation and basically making sure his kids have what it takes to succeed; and

Whereas Mr. Shaw lives in Fairview with his family but his devotion to his students at Millwood High, in Sackville, is greatly appreciated;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly recognize Shane Shaw of Millwood High for going above and beyond for his students and being a teacher who makes a difference.

RESOLUTION NO. 526

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Canadian National Oldtimers Baseball Championship was held the first weekend in August, in Edmonton; and

Whereas the Pleasant Valley Lakers won gold in the over-50 division with a 6-2 victory over Spruce Grove; and

Whereas Isle Madame residents Richard Boudreau and Allan Samson played for the Pleasant Valley team;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Richard Boudreau and Allan Samson on their contributions to winning a national title.

RESOLUTION NO. 527

By: Hon. Diana Whalen (Finance)

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

Whereas the Nova Scotian equestrian team had the distinction of competing at the CET National Medal and Mini Medal Competition at the International Olympic Equestrian site; and

Whereas Evan K. Phinney of Wedgewood was one of the Nova Scotian team members, riding her horse Bling, and placing 10th among all competitors from the Atlantic division in the jumping category; and

Whereas this year Ms. Phinney's exceptional talent was rewarded in receiving the prestigious annual Horse Sport Canada Scholarship for riders aged 16-21 across Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Evan Phinney on being a tremendous ambassador for Nova Scotian, and wish her continued success in all her future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 528

By: Hon. Diana Whalen (Finance)

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

Whereas the care and support given to Nova Scotia's seniors is essential to their continued ability to live a life that is enriched with fulfillment; and

Whereas Shannex Parkland Retirement Living enables Nova Scotian seniors to continue to live active lives and enjoy each day thanks to the selfless and professional staff, and within a community that our seniors can call home; and

Whereas this year Shannex Parkland Retirement Living, in Clayton Park West, celebrates its 15th Anniversary of serving Nova Scotian families;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Shannex on 15 years of successful service, and wish them the very best as they continue their important work for seniors and families in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 529

By: Hon. Diana Whalen (Finance)

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

Whereas in many instances we need the helping hands of charitable Nova Scotians to provide for the sick children of the province and their families; and

Whereas Adam Strickland, of Clayton Park West, carried out an impressive video gaming marathon, while auctioning off a Megaman quilt graciously donated by his grandmother, to support Child's Play, a charity aiming to buy games and toys for children's hospitals; and

Whereas with the support of Adam Perry, owner of The Last Game Store, Adam Strickland's amazing efforts contributed an outstanding \$2,270 to the sick children of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly commend Adam on his selfless efforts to help sick children, and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 530

By: Hon. Diana Whalen (Finance)

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

Whereas the children of our communities should be encouraged to exercise their imagination and creativity to broaden their horizons and fulfil their sense of self; and

Whereas Grade 6 student Langley Burke's innovation, with the help of her younger brother Macguire Burke, fueled the creation of her mini sticks rack, an organizational solution of the much loved mini hockey game, entertaining youth all over the world; and

Whereas the Burke siblings earned one of Canada's highest salutes in entrepreneurship, being featured on the CBC hit series, Dragon's Den;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly applaud Langley and Macguire Bruke for their amazing creative energy, and wish them success with this creation and the many more to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 531

By: Mr. Alfie MacLeod (Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg)

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

Whereas Gary Ross, of Albert Bridge, recently won the men's "A" doubles title at the 2013 Maritime Horseshoe Pitching Championship; and

Whereas Gary Ross claimed this title at the championships held at the Beaverbrook Arena in Miramichi, New Brunswick, as part of a Cape Breton team; and

Whereas Gary and his team won the crown for the second year in a row;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Gary Ross and the rest of his team on their success at the Maritime Horseshoe Pitching Championship.

RESOLUTION NO. 532

By: Mr. Alfie MacLeod (Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg)

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

Whereas Riverview Rural High School recently won the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation Highland Regional Banner for Division 1 girls volleyball; and

Whereas the Division 1 girls volleyball team, under the leadership of their coach Kyle Burchell, worked tirelessly to achieve this banner; and

Whereas the team consists of players Karley Bussey, Melissa Bourque, Erin MacPhee, Mellissa Maillet, Haley Hunt, Courtney George, Michaela Rozicki, Shauna Burke, Mairi-Jo Musgrave, Sarah Alfred, and Katie Harris;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Riverview High School and all their players for all their dedication and hard work that each of these students put into their school.

RESOLUTION NO. 533

By: Mr. Alfie MacLeod (Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg)

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

Whereas on December 3, 2013, the Interact Club of Riverview High School, in Coxheath, celebrated 29 years of service both locally and internationally; and

Whereas the Interact Club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sydney and consists of approximately 50 members who donate their time weekly to assist a variety of community organizations and not-for-profit groups and events; and

Whereas this year the club donated a \$500 cheque to the Rotary Club of Sydney, which the Rotary Club will match, for the victims of typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines in November;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Interact Club of Riverview High School and thank the members for their dedication to their surrounding communities.

RESOLUTION NO. 534

By: Mr. Alfie MacLeod (Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg)

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

Whereas Owen Fitzgerald, of Sydney, was recently named the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Ambassador of the Year, People's Choice Award; and

Whereas Owen Fitzgerald is the Executive Director at Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Economic Benefits Office and is a very community minded man; and

Whereas Owen accepted his award during the Sydney and Area Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Owen Fitzgerald on receiving this honour, and thank him for his dedication to his community.

RESOLUTION NO. 535

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas leading up to the election in October 2013 there were many people who helped make the campaign successful, including foot and phone canvassers; and

Whereas many people gave their time every day, up to and including election day, to make contact with as many people as possible and encourage them to vote; and

Whereas the hard work of so many volunteers on the NDP campaign was inspiring and ensured victory in the constituency of Chester-St. Margaret's;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature thank all those who helped on the NDP campaign in Chester-St. Margaret's for their hard work and commitment.

RESOLUTION NO. 536

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas Carlos Decarvalho has been a member of the St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club for the past 22 years; and

Whereas the Lions Club is dedicated to community service and 100% of the money raised by the club goes back to the community locally, nationally, and internationally; and

Whereas the Lions Club collects eye glasses for the visually impaired all over the world and lends out equipment such as hospital beds, crutches, and walkers for the elderly, as well as helping those in financial need;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Carlos Decarvalho on his years of service to the St. Margaret's Bay Lions Club and for the continued service the Lions Club provides the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 537

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas during the 2013 election Chester resident, Colin MacDonald, and his wife, Carol Hansen, made a significant contribution to the success of the NDP campaign in Chester-St. Margaret's; and

Whereas Mr. MacDonald assisted in acquiring accommodations and vehicles for campaign headquarters; and

Whereas without Mr. MacDonald's contribution the NDP campaign would not have been as successful as it was in Chester-St. Margaret's;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature thank Mr. MacDonald and his wife, Carol Hansen, for their generosity and support during the 2013 election.

RESOLUTION NO. 538

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas with the approaching Christmas season we all have favourite memories, be it the tree, baking, family, friends, music, or old or new traditions; and

Whereas on December 7th the Bay Chorale, from St. Margaret's Bay, decided to take their wonderful talent on a new spin and their choir of an average of 30 to 40 members gathered at the Superstore in Tantallon and created their own flash mob by performing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah; and

Whereas the shoppers from one end of the store to the other stopped for a few short minutes in their busy day to enjoy one of the most beautiful pieces of music from the Christmas season;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature thank the Bay Chorale for the beautiful gift of music, helping people to remember the reason for the season, and wish them all the best in their upcoming performance of Christmas music.

RESOLUTION NO. 539

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas the Chester Brass Band, based in Chester, was founded in 1873 and is a non-profit, volunteer organization funded by its membership, concert series and local patrons; and

Whereas the Chester Brass Band is led by Commander George Morrison and has performed across Nova Scotia and around the world; and

Whereas the Chester Brass Band organizes a free concert series every Sunday night during the summer months, bringing its music and the music of other local bands to the residents and visitors of Chester;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulates the Chester Brass Band on 140 years of bringing their unique band music to Chester, Nova Scotia, and to the world.

RESOLUTION NO. 540

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas Lillian Viau is one of the founding members of the Bay Grandmothers, which started in 2007; and

Whereas funds are raised by auctioning Lillian's hooked rugs, fashion shows, and annual luncheon; and

Whereas the Bay Grandmothers donate this money to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which works to stop the problem of AIDS in Africa;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Lillian Viau on her years of dedication to the Bay Grandmothers and their work to help put an end to the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

RESOLUTION NO. 541

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas during the 2013 election the sign crew for the NDP campaign in Chester-St. Margaret's worked day and night to make sure that all the constituents who wanted signs received them; and

Whereas the sign crew was led by Mike Gates, and included Jimmy Clinton, Paul Brodie, and Jack Mitchell; and

Whereas the sign crew placed approximately 850 signs throughout Chester-St. Margaret's in only four weeks;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature thank Mike Gates, Jimmy Clinton, Paul Brodie, and Jack Mitchell, for recognizing the importance of signs in an election campaign and working so hard to distribute NDP signs throughout Chester-St. Margaret's.

RESOLUTION NO. 542

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas in 1956 a group of individuals met and laid the plans for what was to become the St. Margaret Sailing Club; and

Whereas the St. Margaret Sailing Club has been offering programs for kids to learn how to sail since 1956, but they also offer racing and the ability to go sailing on your own and enjoy the islands of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the club has been running for almost 60 years and is continuing to run with only volunteers;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the St. Margaret Sailing Club for its 58 years of dedication to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 543

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas Wishing Stones Studio and Gallery, located on Big Tancook Island, is located in a building which was once Big Tancook's old-fashioned general store and

Whereas Wishing Stones is not only an art gallery but also houses a lending library, a fun and games room, and the Tancook Island Museum; and

Whereas the Wishing Stones Library has over 4,000 books, movies, and magazines, mostly coming from donations made by islanders and island visitors;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Wishing Stones proprietor and artisan Hillary Dionne on her success.

RESOLUTION NO. 544

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas this year for the 42nd time Nova Scotia is sending a Christmas Tree to Boston, Massachusetts, as an annual thank you for the help Nova Scotia received after the 1917 Halifax Explosion, while also remembering their suffering after last Spring's sad incident at the Boston Marathon; and

Whereas the 15-metre, 47-foot white spruce was donated by Mary Lou Milligan of Mill Cove, Lunenburg County; and

Whereas hundreds of schoolchildren arrived at the site to watch the tree being chopped down, and from there the tree travelled to Grand Parade at Halifax City Hall where the tree got its final farewell before being transported 1,117 kilometres to Boston;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Mary Lou Milligan for generously donating this year's tree, which is Boston's official Christmas tree.

RESOLUTON NO. 545

By: Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse (Chester-St. Margaret's)

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

Whereas the film industry in Nova Scotia is an important contributor to the economy in terms of jobs and opportunities for development as well as providing a way to showcase our province and its beauty to a broader audience; and

Whereas *Relative Happiness*, a romantic comedy based on a novel of the same name by Nova Scotian Lesley Crewe, is currently in production in Nova Scotia, directed by Deanne Foley, starring Melissa Bergland of Australia and featuring Canadian actors: Aaron Poole and Johnathan Sousa, of Ontario; Susan Kent, of Newfoundland and Labrador; and Molly Dunsworth, of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas filming on *Relative Happiness* finished in Halifax and the beautiful, and always sunny, Hubbards, included scenes at The Shore Club, owned by Rhys Harnish, a committed and active member of the community;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature recognize the fine talent of all who were involved in the production of *Relative Happiness*, and wish them success in their endeavors.

RESOLUTION NO. 546

By: Mr. Brendan Maguire (Halifax Atlantic)

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

Whereas Bianca Paquin, a 16-year-old student from J.L. Ilsley High School, has been boxing since 2011; and

Whereas with the support of her family and friends and their fundraising efforts, Bianca was able to attend the Canadian Youth Boxing Championships in Quebec City; and

Whereas on November 22, 2013, she won the national title and also won Best Female Boxer for the second time;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Bianca Paquin on her outstanding performance at the National Boxing Championships, and wish her continued success with her boxing career.

