



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Second Session

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

Sixty-second General Assembly

Second Session

1:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ms. Margaret Miller

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before we begin the daily routine, I will present a Speaker's Ruling on a couple of outstanding points of order. These were raised last week by the honourable Acting Leader of the New Democratic Party, which I had taken under advisement at that time.

SPEAKER'S RULING:

In Prem.'s absence from QP, Opposition advised that Dep. Prem. Would take questions; she was not permitted to do so. (Pt. of order by Hon. M. MacDonald [Hansard p.6125, Nov. 25/15]) Not a point of order.

No evidence the Dep. Prem. Was prevented from answering.

With respect to who responds to questions, the Speaker has no authority to compel a particular minister to respond - any minister may respond. Not a point of order.

The first was raised on November 25th. The honourable member advised that the Opposition had received notice that the Premier would not be available for Question Period that day and that questions to the Premier would be taken by the Deputy Premier on his behalf. Her complaint was that the Deputy Premier had not been permitted to answer questions on the Premier's behalf.

An examination of Hansard discloses that a number of questions directed to the Deputy Premier in place of the Premier were answered by the Minister of Energy. There is nothing in Hansard that suggests the Deputy Premier was prevented from answering.

With respect to the issue of who responds to questions during Question Period, O'Brien and Bosc provides on Page 509 as follows:

Questions, although customarily addressed to specific Ministers, are directed to the Ministry as a whole. It is the prerogative of the government to designate which Minister responds to which question, and the Speaker has no authority to compel a particular Minister to respond. The Prime Minister (or the Deputy Prime Minister or any other Minister acting on behalf of the Prime Minister) may respond to any or all questions posed during Question Period. Only one Minister may respond to a question, and it need not be the one to whom the question is addressed who actually answers it.

The answering of questions by the Minister of Energy would have been on behalf of the ministry. Accordingly, it is my ruling that there is no point of order on this matter.

SPEAKER'S RULING:

Statement by Prem. That the Speaker had ruled the Acting Leader of the NDP had misled the House. The Acting Leader of the NDP asserts that the Speaker did not rule that she had misled the House, and also that the Allegation of misleading the House is unparliamentary. (Pt. of order by Hon. M. MacDonald [Hansard p.6256, Nov. 26/15]) Not a point of order.

The second point of order was raised on November 26th. The honourable member, the Acting Leader of the New Democratic Party, took issue with a statement by the Premier to the effect that I, as Speaker, had ruled that she had misled the House. The ruling in question simply held that the Premier had not sworn in the House as she thought she heard. It did not say she had misled the House.

That being said, an allegation that a member has misled the House is not necessarily unparliamentary, particularly if it does not state an intent to mislead. I conclude that we are not dealing with a point of order but rather a disagreement between members over facts.

We'll now move on with the daily routine.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. DIANA WHALEN: Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Law Amendments, I am directed to report that the committee has met and considered the following bills:

Bill No. 127 - Labour Standards Code.

Bill No. 128 - Labour Standards Code.

Bill No. 129 - Securities Act.

Bill No. 130 - Community of Sackville Landfill Compensation Act.

Bill No. 135 - Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