RESOLUTION NO. 547

By: Mr. Brendan Maguire (Halifax Atlantic)

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

Whereas Sue Paul Canton, a resident of Sambro, recognized the historical significance of the Sambro Island Lighthouse; and

Whereas Sue Paul Canton has dedicated her time to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining the oldest lighthouse in the Americas; and

Whereas Sue Paul, along with Stephanie Smith, was instrumental in preparing and acquiring signatures on a petition to save the lighthouse and presenting the petition to Geoff Regan, MP, to put forth in Parliament;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly commend Sue Paul Canton on her efforts to protect the Sambro Island Lighthouse and raise awareness of its historical value to our Nova Scotia heritage.

RESOLUTION NO. 548

By: Mr. Brendan Maguire (Halifax Atlantic)

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

Whereas Stephanie Smith, a resident of Sambro, recognized the historical significance of the Sambro Island Lighthouse; and

Whereas Stephanie Smith has dedicated her time to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining the oldest lighthouse in the Americas; and

Whereas Stephanie Smith, along with Sue Paul Canton, was instrumental in preparing and acquiring signatures on a petition to save the lighthouse and presenting the petition to Geoff Regan, MP, to put forth in Parliament;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly commend Stephanie Smith on her efforts to protect the Sambro Island Lighthouse and raise awareness of its historical value to our Nova Scotia heritage.

RESOLUTION NO. 549

By: Mr. Brendan Maguire (Halifax Atlantic)

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

Whereas the Spryfield Santa Claus Parade has been bringing smiles and good cheer to the people of Spryfield for the past 40 years; and

Whereas this community tradition is still a much-anticipated part of the holiday season in Spryfield and is growing in size every year; and

Whereas the Spryfield and District Business Commission worked so hard to organize this year's parade and had an outstanding turnout both with entries in the parade and spectators enjoying it;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate the Spryfield and District Business Commission for its understanding organization of a long-time tradition in Spryfield, and wish them well in keeping this tradition going strong.

RESOLUTION NO. 550

By: Mr. Brendan Maguire (Halifax Atlantic)

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

Whereas Christopher Webb and Victoria Foulger are owners of Pavia Gallery - Espresso Bar & Café, established in Herring Cove; and

Whereas Pavia not only provides an intimate European flavour café but also houses an exceptional art gallery; and

Whereas Pavia Gallery - Espresso Bar & Café has been named a finalist for the Halifax Chamber of Commerce 2014 Top New Business Award;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate Christopher Webb and Victoria Foulger on the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Award nomination and wish them continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 551

By: Mr. Allan Rowe (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas the North Woodside Community Association, at the North Woodside Community Centre, on Pleasant Street in Dartmouth, is a volunteer led, non-profit, charitable organization formed by a group of residents in 1994; and

Whereas the Association works to serve the social, educational, and recreational needs of the residents of North Woodside and surrounding areas, aiming to build and maintain a strong, interactive community; and

Whereas the North Woodside Community Association offers a wide variety of programs and activities for all ages, meeting room space, classrooms, and a gym, and also hosts many special events throughout the year;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize and thank the members of the North Woodside Community Association for their important work and commitment to the community and its residents.

RESOLUTION NO. 552

By: Mr. Allan Rowe (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas the Penhorn Lake Area Trail Association, PLATA, was formed by community members wanting to preserve Penhorn Lake, keep it safe from pollution, and make it more accessible; and

Whereas the Association is working toward its goal of finishing the trail around the Penhorn Lake so that all trail areas around the lake will be safe and easy to access; and

Whereas a future goal of PLATA is to have the Penhorn Lake Trail connected with other HRM Active Living Trails;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize and commend the Penhorn Lake Area Trail Association for their meaningful endeavours to date, and wish them much success in meeting their future goals.

RESOLUTION NO. 553

By: Hon. Kevin Murphy (Speaker)

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

Whereas Cyril Young, born and raised in Musquodoboit Harbour, is a long-time businessman and a pillar of his community; and

Whereas Cyril worked in the family business in which he traveled the coastline in a freighter selling various supplies to the residents of the Shore, and has seen many changes and development in his community over the years, including being present when electricity first made its way to the Eastern Shore; and

Whereas Cyril has continued to help his community as a chartered member of the Musquodoboit Harbour and District Lions Club, and embodies the Lions' motto of "we serve";

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in thanking Cyril Young for his continued service to the people of the Eastern Shore.

RESOLUTION NO. 554

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas long-time resident and Canning town crier, Gary Long, is well known for his volunteerism and outgoing personality; and

Whereas at the October Annual General Meeting of the Apple Blossom Festival, Gary was made president of the 2014 festival; and

Whereas this year the festival theme is, Discover the Valley Blossoms;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Gary Long on being named president of the 82nd Apple Blossom Festival, where we all celebrate the rich beauty and cultural events surrounding the apple industry in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 555

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas *Golf Magazine* selected Cabot Links as one of the 100 best golf courses in the world; and

Whereas Cabot Links has brought an abundance of new jobs and attracted many visitors to Inverness County; and

Whereas *Golf Magazine* has acknowledged Cabot Links' success in providing a world-class experience to all its golfers in scenic Inverness;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ben Cowan-Dewar and Cabot Links for their success and recognition by *Golf Magazine*.

RESOLUTION NO. 556

By: Mr. Eddie Orrell (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas on Tuesday, September 10th, Corrie Stewart received a Public Service Award of Excellence from The Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada; and

Whereas the venue for the award ceremony was Rideau Hall, Sussex Drive, Ottawa; and

Whereas Corrie is the director of Support Services for the Sydney Tar Ponds Agency, a position he has held since 2005;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Corrie on receiving this prestigious award, and thank him for his years of dedication and the contributions that he has made to this mega project.

RESOLUTION NO. 557

By: Mr. Eddie Orrell (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas a six-man team called The Capers Plus 1, mostly from North Sydney, entered and won the 2013 Canadian International Tuna Cup in Prince Edward Island, defeating the 23 teams from South Africa, Australia, Finland, England, Scotland and all of North America; and

Whereas The Capers were Ed Clarke, Rollie Clarke, Bernie Bouchard, Lloyd Gillis, Tom Grant, with Fall River's Dave Tower rounding out the team, used only a hook, line and sinker to haul in a 750-pound tuna that was measured and released; and

Whereas each member of the team took a turn holding the fishing rod and battling the giant fish and now has bragging rights and a plan to defend their title next year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the members of The Capers Plus 1 on their victory, and wish them success in next year's Tuna Cup.

RESOLUTION NO. 558

By: Hon. Pat Dunn (Pictou Centre)

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

Whereas the Albion Lodge No. 5 recently celebrated its 175th Anniversary, in New Glasgow; and

Whereas Freemasonry has a long and rich tradition in Nova Scotia, dating back to 1738, with the very first Masonic Lodge meeting in Canada taking place in Annapolis; and

Whereas Freemasons have made great contributions to the social, cultural and economic development of our country;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Albion Lodge No. 5 on their 175th Anniversary.

RESOLUTION NO. 559

By: Hon. Pat Dunn (Pictou Centre)

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

Whereas Stellarton native, Kylee Evans, has been nominated for best leading actress (musical) by Broadway World; and

Whereas Evans makes a career primarily through appearances on TV shows and commercials, but it's her work as lead actress of *Legally Blond*, the musical that has garnered her attention lately; and

Whereas Kylee Evans has recently been on TV shows, including *Life With Boys* and CBC's *The Ron James Show* and is auditioning all the time for other potential opportunities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Stellarton native, Kylee Evans, for receiving a Broadway World nomination and wish her well in her career.

RESOLUTION NO. 560

By: Mr. Iain Rankin (Timberlea-Prospect)

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

Whereas pastor, rector and priest of the Anglican Parish of St. Timothy, Hatchet Lake, and St. Paul, Terrence Bay, Rev. Lisa Vaughn has faithfully served the community since July 1, 2003; and

Whereas under Pastor Lisa's guidance, the church has developed community leaders and has reached out to all sections of the community by providing programs and services, fellowship and comfort; and

Whereas this year marks Pastor Lisa's 10th year of service as an ordained Anglican priest;

Therefore be it resolved that this Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly congratulate Pastor Lisa and thank her for her outstanding service to community.

RESOLUTION NO. 561

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Garth, Scott and Chris Davis, of Sky-Tec Electronics Limited, in Yarmouth, were presented with the Customer Service Award by the Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet on November 13, 2013, in Yarmouth; and

Whereas Garth Davis, from Argyle, has been in business for 29 years, always striving to provide quality electronic products and taking pride in exceptional customer service as well as supporting community fundraising events such as the Hospital Hullabaloo, Yarmouth Von, to name a few; and

Whereas Garth Davis, who was joined by his son Scott five years ago, has recently purchased a Leon's franchise to augment and expand the present business;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Garth Davis, Scott Davis and Chris Davis on winning this award, thank them for their service to the community, and wish them well in all their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 562

By: Hon. Pat Dunn (Pictou Centre)

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

Whereas Giant Tiger, a large discount store, opened its new 19,000 square foot store in New Glasgow, in November, at the Aberdeen Business Centre; and

Whereas store manager, Blair McDonald, and his wife, store operations manager Nicole McDonald, were excited and proud to be opening a new location in Pictou County; and

Whereas Giant Tiger, a privately held company that became established in 1961 in Ottawa, has grown to 200 locations across Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Giant Tiger and management staff on the official opening of their New Glasgow location.

RESOLUTON NO. 563

By: Hon. Pat Dunn (Pictou Centre)

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

Whereas Tammy MacLaren's successful campaign to bring coverage for insulin pumps to Nova Scotia has brought her recognition in a way she hadn't expected; and

Whereas MacLaren recently received the National Advocacy Leadership Award from the Canadian Diabetes Association; and

Whereas MacLaren began a petition in January to push the government to fund insulin pumps for children;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Tammy MacLaren for her personal tenacity in pushing her petition to bring awareness to the need for coverage of insulin pumps for children of Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 564

By: Hon. Stephen McNeil (Premier)

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

Whereas over two decades ago, Maude fought against the odds and won, was the title featured article in The Mail-Star, on Saturday, December 6, 1986; and

Whereas the article celebrated the accomplishments of then single mother Maude Lorde, now Maude Lorde-Cox, who, during challenging times, raised eight children - seven sons and one daughter - in Uniacke Square public housing and persevered and

overcame these obstacles by upgrading her education to become financially independent for the benefit of her family; and

Whereas on April 23, 2013, Maude Lorde-Cox celebrated her 70th birthday with family and friends, accomplishing a milestone of being the first woman in her family to reach the age of 70;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly extend heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Maude Lorde-Cox on her 70th birthday and being respected as matriarch in her family and community.

RESOLUTION NO. 565

By: Ms. Karla MacFarlane (Pictou West)

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

Whereas Casey Doucet, Amelia English, Aran MacDonald, and Lindy Quann, students at Pictou Academy, successfully completed the Bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in October 2013; and

Whereas the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an internationally recognized award, requiring the achievement of personally established goals in the areas of Community Service, Skills Development, Physical Recreation, and Adventurous Journey; and

Whereas the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a balanced, non-competitive program which encourages personal growth, while helping the participants to become well-rounded citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Casey, Amelia, Aran, and Lindy, for their hard work, dedication, and achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 566

By: Ms. Karla MacFarlane (Pictou West)

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

Whereas Mr. Kevin O'Brien of Pictou opened a new fitness facility in the Town of Pictou in September 2013; and

Whereas True Potential Fitness is owned and operated by Kevin, his wife Wynne, and their three sons, providing a much-needed service in Pictou West; and

Whereas True Potential Fitness will be open 365 days a year providing classes, information, and friendly professional service, for the convenience of its members;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Kevin O'Brien and his family on their entrepreneurial spirit, and wish them the best in their new business venture.

RESOLUTION NO. 567

By: Ms. Karla MacFarlane (Pictou West)

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

Whereas the Pictou United Church began its latest CAN-struction on December 1st to benefit the Pictou West Food Bank; and

Whereas this is the sixth time the congregation of the Pictou United Church has undertaken this type of project to benefit the food bank; and

Whereas a fireplace with hearth, mantle, and chimney will be built, requiring 400 cans of soup for the base alone, and will continue throughout December;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank the congregation of the Pictou United Church for their unique project and willingness to help those in need.

RESOLUTION NO. 568

By: Ms. Karla MacFarlane (Pictou West)

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

Whereas Nina Davey and Ella Parsons will be experiencing a change in scenery next summer when they travel to Manitoba for a highly competitive four-week ballet program; and

Whereas Davey and Parsons were among thousands of people who auditioned for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School's summer program; and

Whereas they were two of the 130 successful candidates for this prestigious program;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Nina Davey and Ella Parsons for receiving acceptance letters for the four-week program in Manitoba, an opportunity for them to audition with talented ballet students from across Canada.

RESOLUTION NO. 569

By: Hon. Maureen MacDonald (Leader of the NDP)

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

Whereas the Jubilate Singers were formed in 1989 by a small group of young adults at St. Mark's Anglican Church in North End Halifax to raise funds for Christmas groceries; and

Whereas today the Jubilate Singers have grown to 88 members, from all denominations, under the direction of Terry Hurrell and with the support of members of the congregation, including Daphne and Steve Beeler; and

Whereas the Jubilate Singers' 25th Annual Festival of Carols was held on December 8th, featuring numerous guest performers and all proceeds from the concert will be used to provide over 100 Christmas food boxes;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the members of the Jubilate Singers, the congregation of St. Mark's Church, and all of the choir's supporters for 25 years of beautiful music and service to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 570

By: Hon. Maureen MacDonald (Leader of the NDP)

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

Whereas the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), founded in 1971, is one of Nova Scotia's oldest, most respected and most effective environmental advocacy organizations; and

Whereas the Ecology Action Centre has grown from being one of the earliest proponents of recycling to a multi-faceted organization working on projects in marine, energy, food, wilderness, built environment, transportation and coastal and water issues on every level from neighbourhood concerns to international issues; and

Whereas the readers of The Coast selected the Ecology Action Centre as the Best Activist Organization in Halifax in the 2013 Best of Halifax Awards, making it the centre's 10th consecutive win in this category;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the Ecology Action Centre on being named The Coast's Best Activist Organization for 2013, and wish the organization many more years of successful environmental education and advocacy.

RESOLUTION NO. 571

By: Hon. David Wilson (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas John Cotterill, Manager of Safety and Driver Services for Clarke Road Transport Inc., spent the last several years studying with the Canadian Insurance Institute, while still working full-time; and

Whereas even though courses in underwriting, loss adjusting and broker management proved challenging at times, with the support of his family and co-workers, John remained focused and determined to succeed; and

Whereas in November 2013 John received the designation as a Chartered Insurance Professional;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate John Cotterill for his hard work in obtaining his designation as a Chartered Insurance Professional.

RESOLUTION NO. 572

By: Hon. David Wilson (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas Tom's Family Restaurant has been operating on Sackville Drive in Lower Sackville since 2006; and

Whereas Tom's is owned by Dimitri and Tina Panopolis; and

Whereas Tom's Family Restaurant has been named Best Sackville Restaurant by The Coast publication for the sixth consecutive year;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulates Tom's Family Restaurant of Lower Sackville for their sixth consecutive title of The Coast's Best Sackville Restaurant, with best wishes for continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 573

By: Hon. David Wilson (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas Sackville's business district is growing to include more options for residents of Sackville; and

Whereas Wasabi House added Asian cuisine to the community's restaurant options when it opened on October 28, 2013, at 560 Sackville Drive; and

Whereas Wasabi House is owned by Michelle Lin and Richard Woo, who also own the Wasabi House location in Halifax;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulates Michelle Lin and Richard Woo on the opening of Wasabi House at 560 Sackville Drive, with best wishes for future success.

RESOLUTION NO. 574

By: Mr. Larry Harrison (Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters are local heroes who willingly risk their own safety to protect the lives and property of their neighbours and community; and

Whereas members of the Brookfield Fire Department provide services beyond firefighting such as the jaws of life in motor vehicle accidents, medical first response in emergencies, and fire prevention and health promotion programs in the community and public schools; and

Whereas Nova Scotia's volunteer firefighters are great examples of selflessness, heroism and dedication to community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly salute the dedication and bravery of the member of the Brookfield Fire Department and thank them for their commitment to keeping their community safe.

RESOLUTION NO. 575

By: Mr. Larry Harrison (Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters are local heroes who willingly risk their own safety to protect the lives and property of their neighbours and community; and

Whereas members of the Upper Stewiacke Fire Department provide services beyond firefighting such as medical first response in emergencies, motor vehicle accident response, and hosting numerous community events such as the annual fire brigade parade, picnic and dance, the Maple Syrup Festival and the community breakfast; and

Whereas Nova Scotia's volunteer firefighters are great examples of selflessness, heroism and dedication to community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly salute the dedication and bravery of the members of the Upper Stewiacke Fire Department and thank them for their commitment to keeping their community safe.

RESOLUTION NO. 576

By: Mr. Larry Harrison (Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters are local heroes who willingly risk their own safety to protect the lives and property of their neighbours and community; and

Whereas members of the Stewiacke Fire Department provide services beyond firefighting such as medical first response in emergencies, motor vehicle accident response, and fire prevention programs in the community; and

Whereas Nova Scotia's volunteer firefighters are great examples of selflessness, heroism, and dedication to community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly salute the dedication and bravery of the members of the Stewiacke Fire Department and thank them for their commitment to keeping their community safe.

RESOLUTION NO. 577

By: Mr. Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas the Prostate Cancer Support Association, assisted by Chediac's, have made a donation of a flat screen TV for the Palliative Care Family Room and one TV for each of the patient rooms; and

Whereas this generosity contributes to patient comfort during treatment and time away from home; and

Whereas patients can be entertained, informed, and enjoy the comfort of watching favourite programs during quiet times;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Prostate Cancer Support Association and Chediac's for their thoughtful donation.

RESOLUTION NO. 578

By: Mr. Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Shirley Harper, a retired school teacher, by happenstance became reunited with a student she taught in Grand Pré 50 years ago; and

Whereas a chance encounter over a heat pump inquiry with the granddaughter of this former student, a Dutch immigrant, led to a reunion all these years later; and

Whereas this nostalgic reunion included sharing a meal, photographs, and a trip down memory lane;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Shirley Harper for being a teacher who truly made a difference in the life of a student.

RESOLUTION NO. 579

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the Boys and Girls Club of East Dartmouth, located on Caledonia Road in Dartmouth, hosted the annual Boys and Girls Club Olympic Day on August 7, 2013; and

Whereas over 150 children and youth from Boys and Girls Clubs located in various areas of the Halifax Regional Municipality participated in a day of physical activities and problem- solving skills; and

Whereas Boys and Girls Club Olympic Day is made possible through the assistance of Canadian Tire Jumpstart;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing the Boys and Girls Club of East Dartmouth for hosting this successful event and promoting team-oriented activities in youth.

RESOLUTION NO. 580

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the newly renovated Flag Shop Nova Scotia was established on Main Street, Dartmouth, in 1993, and is the only Flag Shop serving Nova Scotians; and

Whereas The Flag Shop is the official supplier of the Canadian Naval Centennial Flag and a proud supporter of our Canadian Armed Forces; and

Whereas The Flag Shop Nova Scotia is the first of 13 stores across Canada to offer the Naval Jack in the 6" x 10" size;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating franchise owner, Ms. Debbie Hartlen, on the 20th Anniversary of The Flag Shop Nova Scotia, and wish her continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 581

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Catapult is an annual non-profit leadership camp that cultivates youth leadership in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas deserving students must be nominated by their teachers and demonstrate high leadership potential to be one of 50 to attend Catapult; and

Whereas Ben Lilly, of Dartmouth, inspired by educational and leadership goals was selected out of 150 nominees to attend Catapult 2013 and will continue to develop his leadership skills and positively influence his school and community;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly recognize Ben's inspiring leadership skills, and encourage him to continue to make positive differences in his school and in his community.

RESOLUTION NO. 582

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas in 2010, Petty Officer Second Class Craig Blake, of Dartmouth, was serving his first tour of duty with Canadian Forces in Afghanistan; and

Whereas on May 3, 2010, Officer Blake was the first sailor with the Canadian Forces to make the ultimate sacrifice on tour in Afghanistan, his life stolen by an improvised explosive device 25 kilometres southwest of the city of Kandahar; and

Whereas hundreds of community members gathered on September 21, 2013, when Montebello Park in Dartmouth was renamed PO2 Craig Blake Memorial Park in honour of Officer Blake's memory and the sacrifice of his wife, Priscilla, and their two sons;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in humbly recognizing Petty Officer Second Class Craig Blake's profound contribution to Canada, and acknowledge the renaming of this community park as a preservation of Officer Blake's memory.

RESOLUTION NO. 583

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Sharon Lamb, of Dartmouth, was recently diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis lung disease; and

Whereas Sharon is currently on a waiting list for a double lung transplant to take place in a Toronto hospital; and

Whereas Sharon's friends and family gathered in November for a fundraising auction at Dave Doolittle's to assist Sharon with medical and living expenses;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Sharon and her loved ones on a successful fundraising event, and wish her all the best and a quick recovery from her upcoming surgery.

RESOLUTION NO. 584

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the Coastal Dance Theatre Society of Dartmouth was founded in 1996 as a youth performance company; and

Whereas Coastal Dance Theatre has consistently presented local audiences with classical and contemporary works of high technical and artistic standards, making their art form accessible to all; and

Whereas from December 2 to 8, 2013, Coastal Dance Theatre presented *A Christmas Carol* at Aldermen Landing Theatre to student and public audiences;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly applaud Coastal Dance Theatre's dedication to the education and promotion of the arts and congratulate their performers on a wonderful performance this season.

RESOLUTION NO. 585

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the Hope for Wildlife Society has rescued and rehabilitated over 20,000 injured and orphaned wild animals in Nova Scotia since 1997; and

Whereas Hope for Wildlife is a cherished local organization dedicated to conserving healthy populations of over 250 different native species of wildlife; and

Whereas on Sunday, December 8, 2013, the Port Wallace United Church in Dartmouth hosted Friendly Beasts: A Harp Christmas Concert to benefit the admirable work of Hope for Wildlife;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate Hope for Wildlife on a successful fundraising event in Dartmouth and applaud this organization's commitment to wildlife conservation efforts in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 586

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Jo-Ann Spillett of Dartmouth is a registered physiotherapist specializing in orthopedics and sports medicine; and

Whereas Jo-Ann is the owner and visionary of Physiotherapy Function on Main Street in Dartmouth and is very active in the local business community; and

Whereas Physiotherapy Function celebrated its first anniversary on November 21, 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jo-Ann Spillett and the Physiotherapy Function team on their first anniversary and wish them many more years of continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 587

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the 2013 World Junior Canoe and Kayak Championship took place in Brandenburg, Germany, from July 29th-31st; and

Whereas Mariah Godin of Dartmouth and her canoe partner, Emily Riddle of Lake Echo, represented Canada as part of the national canoe and kayak team; and

Whereas Mariah and Emily won the Women's C-2 500-metre race at the 2013 World Junior Canoe and Kayak Championship;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Mariah Godin and Emily Riddle on their championship win and wish them continued success in their athletic careers.

RESOLUTION NO. 588

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Michael Mackley of Dartmouth graduated from Prince Andrew High School in June 2010; and

Whereas Michael continued his education in Biology at Dalhousie University with an avid focus on researching genetics; and

Whereas on Saturday, November 30, 2013, Michael was one of 11 Canadians to receive a 2014 Rhodes Scholarship, becoming the 88th Rhodes Scholar in Dalhousie's history;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Michael on this tremendous academic achievement and wish him well in his future studies at Oxford University.

RESOLUTION NO. 589

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Nick Cuthbertson, currently a Grade 10 student at Prince Andrew High School, participated in Free The Children's We Create Change coin drive held last year at Eric Graves Memorial Junior High School; and

Whereas We Create Change supports clean water projects and enlists the help of schools to collect donations of change; and

Whereas Nick Cuthbertson filmed the campaign and made a movie of his fellow students collecting hundreds of dollars in a giant water jug;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Nick Cuthbertson for supporting Free The Children and using film as a way to raise awareness of the need for others to provide for clean water projects, and that we wish him every success in his future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 590

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Larry Bergeron is the chief instructor for the Boulanger and Baking Arts at the Sobeys Culinary Centre at NSCC Akerley Campus in Dartmouth; and

Whereas each holiday season, for 11 consecutive years, Larry and his students create three giant, intricately designed and decorated gingerbread houses inspired by different themes, from fantasy literature to real-life historic architecture; and

Whereas the houses are donated to local charities such as Ronald McDonald House and the IWK Health Centre to assist in fundraising initiatives and to enhance holiday cheer;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly applaud the imagination and generosity of Chef Bergeron and his students and thank them for sharing their talents for the benefit of local charities and individuals heartened by this creative seasonal project.

RESOLUTION NO. 591

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Dr. Patrick McGrath, a constituent of Dartmouth East and vice-president of Research and Innovation at the IWK Health Centre, is a leading researcher on pediatric pain and the use of media to increase access to psychosocial health care; and

Whereas founder and chief executive officer of the Strongest Families Institute, Dr. McGrath's not-for-profit corporation delivers by telephone services and coaching to children and families seeking help for mental health and other issues that affect health and well-being, including ADHD and anxiety; and

Whereas Dr. McGrath was named co-recipient of the 2013 Encana Principal Award from the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation, the foundation's highest honour, and on October 16, 2013, received a \$50,000 tax-free award for the endowment of an award for the best international paper on outcomes and health systems research for children's mental health;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Dr. Patrick McGrath for winning this significant award and wish him continued success in his future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 592

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Pet Valu, located on Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth, hosted a month-long fundraiser for Cool Dog Rescue in April 2013; and

Whereas Cool Dog Rescue is an all-breed dog rescue that seeks out dogs in Quebec that are facing euthanasia and brings them into Nova Scotia to be adopted; and

Whereas Pet Valu and their generous customers raised over \$3,000 in donations for this life-saving non-profit organization;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Pet Valu and their staff for spearheading this fundraiser and raising awareness for this important cause.

RESOLUTION NO. 593

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Plant Paws Pet Essentials opened on Montebello Drive two years ago and strives to have local farmers work together to create a selection of treats and foods for pet owners; and

Whereas owner Rodney Habib was recently presented with the 2013 Summit Retailer of the Year Award, which is sponsored by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council Canada, the highest award in the Canadian pet industry; and

Whereas this prestigious award recognizes a retailer of pet products and services who has developed a reputation and frequent connection to pet families which has enhanced the lives of pets and people in the communities they serve;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Rodney Habib and Planet Paws Pet Essentials staff for winning this award for the first time in Atlantic Canada, and wish them continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 594

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia Chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation has been granting wishes to children between ages 3 and 17 since 1987; and

Whereas the Halifax Running Room has teamed up with the Children's Wish Foundation to host Run Run Rudolph, a 5 km walk and run event that took place on Sunday, December 1st, at Dartmouth Crossing; and

Whereas proceeds from Run Run Rudolph will support Nova Scotia children with life-threatening illnesses and spread holiday cheer within the community;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly applaud the work of the Nova Scotia chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation and the Halifax Running Room, and wish them success in their upcoming fundraising event.

RESOLUTION NO. 595

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Shubie Park is a beloved gem in the community of Dartmouth, known for its walking trails, off-leash dog park, sports fields, preservation of local canal history, and engaging community events; and

Whereas families and friends will gather for the third annual Tree Lighting Celebration at the Fairbanks Centre on Sunday, December 15, 2013; and

Whereas the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, HRM, and Planet Paws Pet Essentials have come together with local representatives to offer this exciting local event and spread holiday cheer;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in recognizing the importance of Shubie Park and the Fairbanks Centre to the people of Dartmouth, and wish a happy holiday season to all involved.

RESOLUTION NO. 596

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas SimplyCast.com, which specializes in multi-channel marketing solutions designed to create, track and deliver targeted online marketing campaigns, has relocated to Tacoma Drive, Dartmouth, effective May 2013; and

Whereas the President and Chief Executive Officer, Saeed El-Darahali, will focus on the release of several new and updated products and services the company will be unveiling in 175 countries around the world; and

Whereas SimplyCast.com plans to grow in its new space and will focus on strategic new hires, research, and development to further its expansion;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in welcoming Saeed El-Darahali and his staff at SimplyCast.com to the constantly expanding Main Street Dartmouth Business Improvement Association, and wish them continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 597

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Smitty's Restaurant, a member of The Main Street Dartmouth Business Improvement Association, hosted the Paws Fur Thought Long Walk to Ottawa community fundraiser in August 2013; and

Whereas owners Heather Johnson and Ernie Arsenault, and their generous staff, collected donations to support Captain Medric Cousineau's Long Walk to raise 50 dogs for 50 veterans in 50 days, by walking to Ottawa with his service dog, Thai; and

Whereas Paws for Thought raises awareness and funding for service dogs for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Heather Johnson, Ernie Arsenault, and the staff of Smitty's Restaurant for growing community spirit by raising funds for this important cause.

RESOLUTON NO. 598

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas the Municipality of the County of Kings is the third largest municipality in Nova Scotia and is situated in the abundant agricultural region of the Annapolis Valley; and

Whereas Brian Hirtle, a long-time volunteer with over 30 years of experience in the manufacturing sector and presently living on his family farm in Viewmount, was elected councillor for district 4 in October 2012; and

Whereas on November 12th council chose Brian as the new Deputy Warden for the county;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Brian Hirtle on being chosen Deputy Warden for the Municipality of the County of Kings.

RESOLUTION NO. 599

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas long-time Mayor for the Town of Kentville, David Corkum, has been well known for his public service and vision for municipal government in this province; and

Whereas David has served on many boards, commissions and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities executive; and

Whereas this past October, David was elected president of the UNSM;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Mayor David Corkum on being named president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, and wish him well while serving the province in this capacity.

RESOLUTION NO. 600

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas on November 7th the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce handed out the 2013 business awards; and

Whereas Nova Agri was named Outstanding Exporter; and

Whereas Nova Agri is comprised of fourth generation farmers and innovators who constantly work the land and add value to the products they grow;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Nova Agri for being awarded Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Exporter.

RESOLUTION NO. 601

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas on November 7th the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce handed out the 2013 business awards; and

Whereas Shannex was named Outstanding Large Business; and

Whereas Shannex has spent 25 years leading the way to better living for their residents through home care, retirement living, and nursing home care;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Shannex for being awarded Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Large Business.

RESOLUTION NO. 602

By: Hon. Sterling Belliveau (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas each year the Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence recognizes the achievements of innovative Nova Scotians who have helped make the province a leader in waste reduction; and

Whereas King Street Recycling Depot, of Shelburne, was awarded Enviro-Depot of the Year for 2013 during the 14th annual Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence luncheon ceremony; and

Whereas King Street Recycling Depot, of Shelburne, has been setting a standard for exceptional initiatives in waste reduction and providing good jobs in Shelburne;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate King Street Recycling Depot, of Shelburne, on receiving the award of Enviro-Depot of the Year for 2013 and for exceptional initiatives in waste reduction, and wish them continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 603

By: Hon. Sterling Belliveau (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas the Greenfield Sewing Circle has been active in the community for almost 85 years and currently has a membership of 22 women; and

Whereas the group was originally established to raise money for their church building fund by selling crafts, and succeeded in raising \$53.70 nearly 85 years ago; and

Whereas today the members of the Greenfield Sewing Circle are still making and selling their crafts and annually raise and donate over \$6,500 to such charities as the Health Services Foundation, the Queens General Hospital, the IWK, the Baptist Church, the Greenfield Fire Department, the food bank, the Rose Fund, the Recreation Centre and Hillsvie Acres Seniors Home;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize and applaud the outstanding and caring efforts made by each of the current 22 members of the Greenfield Sewing Circle, as well as those ladies who have gone before, in using their skills for the betterment of their community, and wish them continued success in their crafting and fundraising efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. 604

By: Hon. Sterling Belliveau (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Bonnie Hartlen Muisse has been a lifelong resident of Liverpool and grew up playing counting and other games with her sisters, instead of watching television or playing video games; and

Whereas Bonnie Hartlen Muisse has a strong belief in, and desire to foster, the importance of children using their imagination; and

Whereas Bonnie Hartlen Muisse has written, and in 2013, published two children's books titled *If* and *Zoos*, which encourage children to use their imagination and teaches them the fun of counting;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Bonnie Hartlen Muise on the publication of her two books, *If* and *Zoos*, and also on her contribution to encouraging children to enjoy the fun of counting and using their imagination, and wish her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 605

By: Hon. Andrew Younger (Energy)

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

Whereas Liverpool author Libby Broadbent's first novel, *That Thing That Happened*, placed third in the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia Atlantic Writing Competition in 2011; and

Whereas her second novel, *Indefinitely Idled*, explores the dynamics of a Nova Scotia family after the main industry in the town closes down and resonates closely with the lives and struggles faced by many residents of the Liverpool area after the closure of Bowater Mersey in 2012; and

Whereas Libby Broadbent recently launched her third novel on November 8, 2013, titled *Lily's Valley*, at Memories Café in Liverpool;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Libby Broadbent on the publication of her third novel, and wish her continued success in her writing career.

RESOLUTION NO. 606

By: Hon. Lena Diab (Justice)

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

Whereas on December 1st I had the pleasure of attending the Festive Family Christmas Social at the Melville Heights Retirement Residence in my riding of Halifax Armdale; and

Whereas the social was organized by the resident administrator, Irene Swindells, and the recreation coordinator, Lori Cormier, who worked tirelessly to bring together the Melville Heights residents and their families, who were able to share a delicious festival meal and treats such as cheesecake, wine, and eggnog; and

Whereas I had the opportunity to talk to many of the residents, such as Katherine Hatt, who on November 18th turned 99, and I also presented a certificate to Frances Beed, who turned 90 in October, and she walked her way to where I was to claim her certificate and danced her way back to her seat, and I later learned that she never walks, let alone dances, unassisted anymore, and everyone was as delighted and shocked as she was;

Therefore be it resolved that we thank Irene and Lori for putting on a great event that brought families together and that we wish the residents at Melville Heights a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

RESOLUTION NO. 607

By: Hon. Lena Diab (Justice)

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

Whereas the Canadian Lebanon Society of Halifax was established in 1938 and has represented the interest of the Lebanese community in Halifax since that date, and the society listens, consults, and encourages innovation and individual initiation, and was created to unlock the full potential of the people in its community ; and

Whereas in 2013 the Canadian Lebanon Society of Halifax held various events to celebrate its 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, and in commemoration of this special anniversary, and with the support of the Halifax Regional Municipality, planted a flowerbed display at the Halifax Public Gardens and held a banquet on November 2nd to celebrate this joyous occasion; and

Whereas the Canadian Lebanon Society of Halifax has operated the Lebanese School to teach youth the Lebanese language and culture for 35 years, and has involved so many youth and families throughout the province of Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate the Canadian Lebanon Society of Halifax on their 75th Year Diamond Jubilee Anniversary and with them continued success in preserving Lebanese culture and heritage in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 608

By: Hon. Tony Ince (Communities, Culture and Heritage)

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

Whereas the 8th Annual Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Awards were held on October 25th at the Museum of Natural History; and

Whereas, co-hosted by Arts Nova Scotia, the event celebrates our diverse artists and their artistic excellence and provides an opportunity for Nova Scotians to experience their work; and

Whereas the Town of New Glasgow and the County of Pictou were recognized with the Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award; Jay LeBlanc received the Prix Grand-Pré Award; and Carole Langille, Christy Ann Conlin, Janice Jackson, Jeremy Webb, and Sara MacCulloch were awarded the Established Artist Recognition Award;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly join me in congratulating these winners, thanking them for their contribution to the art and culture of this province, and wish them much success in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 609

By: Hon. Tony Ince (African Nova Scotian Affairs)

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

Whereas Bertha Mantley, a stalwart patron of the Old Seaview African United Baptist Church, was the oldest survivor of the many residents uprooted from the former community of Africville; and

Whereas Bertha Mantley raised 12 children and two grandchildren, served as a member on many organizations and committees including the Women's Auxiliary and the Senior Choir, as well as being a strong supporter of the Africville Genealogy Society; and

Whereas Bertha Mantley died at the age of 93 on October 28, 2013, having touched the lives of so many in her community as a mentor, spiritual advisor, counsellor, and local historian;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly extend their condolences to the family and friends of Bertha Mantley for her dedication and commitment to her community, and for her steadfast efforts to uphold and maintain the spirit of Africville during her entire lifetime.

RESOLUTION NO. 610

By: Hon. Tony Ince (Communities, Culture and Heritage)

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

Whereas Bev McGee of the James McConnell Library in Cape Breton was awarded the Emile Theriault Library and Information Technology Award during the Nova Scotia Library Association conference in Truro held in October; and

Whereas the award recognizes the efforts of a library support staff member who has made a major contribution to the library community in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas as a member of the children's staff, Ms. McGee developed and runs several children's programs, including Saturday Story Time, Babies and Books, and the Teddy Bear Sleepover, and has also been a member of the CBC Radio Canada Reads panel for 12 years;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Bev McGee on this recognition for her enthusiasm and dedication in fostering a love of reading and learning in Nova Scotians, and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 611

By: Hon. Tony Ince (Communities, Culture and Heritage)

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

Whereas Sheree Fitch, storyteller, educator, and the author of award winning poetry, picture books, nonfiction, plays, and novels for all ages, has been chosen the writer-in-residence for the 10th annual Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library 2013-2014 Writer-In-Residence at the Library program; and

Whereas Ms. Fitch's book, *Kisses Kisses Baby-O*, has been an important part of the province's Read To Me program for several years as it has been included in take-home packages given to all mothers with newborns; and

Whereas from October 2013 to April 2014 as the Writer-In-Residence, Ms. Fitch will hold workshops, mentoring sessions, author readings, and review manuscripts by appointment at the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, to encourage and support Nova Scotia writers;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Ms. Fitch on being a literacy advocate and sharing her talent with Nova Scotians and the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library for the 10th year of this program.

RESOLUTION NO. 612

By: Hon. Tony Ince (Communities, Culture and Heritage)

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

Whereas quilt artist Laurie Swim was awarded The Portia White Prize at the 8th annual Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council Awards held on October 25 at the Museum of Natural History; and

Whereas The Portia White Prize recognizes cultural and artistic excellence on the part of a Nova Scotian artist who has attained professional status, mastery, and recognition in their discipline; and

Whereas for 40 years, Ms. Swim has advanced the craft of quilting to a fine art and has carved a niche through fibre art while working in the community on issues such as The Quilt: A Breast Cancer Support Project, as well as serving on the Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council;

Therefore be it resolved that this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Ms. Swim on this prestigious award and her contribution to the art and culture of this province, and wish her much success in her future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 613

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Martha McDonald began her figure skating career in New Brunswick and later moved to Troy; and

Whereas Martha soon became an important contributor to the local figure skating scene, coaching young skaters, teaching coaching clinics, judging, and organizing competitions and events; and

Whereas Martha is now being recognized for her work through her induction to the Port Hawkesbury Sports Wall of Fame;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the leadership of Martha McDonald in building and developing figure skating in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 614

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Katrina MacDonald began managing the Admiral Lounge in Port Hood some 25 years ago; and

Whereas the Admiral remains a traditional favorite for locals and visitors alike; and

Whereas Katrina was recently recognized by the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce for her contribution to our local economy;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge Katrina MacDonald, and wish her and the Admiral Lounge every future success.

RESOLUTION NO. 615

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Patricia Van Zutphen has created a valued culinary destination for visitors to Cape Breton Island; and

Whereas Ms. Van Zutphen, owner and operator of the Clove Hitch Bistro and Four Mermaids Gift Shop in Port Hood, was recently awarded New Business of the Year by the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas Patricia's efforts are helping to develop the tourism product for an industry that employs thousands throughout our province;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge Patricia Van Zutphen for her initiative to make the visitor experience in Nova Scotia a memorable one.

RESOLUTION NO. 616

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas Yarmouth has had two provincial champion baseball teams in 2013; and

Whereas the Yarmouth Pizza Delight AA Gateways, consisting of Isaac Moore, Ryan Semple, Nolan MacDonald, Landon Clayton, Teagan Scott, Cody Howard, Vincent Surette, Max Nickerson, Gabriel Bourque, Benjamin Charles and Jeremy Charles, with coaches Paul MacDonald, Fred Charles, Mark Nickerson and Jacobie Ford, won the Atlantic Mosquito AA provincial championship in Yarmouth in September 2013; and

Whereas Yarmouth Midget AA Gateways, consisting of Ty Duffus, Nathan Bezanson, Jacob Sweeney, Brent Bezanson, top pitcher in the 2013 provincials Byron Mullen, Morgan Theriault, Jacob Smith, Dallas Donaldson, tournament MVP Bradley Berry, Alex Sears, Dylan Ross and Steve Moore, with coaches Gary Sears and Bryan Smith, won the Baseball Nova Scotia Midget AA championship held in Amherst in August 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Yarmouth Pizza Delight AA Gateways and the Yarmouth Midget AA Gateways on their championship seasons and wish them continuing success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 617

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas Hudson has a long list of accomplishments as a 14-year-old runner who won the Junior NSSAF provincial cross-country title last Fall and the intermediate title in October 2013, and holds two regional track and field records as well as setting a new NSSAF provincial record in the 800m last Spring; and

Whereas Hudson also placed first in the 1200m and 2000m events at the Athletics NS Indoor Open Meet, first in the 800m, 1500m and 3000m and anchored the 4X100m and 4X400m relays to second place finishes, and in addition, at the Atlantic Athletic Track and Field Championships in Moncton, he placed first in the 800m and 1200m races, first in the 800m, 1200m and 2000m at the Antigonish Highland Games and finally, he competed in

the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships in Langley, B.C., recording personal bests in all three events, placing fifth in the 800m and 1200m races, and anchoring the midget medley relay team to a fifth place finish with a new Nova Scotia provincial record; and

Whereas Hudson Grimshaw-Surette has earned the 2013 Yarmouth County Athlete of the Year Award that is sponsored by Tim Hortons and presented at the 37th Annual Yarmouth County Athletic Awards banquet on November 15, 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Hudson Grimshaw-Surette on his many track and field accomplishments and wish him many more successes in the future.

RESOLUTON NO. 618

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas Al Mohle and Eric Burns are a tag team for officiating bonspiels and various local events for the Yarmouth Curling Club and, as a team, provide the curling club with the expertise necessary for hosting provincial bonspiels; and

Whereas Al and Eric are dedicated officials who do whatever is necessary above and beyond their ordinary duties in order to ensure the success of local bonspiels and have trained others to become top officials; and

Whereas Al and Eric have jointly received the 2013 Yarmouth County Official of the Year Award which was sponsored by the Town of Yarmouth;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Al Mohle and Eric Burns on the receipt of the 2013 Yarmouth County Official of the Year Award and thank them for their dedication to the sport of curling in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTON NO. 619

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas in October 2013, the 92 Chebogue Sea Cadet Corps were awarded the Royal Canadian Navy Centennial Trophy as the outstanding corps in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas commanding officer Lieutenant Jeremy Bain, who has himself been involved with the sea cadet movement for 24 years, has had his corps involved in many community activities such as adoption of Water Street for a cleanup project and participation in an Interprovincial Cadet Exchange Program; and

Whereas in the Spring of 2014 the 92 Chebogue Corps will sponsor and host a large provincial cadet event expected to welcome 250 cadets;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Lieutenant Jeremy Bain and the 92 Chebogue Corps on their fine achievements and wish them well for the 2014 project.

RESOLUTION NO. 620

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas karate champion Dwayne Robicheau has been named Senior Male Kata Athlete of the Year 2013 for Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Dwayne participated in several karate championship tournaments throughout the year and has won numerous medals; and

Whereas at the Soke Cup in Hong Kong, he won a gold medal in adult male Kata, a bronze in male Kumite Kyu, and a gold as member of the championship team;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dwayne Robicheau on his many achievements in the sport of karate.

RESOLUTION NO. 621

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas Yarmouth lawyer Cliff Hood has won medals in seniors racquetball, 2nd place in 70-plus men's singles in Langley, B.C. in May 2013, and 2nd in singles 65-plus and 3rd in doubles 65-plus in Quebec; and

Whereas Cliff Hood's achievements serve to encourage our seniors to realize that a physically active life does not have to end at age 65; and

Whereas Cliff Hood has always been a respected citizen of the Town of Yarmouth;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Cliff Hood on his achievements, and wish him many more years of active life in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 622

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas Paul MacDonald of Yarmouth has earned the 2013 Yarmouth County Sport Volunteer Award; and

Whereas Paul has been heavily involved in sports for many years, including coaching the Pee wee A hockey team and coaching with the Spring and summer Atlantic Hockey Group Panthers; and

Whereas Paul co-chaired the very successful Chicks with Sticks tournament in Yarmouth, served on the board that organized the World Junior A Hockey Challenge, coached the local Mosquito AA baseball team to an Atlantic championship, and co-chaired the Play On! 4 on 4 national street hockey tournament that was hosted by Yarmouth in September 2013;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Paul MacDonald on his award, and thank him for his many examples of good citizenship.

RESOLUTION NO. 623

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas volleyball has become a major sport in the Yarmouth area; and

Whereas the Under 14 Tier I girls team from the Fusion Yarmouth-Southwest Club competed in three tournaments and won all three of them, followed by a gold medal in the Volleyball Provincials in Halifax in April 2013; and

Whereas this team, composed of Julie Phillips, Sophie Surette, Bailey Gushue, Kaithlyn Mooney, Meggie O'Brien, Renee Cleveland, Madison Burbidge, Riley

Moseley, Sydney d'Eon, Kaylie Amiro, and Kristine Babin, coached by Rickey Muise and Jacinda Amirault, had three players, Bailey Gushue, Renee Cleveland, and Julie Philips named to the tournament all-star team, with Julie Philips selected as the tournament's Most Valuable Player;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the U14 Tier I girls team from the Fusion Yarmouth-Southwest Club on their spectacular season, and wish each of the team members much success in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 624

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas the Under 14 Tier II girls volleyball team from the Fusion Yarmouth-Southwest Club competed at Provincials in Halifax, in April 2013, and brought home a gold medal; and

Whereas volleyball has become a major sport in the Yarmouth area; and

Whereas this team comprises Lauren Hunt, Saige Breton, Josiane Doucet, Sophie Atkinson, Abby Legere, Hannah Saulnier, Sarah Faulkenham, Megan McDonnell, Annika LeBlanc, Laura Jones, and Kara Inskip, with coaches Janell Stewart and Derek Lesser;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the members of the U14 Tire II girls volleyball team from the Fusion Yarmouth-Southwest Club and their coaches on their excellent 2013 season, and wish each of them much success in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 625

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas a new Needs to Deeds program has been established in the Yarmouth area as a means of helping persons who have specific needs; and

Whereas Pastor Tracy Marr and a team of volunteers have been renovating a derelict house that was bought for the program by an anonymous donor, transforming this former crack house into a combination soup kitchen/coffee house as well as a warm place

to relax and chat, and constructing an apartment for those in need of a short-time shelter; and

Whereas the Needs to Deeds aspect of the program enables persons to obtain volunteer assistance or have goods and services provided in return for a donation of some of their time;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly thank Tracy Marr and the Needs to Deeds program for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Yarmouth community, and wish them well in their continuing work.

RESOLUTION NO. 626

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas the Southwest Thunder Atom Major hockey team is this year's winners of the provincial title; and

Whereas the team comprises players Jaden Watkins, Evan Saulnier, Justin Surette, Cody Rennehan, Ben Charles, and Brandan Amiro, and coach Colin Watkins; and

Whereas these players will continue to develop their hockey skills as they mature;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the players and coach of the Southwest Thunder Atom Major hockey team and wish them well in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 627

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas the Atlantic Youth Bowlers from Yarmouth's Brunswick Lanes earned numerous awards during the past season; and

Whereas the Bantam Boys team consisting of Bryer Cunningham, Cameron Smith, and Robbie Crowell, finished 1st at both the provincials and the nationals; the Junior Boys team consisting of Will Crowell, Jesse Gallagher, and Cameron George, placed 2nd at both the provincials and the nationals; and the Senior Boys team consisting of Stephen Hubbard,

Josh Smith, and Tyler Wyman, placed 2nd at the provincials and 4th at the nationals - all teams are coached by Jason George; and

Whereas Single Senior Boy Cody Bourque won first place at both the provincials and the nationals;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Atlantic Youth Bowlers from Yarmouth's Brunswick Lanes, and their coach, on such a spectacular season and wish them continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 628

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas 15-year-old Grace McGray, of Yarmouth, was recently named the CBC Junior Entrepreneur of the Day; and

Whereas Grace has served as president of Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia, selling natural bath products at the Yarmouth Farmers' Market; is organizing a group to sell a 2014 calendar with photos related to the Yarmouth ferry, with profits going to the Friends of the Yarmouth Light Society; and participated in the Next Generation Leaders Forum at Saint Mary's University in the summer of 2013, an international conference at which 10 countries were represented; and

Whereas Grace is an accomplished actor, currently playing a starring role in a local theatre production of Camelot, and excels academically as a Grade 11 International Baccalaureate scholar and a French immersion student at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Grace McGray on her many achievements, particularly her recognition by the CBC Junior Entrepreneur of the Day program, and wish her much success in her future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 629

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Grade 9 boys basketball team won the District and Regional Championships for their division; and

Whereas the teams consists of Will Devine, Anthony Oguntade, Brett Donnelly, Greyson Smith, Ben Lyons, Carter Cunningham, Keenan Brewer, Ethan LeBlanc, Josh Watkins, and Josh Adams; and

Whereas the team is coached by Randy Fells;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the members of the Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School Grade 9 boys basketball team, and their coach, on their achievement in the 2013 basketball season and wish them continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 630

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Natural Resources)

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

Whereas the Yarmouth Thunder Bantam Boys basketball team won first place at the provincial championships in Lower Sackville in April 2013; and

Whereas the members of the team were Skyler Baxter, Lucas MacIsaac, Brayden Moses, Walter VanBuskirk, Riley Challoner, John Atwood, Bray Jones, Ryan LeBlanc, Dwayne Crowell, Mitchel Wilcox, Brogan O'Brien, Dylan Smith, and Ben Wyman-Surette; and

Whereas the team is coached by Gary Baxter and Murray Judge;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the players and coach of the Yarmouth Thunder Bantam Boys basketball team on winning a provincial championship, and wish them continuing success in their athletic endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 631

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas King's College, now known as King's-Edgehill School, first opened in Windsor in 1788 with 17 students enrolled; and

Whereas the school celebrated a special 225th Anniversary in early November, where Headmaster Joe Seagram shared some interesting historical background about the school when it first opened; and

Whereas Dr. Kevin Lynch, chancellor of the University of King's College, issued a challenge to the present students, asking them to imagine how far the world has come in the past 18 years and what changes will transpire over the next 18 years, concerning where the jobs of the future will be and anticipating what skills will lead to steady employment;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Legislative Assembly offer congratulations to Headmaster Joe Seagram, his students, and the board of directors of King's-Edgehill on the celebration of 225 years.

RESOLUTION NO. 632

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas Golf Central is located in the Windsor-West Hants Industrial Park and owned by Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame inductee Kathy Powers and Meredith Shaw; and

Whereas Kathy and Meredith visited the Brooklyn Elementary School in mid-October to donate a National Golf in Schools kit that will allow students to benefit from the National Golf in Schools Program; and

Whereas a recent Strategic Consulting report showed the game of golf contributes an estimated \$262.5 million toward Nova Scotia's gross domestic product and is responsible for almost 9,000 jobs and \$185 million in household income;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly applaud the efforts of Kathy Powers and Meredith Shaw of Golf Central for their community-minded leadership, and Brooklyn Elementary School Principal Brenda Newcombe for wanting to ensure that her students have every advantage to learn and potentially play such a popular sport.

RESOLUTION NO. 633

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas this summer the Windsor Minor Baseball Association fielded a midget-age ball club for the first time since 1999; and

Whereas Dave Shankel, the man considered to have an encyclopedia of knowledge on the game, was the team's general manager and Kelvin Wallace and Cathy Kehoe coached the club to a 19 to 4 record before losing in a provincial championship semi-final game to Pictou County; and

Whereas Coach Wallace paid tribute to one individual player in the local media, describing Cory Whitney as having "a monster season";

Therefore be it resolved that MLAs in this House of Assembly commend the Windsor Midget Baseball team for an outstanding 2013 season and wish them success in 2014.

RESOLUTION NO. 634

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas the Windsor Knights and Hantsport Shamrocks had a total of three players capture Nova Scotia Intermediate Baseball League awards for the 2013 season; and

Whereas Knights pitcher Dave Swindall was named the league's MVP and Top Pitcher after a great season on the mound, where he finished with an 8 to 2 win-loss record, set a league regular season strikeout record while hurling eight complete games, and finished with a 1.78 ERA; and

Whereas Knights Head Coach Jason Hanes from Scotch Village was named Top Coach after leading Windsor in a turnaround season in which they went 12 to 8, while Mike King, from the League Champion Hantsport Shamrocks, was the top hitter with an average of .478 while scoring 20 runs and driving in 15 more;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Legislative Assembly applaud the athletic talents of Dave, Jason, and Mike in capturing three prestigious league awards in 2013 and wish them a great 2014 season.

RESOLUTION NO. 635

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas Ellershouse is located in the Municipality of West Hants and is believed to be the only community in North America with such a name; and

Whereas the St. Louise United Church, on Maple Avenue in this historic community, hosted the third annual Photos, Festive Creations, and Gifts, entitled “In The Village,” on November 30th and December 1st; and

Whereas organizer and festival event founder Terri Lynn Blanchard says the event has grown since first being held in 2011, and she is hopeful that events such as “In the Village” will breathe new life into the village with such a rich history;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Terri Lynn and Sherri Blanchard for their optimistic community spirit and wish them continued success with their ideas and vision for historic Ellershouse.

RESOLUTION NO. 636

By: Mr. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas, unfortunately, it is at this time of season where food banks across Nova Scotia often find themselves stretched to the limit; and

Whereas food banks depend on strong community support and an excellent example of this kind of support was recently demonstrated in Hantsport when brothers Dylan and Dawson Hayman presented a cheque for \$2,732.95 to Hantsport Food Bank co-ordinator, Jo Hazel and Chris Fry, president of the society overseeing operations of the Hantsport and Area Community Food Bank; and

Whereas Dylan and Dawson held many events over the last year such as yard sales, sucker pulls, bottle and penny drives, and working with the Scotiabank in Hantsport, who matched the first \$1,000 the boys raised and helped them sell Easter bags to raise their \$2,732.95;

Therefore be it resolved all members of the Legislative Assembly recognize Dylan and Dawson Hayman for their tremendous fundraising efforts for the Hantsport and Area Community Food Bank.

RESOLUTION NO. 637

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Greg Pottier, owner, operator of Carl's Store in Tusket, was presented with the Business Marketing Award by the Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet on November 13, 2013, in Yarmouth; and

Whereas Greg Pottier runs Carl's Store, which has been in operation for 38 years employing 18 to 26 people, selling everything from groceries, hardware, sporting goods, a NSLC and Sears outlet, and has expanded, opening a store in Wedgeport; and

Whereas Greg Pottier supports local auctions, benefits, schools, Tuna Pageant, Jeux de l'Acadie, just to name a few, and is true to their motto of service with a smile and a good price above all;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Greg Pottier on getting this award, thank him for his service to the community, and wish him all the best in his new venture and the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 638

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas on September 19, 2013, The Medicine Shoppe opened its doors in Tusket; and

Whereas Monica Taylor, a pharmacist originally from East Pubnico, is the owner and operator of the national franchise, and together with registered nurse Jennifer Surette offers prescription services and personal health care; and

Whereas The Medicine Shoppe also provides blood pressure monitoring, testing for cholesterol, anticoagulant agent tests, foot care, exchange of oxygen systems, flu shots, and sells a large variety of other health products;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Monica Taylor for opening The Medicine Shoppe, thank her for her dedication to the local community, and wish her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 639

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Bonnie Shand-Symonds, of Doctor's Cove, will be celebrating her 60th birthday on December 20th at the Barrington Area Lions Hall; and

Whereas instead of receiving gifts, the occasion will become a fundraiser and charity event in support of the Rosalin Nickerson CARE Fund and needy families in the community; and

Whereas many local entertainers will be performing, raffle tickets will be drawn, donations will be accepted for a silent auction, and lobsters will be the winning prize in a draw;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Bonnie Shand-Symonds on her 60th birthday and for supporting her community.

RESOLUTION NO. 640

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the Cape Sable Island Christmas Club, a goodwill charity group from Shelburne County, has been knitting blankets, hats, mittens, scarves and socks, donating their handmade items to the Street Connection Program, in Tantallon, and local families: and

Whereas the Cape Sable Island Christmas Club has been active for 15 years, donating many items to help keep the homeless warm during the winter months, and have estimated to have knit and crocheted at least 40 blankets over the years; and

Whereas the club members have also donated their dues to charity, giving \$600 this year, and will continue to support vulnerable families in need;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Cape Sable Island Christmas Club on taking the initiative in supporting vulnerable families.

RESOLUTION NO. 641

By: Hon. Christopher d'Entremont (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Jillian, Lynsay, and Katie Thurber from Doctors Cove have contributed yearly to provide assistance to the Barrington and Area Lions Club in order to help provide funding for local charities; and

Whereas the Barrington Exhibition has been the girls' primary fundraiser, held annually in support of the local Lions Club; and

Whereas the siblings, who are all university students, remain faithful to the organization, dedicating their summer vacation to ensure that the mandate be fulfilled in providing such essentials as wheelchairs and eyeglasses to needy individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jillian, Lynsay, and Katie Thurber for their dedication and hard work in supporting the Barrington and Area Lions Club.

RESOLUTION NO. 642

By: Hon. Lena Diab (Justice)

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

Whereas on December 1st I had the pleasure of attending the Festive Family Christmas Social at the Melville Heights Retirement Residence in my riding of Halifax Armdale; and

Whereas the social was organized by the resident administrator, Irene Swindells, and the recreation coordinator, Lori Cormier, who worked tirelessly to bring together the Melville Heights residents and their families, who were able to share a delicious festive meal and treats such as cheesecake, wine, and egg nog; and

Whereas I had the opportunity to talk to many of the residents, such as Katherine Hatt, who on November 18th turned 99 and I also presented a certificate to Frances Beed,

who turned 90 in October, and she walked her way to where I was standing in the front to claim her certificate and danced her way back to her seat, and I later learned that she never walks, let alone dances, unassisted anymore, and everyone was as delighted and shocked as she was;

Therefore be it resolved that we thank Irene and Lori for putting on a great event that brought families together and that we wish the residents at Melville Heights a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

RESOLUTION NO. 643

By: Ms. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas on November 12, 2013, Atlantic Acura had its grand reopening in its newly-renovated location, 30 Bedford Highway; and

Whereas Bruce Hill and his team are a long-standing business in the Fairview-Clayton Park community; and

Whereas Atlantic Acura and Bruce Hill put on an impressive reopening ceremony;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate the team at Atlantic Acura and wish them success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 644

By: Ms. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas École Burton Ettinger has joined one of 12 schools across Nova Scotia to partake in the Green School project, and has made significant efforts to create an environment that is both healthy for students and environmentally green; and

Whereas the elementary school's Green Team has made strides toward an environmentally-responsible school both inside and out through their outdoor classroom space - the bog, complete with native species designed for the wetland; the butterfly gardens; the vegetable beds; orchards; and a mini forest with a natural amphitheatre - and inside the school the Green Team has worked on projects for energy conservation and improving waste management; and

Whereas the surrounding community has been positively influenced by the school's efforts through the creation of the green space, and the area around the school is attracting parents and children to a green park to play;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly commend École Burton Ettinger and its Green Team for their contributions to their school and to their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 645

By: Mr. Keith Irving (Kings South)

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

Whereas Dylan and Dawson Hayman of Hants Border, with the support of their mother, Karen Hayman, have donated \$2,733 to the Hantsport and Area Community Food Bank by organizing yard sales and bottle drives and through a partnership with Scotiabank; and

Whereas the Hantsport and Area Community Food Bank presented the boys with Great Volunteer Award Certificates; and

Whereas the Hayman family undertakes an annual fundraising project for the benefit of the community;

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly thank the Hayman family for their generosity, hard work, and continued commitment to their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 646

By: Mr. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Hammonds Plains Farmers' Market was launched on November 7th of this year at the Hammonds Plains Community Centre; and

Whereas the mission of the Farmers' Market is to encourage healthy and sustainable lifestyle choices, which support the local economy and the well-being of the people who live there; and

Whereas each Thursday the market features a number of local vendors featuring a variety of local foods and dishes and has been an overwhelming success to date, showing the tremendous support the community has for local businesses and entrepreneurs and featuring 100 per cent Nova Scotia food, farmed and produced here at home;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the organizers, vendors, and volunteers, who have made the Hammonds Plains Farmers' Market a success, and wish them well in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 647

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Siobhan MacDonald was chosen to represent Nova Scotia as a member of the Nova Scotia Sailing Team for the 2013 Canada Games; and

Whereas Siobhan's hard work earned her an opportunity to compete with some of Canada's best athletes while representing Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Canada Games feature the best athletes across the country and Siobhan has earned her place as one of these athletes;

Therefore be it resolves that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Siobhan MacDonald's dedication and hard work that earned her the opportunity to represent Nova Scotia at the 2013 Canada Games.

RESOLUTION NO. 648

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas James Gillis was chosen to represent Nova Scotia as a member of the Nova Scotia Track and Field Team for the 2013 Canada Games; and

Whereas James' hard work earned him a bronze medal for the high jump while representing Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Canada Games feature the best athletes across the country and James has earned his place as one of these athletes;

Therefore be it resolves that all members of this House of Assembly recognize James Gillis' dedication and hard work that earned him the opportunity to represent Nova Scotia at the 2013 Canada Games.

RESOLUTION NO. 649

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Hayley Wilson was chosen to represent Nova Scotia as a member of the Nova Scotia Track and Field Team for the 2013 Canada Games; and

Whereas Hayley's hard work earned her an opportunity to compete with some of Canada's best athletes while representing Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Canada Games feature the best athletes across the country and Hayley has earned her place as one of these athletes;

Therefore be it resolves that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Hayley Wilson's dedication and hard work that earned her the opportunity to represent Nova Scotia at the 2013 Canada Games.

RESOLUTION NO. 650

By: Mr. Allan MacMaster (Inverness)

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

Whereas Brooke Hawley was chosen to represent Nova Scotia as a member of the Nova Scotian Women's Softball Team for the 2013 Canada Games; and

Whereas Brooke's hard work earned her an opportunity to compete with some of Canada's best athletes while representing Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Canada Games feature the best athletes across the country and Brooke has earned her place as one of these athletes;

Therefore be it resolves that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Brooke Hawley's dedication and hard work that earned her the opportunity to represent Nova Scotia at the 2013 Canada Games.

RESOLUTION NO. 651

By: Hon. Randy Delorey (Environment)

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

Whereas in October, the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce held its annual Business Awards during Small Business Week; and

Whereas the Ian Spencer Excellence in Business Award went to Eastern Sanitation Limited, a full-service waste management company that has been involved with the development of provincial regulations for composting and blue bag recycling; and

Whereas this award is named in memory of Ian Spencer and is in recognition of his commitment to bridge the gap between business and the community;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jeff Dee and his business Eastern Sanitation Limited on winning the Ian Spencer Excellence in Business Award.

RESOLUTION NO. 652

By: Hon. Randy Delorey (Environment)

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

Whereas in October, the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce held its annual Business Awards during Small Business Week; and

Whereas the individual who won the Outstanding Customer Service Award was Pauline Doyle, a long-time cosmetician at Shoppers Drug Mart who is friendly and knowledgeable and always willing to help, as proven by her dedication to take her talent to St. Martha's Regional Hospital once a month to host workshops on how to apply makeup for cancer patients; and

Whereas this award is designed to turn the spotlight on an employee who has demonstrated outstanding customer service to their customers;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Pauline Doyle on winning the Outstanding Customer Service Award and for always looking after others.

RESOLUTION NO. 653

By: Hon. Randy Delorey (Environment)

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

Whereas in October, the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce held its annual Business Awards during Small Business Week, where Kelly Farrell was the recipient of the Young Entrepreneur Award; and

Whereas the experienced aesthetician works out of her shop but also spends half of her time travelling to her clients, whether it is their home, a nursing home, or a hospital with her business, Divine Beauty Mobile Esthetics; and

Whereas this award is designed to recognize youth who have excelled in the development and enhancement of the economic infrastructure, and contributed to the prosperity and well-being of Antigonish through entrepreneurship;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Kelly Farrell on winning the Young Entrepreneur Award.

RESOLUTION NO. 654

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Morgan Bona, a 16-year-old student from Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre, has been awarded the RCMP Port Hawkesbury Outstanding Youth Award; and

Whereas Morgan has been a member of the RCMP-SAERC Joint Youth Council and is the Nova Scotia representative to the RCMP Youth DEAL.org program; and

Whereas Morgan has been a member of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and has been involved in anti-bullying campaigns;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Morgan on winning this prestigious award.

RESOLUTION NO. 655

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Morgan Bona, a 16-year-old student from Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre, has been awarded the RCMP Port Hawkesbury Outstanding Youth Award; and

Whereas Morgan has been a member of the RCMP-SAERC Joint Youth Council and is the Nova Scotia representative to the RCMP Youth DEAL.org program; and

Whereas Morgan has been a member of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and has been involved in anti-bullying campaigns;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Morgan on winning this prestigious award.

RESOLUTION NO. 656

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce held its Small Business Week awards night and banquet on October 16, 2013 at the Civic Centre in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas A-1 Gutter Systems was named to the Chamber's Club 25, which represents their having done business in the Strait Area for more than 25 years; and

Whereas owner and operator Terry Samson and son Brent Samson accepted the award on behalf of the company;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the owners and staff of A-1 Gutter systems on this well-deserved honour.

RESOLUTION NO. 657

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce held its Small Business Week awards night and banquet on October 16, 2013 at the Civic Centre in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas The ROC Society was named to the Chamber's Club 25, which represents their having done business in the Strait Area for more than 25 years; and

Whereas The ROC Society was represented by Executive Director Diana Poirier, board members Carleen Smith and Carl Beaton, and Board President Juleen MacEachern;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating everyone involved with The ROC Society on this impressive honour.

RESOLUTION NO. 658

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas as part of Human Rights Day 2013 the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission created the Dr. Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones Human Rights Award in line with this year's theme Speak Up Against Discrimination; and

Whereas Margaret Mauger, Executive Director of the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, has been named as one of the first two recipients of the Dr. Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones Human Rights Award; and

Whereas since October 2010, and after five years as a volunteer for the CSAC Board of Directors, Margaret Mauger has become known for her non-discriminatory work with survivors of sexual assault and sexual abuse, as well as her dedicated service educating people on the issues of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and for her efforts in lobbying for change by working with local colleges, schools, and service providers;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Margaret Mauger as one of the first recipients of the Dr. Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones Human Rights Award and thank her for her commitment to serving and advocating for the needs of the victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse.

RESOLUTION NO. 659

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas on October 17, 2013, IARC, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, being part of the World Health Organization, announced that it has classified outdoor air pollution as a Group 1 carcinogen in a report compiled by a working group of the world's leading experts convened by the IARC Monographs Programme, the world's authoritative source of scientific evidence on exposures to cancer-causing substances; and

Whereas this is the first time experts have unequivocally classified air pollution as a leading cause of cancer and represents an important step for mankind while levels of exposure vary between locations, after evaluating the air everyone breathes from studies on five continents, the conclusions apply to all regions of the world; and

Whereas the main sources of particulate matter and other substances found in outdoor air pollution are transportation, stationary power generation, residential heating, and emissions from all industries, positive action is indeed possible according to IARC's Director, Dr. Christopher Wild who is quoted saying, "There are effective ways to reduce air pollution and, given the scale of the exposure affecting people worldwide, this report should send a strong signal to the international community to take action without further delay";

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia come together and agree that it is time to clear the air, not just here inside Province House but outdoors as well, for the well-being and safety of future generations of Nova Scotians.

RESOLUTION NO. 660

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas since January 2001 Colchester East Hants Health Authority has been delivering many services such as Colchester Regional Hospital, Lillian Fraser Hospital, East Hants Resource Centre, Public Health, Mental Health and Addictions Services, primary health care, and continuing care services to 73,000 residents of Colchester County and the Municipality of East Hants; and

Whereas Colchester East Hants Health Authority is very proactive in creating new benefits for its services recipients such as welcoming spaces for breastfeeding families and staff, free Stand Up for Healthy Living community information sessions via the Telehealth network, a new bi-monthly dermatology clinic, educational classes on high blood pressure, a 10-week cardiac maintenance program that just celebrated its first graduating class, and the recent opening of The Serenity Room at Colchester Regional Hospital where cancer patients and their families can go for resources, information, and comfort; and

Whereas Colchester East Hants Health Authority is an example of why it is so important that government not cut the number of health boards in Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Colchester East Hants Health Authority on the good work they do in providing health services to the residents of Colchester County and the Municipality of East Hants.

RESOLUTION NO. 661

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce presented their 2013 Small Business Awards on Thursday, October 24th; and

Whereas Sharon Corcoran, real estate broker and owner of Remax Fairlane Realty, won the Business Achievement Award, and Kim Langille, owner of Healthy Habit Health Store, won the Small Business of the Year Award; and

Whereas Sarah Howlett, owner of Soul Eco Salon, won the New Small Business of the Year Award, and Dale Toole of Dalton Industries in Bible Hill won the Exporter of the Year Award;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Sharon Corcoran, Kim Langille, Sarah Howlett, and Dale Toole, on being chosen as recipients of these awards from the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, and wish each of them continued business success.

RESOLUTION NO. 662

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Somebeachsomewhere is a standardbred racehorse who entered the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame nine months after finishing his racing career; and

Whereas Somebeachsomewhere accumulated over \$3.2 million in 21 races, breaking both timing and earnings records; four world records, including the fastest mile in the history of the sport; was named harness racing's racehorse of the decade; was featured in CBC's The National; and was named Newsmaker of the Year for Nova Scotia in 2008 by CBC - as well as being the first-ever Canadian-sired U.S. Horse of the Year; and

Whereas Somebeachsomewhere, owned by Brent McGrath, Gary Pye, Stu Rath, Reg Pettipas, Jamie Bagnell, and Pamela Dean, of Schooner Stables in Truro, has been inducted into the Colchester County Sport Hall of Fame in Truro;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the owners of Somebeachsomewhere on their success, and acknowledge Somebeachsomewhere as a great ambassador for Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 663

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Wayne Burns, a Truro native, is studying acting at the National Theatre School of Canada, in Montreal; and

Whereas Wayne Burns made his film debut in Blackbird, which won awards at TIFF and Cannes, played a role in All the Wrong Reasons, which was chosen as an official selection for TIFF this year, and he is a past recipient of a Theatre Nova Scotia Award for 2011 and 2012; and

Whereas Wayne Burns was awarded a Nova Scotia Talent Trust 2013 Scholarship;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Wayne Burns on being chosen for a Nova Scotia Talent Trust scholarship, and offer best wishes for continued success in his studies and in his future career in the arts.

RESOLUTION NO. 664

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Stephen Marshall of Millbrook is one of three Maritimers featured in Wild Food, a half-hour documentary written and directed by award-winning Halifax filmmaker Lorna Kirk and produced by Edward Peill of Tell Tale Productions Inc. in Halifax, that aired on CBC TV's Land and Sea on Sunday, December 8, 2013; and

Whereas Nova Scotia has more than 75 naturally occurring plants, 24 types of berries, and 31 varieties of edible mushrooms growing in its forests and meadows; and

Whereas Stephen Marshall forages as part of his traditional way of life, so that he not only keeps the tradition alive but is able to share it with new generations of Nova Scotians;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Stephen Marshall on being part of the Wild Food documentary, for his contribution to public awareness of natural foods in Nova Scotia, and for keeping the native tradition of foraging alive for future generations.

RESOLUTION NO. 665

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Dennis Boudreau, president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, Henry Vissers, executive director, and Kathryn Bremner, Environment Farm Plan (EFP) Team manager, are all very proud of the Environmental Farm Stewardship Award, which is in its fifth year of recognizing the dedication and commitment that Nova Scotia farmers have for protecting our environment; and

Whereas the Environmental Farm Stewardship Award was established to showcase the kinds of things farmers are doing to protect the water, soil, and the air that all Nova Scotians enjoy; and

Whereas this year's finalists were Dan and Karen Mullen of Aviator Farms Ltd. of Waterville, Bruce Ewert and Pauline Scott of L'Acadie Vineyard of Gaspereau, and winner of this year's award was Gilberte and Siegmur Doelle of Wild Rose Farm in Digby;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture for the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program which was created through a partnership of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Nova Scotia Environmental Farm Plan Team, and the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and for the Environmental Farm Stewardship Award and its commitment to highlight producers who make land, water, and habitat

stewardship a significant part of their farm operations - and the Nova Scotia Legislature also congratulates the three finalists in this year's awards.

RESOLUTION NO. 666

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Cobequid Educational Centre's International Baccalaureate program takes part in a service project each year; and

Whereas this year's students decided to raise money for the people of the Philippines whose lives were destroyed by typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, by making and collecting ornaments, cards, jewelry, scarves, cushions, and baked goods to sell at the Truro Farmers' Market and at an afternoon flea market at CEC; and

Whereas the Grade 10 and 11 students shivered in the cold, early-morning air on Saturday, November 30, 2013, to help others and to take advantage of the Canadian Government's commitment to match donations made before December 9th, which will be sent to the Red Cross to help with search and rescue and emergency supplies;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Cobequid Educational Centre, and in particular the Grade 10 and 11 students in the International Baccalaureate program who participated in this effort of service to the people of the Philippines in their time of need.

RESOLUTION NO. 667

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas James (Jim) Carroll spent 38 years with the Royal Canadian Navy before his retirement in April of 1996 and death in June of 1996, which led to his wife, Marilyn Carroll, becoming involved with the new Navy League Cadet Corps 185 CPO James Carroll, established in her husband's honour in Truro that same year; and

Whereas Marilyn Carroll completed her first term as Cadet Corps President in 2002 and returned for a second term as president in 2007; and

Whereas Marilyn Carroll was presented with the Navy League of Canada Distinguished Service Award in October 2013, and has since retired as president of the Truro Branch Navy League of Canada, but remains involved as past president and as a member of the board;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Marilyn Carroll on being awarded the Navy League of Canada Distinguished Service Award and thank her for her service and dedication to the Nova Scotia cadet movement.

RESOLUTION NO. 668

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas as a young girl, Robyn Harrison of Truro was a frequent performer at the Kiwanis Music Festival and is now a third-year student at Toronto's Sheridan College in the musical theatre program; and

Whereas Robyn spent this past summer in the two-month-long Charlottetown Festival's Young Company, where she was awarded a \$3,000 Summit Award; and

Whereas Robyn Harrison was also awarded a Nova Scotia Talent Trust 2013 Scholarship;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature congratulate Robyn Harrison on being chosen for a Nova Scotia Talent Trust Scholarship and wish her continued success in her studies and in her future career in the arts.

RESOLUTION NO. 669

By: Ms. Lenore Zann (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas on October 17, 2013, IARC, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, being part of the World Health Organization, announced that it has classified outdoor air pollution as a Group 1 carcinogen in a report compiled by a working group of the world's leading experts convened by the IARC Monographs Programme, the world's authoritative source of scientific evidence on exposures to cancer-causing substances; and

Whereas this is the first time experts have unequivocally classified air pollution as a leading cause of cancer and represents an important step for mankind, and while levels of exposure vary between locations, after evaluating the air everyone breathes from studies on five continents, the conclusions apply to all regions of the world; and

Whereas the main sources of particulate matter and other substances found in outdoor air pollution are transportation, stationary power generation, residential heating, and emissions from all industries, and positive action is indeed possible according to IARC's director, Dr. Christopher Wild, who is quoted as saying, "There are effective ways to reduce air pollution and, given the scale of the exposure affecting people worldwide, this report should send a strong signal to the international community to take action without further delay";

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia come together to decide that it is time to clear the air, not just here inside Province House but outdoors as well, for the well-being and safety of future generation of Nova Scotians.

RESOLUTION NO. 670

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas at 17 years of age Jamie Freeman, a lifeguard, swim instructor, daycare worker, and recent high school graduate has focused his athletic skills and caring nature toward after-school employment protecting and teaching children; and

Whereas Jamie saved the life of a child by putting his training into practice, expeditiously pulling the youngster from a pool, resuscitating him, and having him taken to hospital; and

Whereas IWK staff confirmed that the child's survival was a result of Jamie's quick thinking and abilities;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Jamie Freeman for his astute actions and wish him every success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 671

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas the Annapolis Valley Giant Vegetable Growers held their fifth annual weigh-off at Glad Gardens in Waterville on September 28, 2013; and

Whereas the organization exists to promote agricultural awareness in the Annapolis Valley through the hobby of backyard giant vegetable growing, and is the only weigh-off in Atlantic Canada that has a dedicated children's class to promote future growers; and

Whereas Fred Ansems set the club's first world record for the longest gourd, measuring 139.25 inches, which won first place for the heaviest pumpkin and placed first in several other categories, helping immensely to put the AVGVG on the map;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate Fred Ansems on this outstanding feat and wish him every success in future.

RESOLUTION NO. 672

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas Alex Rawding, a 17-year-old from Greenwood and member of Launchers Athletics in Port Williams, represented Nova Scotia at the 2013 Legion Canadian Youth Championships in Langley, British Columbia; and

Whereas Alex has devoted himself to years of physical and technical training to compete at the national level; and

Whereas Alex threw a discus 51.29 meters to earn the gold medal;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Alex Rawding for his achievement and wish him success in future competitions and endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 673

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas Donna Shunamon played such an important role in the daily operations of the RCMP detachment during her husband's assignment in Grand Manan, while at the same time she worked as a nurse in the remote island community; and

Whereas the work Donna performed ensured that the detachment stayed open and offered continuous service to the community when her husband was on call and away from the station; and

Whereas Donna performed all such duties without remuneration, yet without whom the RCMP detachment could not have functioned smoothly or be open full-time, and Donna was presented by the RCMP with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Second Man Award for her contributions;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly offer their appreciation to Donna Shunamon for her volunteer service and congratulate her on her RCMP award.

RESOLUTION NO. 674

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have been monitoring weather for 100 years at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Centre in Kentville, and the data collected at the centre has contributed extensively and without interruption to Environment Canada's national research as part of the Reference Climate Station Network, and has increased awareness and understanding about Canada's climate system; and

Whereas the data from the weather monitoring system serves a specialized function for local agriculture researchers on a daily basis; and

Whereas the research station is one of only a few in the nation to have offered invaluable weather information service for 100 years and has been recognized by Environment Canada for this accomplishment;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate staff of the Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Centre for this milestone achievement and for continued contributions to Canadian research.

RESOLUTION NO. 675

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas Jim Sherrard and Elsie Parrish have dedicated their time and energy to helping others; and

Whereas Jim and Elsie work tirelessly, collecting items throughout the Valley to host a perpetual weekend yard sale at their home selling their wares, and they are recognized for their efforts by their community peers; and

Whereas Jim and Elsie donate all of their yard sale proceeds to charities such as the Children's Wish Foundation, Valley Search and Rescue, Eastern Star, Berwick Foodbank, and many more;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly recognize Jim Sherrard and Elsie Parrish for their hard work and devotion in their service to others.

RESOLUTION NO. 676

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Health and Wellness)

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

Whereas 17-year-old Grade 12 student Kirkland Huntley is a member of the 2444 Kings County Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps; and

Whereas Kirkland has demonstrated excellence in physical fitness, leadership, and motivation; and

Whereas Kirkland's proven abilities earned him a position in the highly competitive and demanding Canadian Army Basic Parachutist Course among Canada's top-performing Army cadets, and he is only the second member of his local corps to earn his Wings in three years;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate Kirkland Huntley on his exemplary achievements and on receiving his Wings.

RESOLUTION NO. 677

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Labour and Advanced Education)

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

Whereas three Halifax volunteer firefighters have received national decorations for bravery following a daring rescue at Peggy's Cove in 2010; and

Whereas Jason Sparkes, Greg Kutney, and Randy Johnson were about to venture into the sea to look for a man who was reported washed off the rocks when an RCMP constable, also on the scene, was swept into the water; and

Whereas the three men, despite being unable to locate the reported victim, managed to pull the police officer to safety from the icy ocean;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this house of Assembly congratulate Jason Sparkes, Greg Kutney, and Randy Johnson for risking their lives to save others, and for the award presented by Governor General David Johnston in Ottawa on Thursday, December 5th.

RESOLUTION NO. 678

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce held its Small Business Week Awards night and banquet on October 16, 2013, at the Civic Centre in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas Shawn MacColl of Papa's Pub in Port Hawkesbury received the Outstanding Customer Service Award;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in saluting Mr. MacColl for his continued excellence in customer service.

RESOLUTION NO. 679

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas L'Ardoise native and current Halifax resident Leona Burkey has completed a new album; and

Whereas the six-track EP is called The Margaret Marie EP; and

Whereas the first single is titled The Calgary Song and deals with the exodus of Maritimers in search of employment out West;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Leona Burkey on the accomplishment.

RESOLUTION NO. 680

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Emergency Health Services Exemplary Service Medal was created in 1994 to recognize people who work in high-risk jobs that enhance Canada's public safety; and

Whereas on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, seventeen Nova Scotia paramedics were awarded the Exemplary Service Medal; and

Whereas Kevin Boudreau, a paramedic from Arichat, was one of the recipients;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate Kevin for the award, and thank him for his years of service.

RESOLUTION NO. 681

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas Isle Madame resident Kenny Petitpas won the 103.5 talent search; and

Whereas his cover of a Randy Travis song earned him a recording session at Soundpark Studios in Sydney; and

Whereas Mr. Petitpas is working on a new CD of original music to share with his many fans;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly congratulate Kenny Petitpas on this award, and wish him the best of luck on his musical endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 682

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Friday, October 11, 2013, in Arichat; and

Whereas to celebrate the occasion the Isle Madame Volunteer Fire Department held an open house, where they demonstrated firefighting techniques and displayed equipment;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly thank the volunteer firemen of Isle Madame, and everywhere else in the province, for their dedication and bravery.

RESOLUTION NO. 683

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas the 14th annual Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence were held October 16th in Halifax; and

Whereas the Resource Recovery Fund Board has named East Richmond Education Centre in St. Peters its school of the year; and

Whereas 40 staff members and 300 students have worked together to drastically decrease organic waste going into garbage, start a garden, and keep their action plan working smoothly;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the students and staff of East Richmond Education Centre on the well-deserved award.

RESOLUTION NO. 684

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas on Saturday, October 19, 2013, the Children's Wish Foundation held a Children's Wish Walk in St. Peters; and

Whereas the event raised \$8,423 of almost \$200,000 total province-wide; and

Whereas dozens of children and adults were joined by costumed characters like Shrek, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, and my personal favorite, The Cat in the Hat;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in thanking everyone involved for their hard work.

RESOLUTION NO. 685

By: Hon. Michel Samson (Economic and Rural Development and Tourism)

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

Whereas The Strait Area Chamber of Commerce held its Small Business Week awards night and banquet on October 16, 2013, at the Civic Centre in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas Lisa and Brian Boudreau of Arichat were presented with the Excellence in Business award; and

Whereas the Boudreaus are the proud owners of three successful businesses: Caper Fuels, Boudreau's Fuels, and Home Grown Rewards;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Lisa and Brian Boudreau on this impressive honour.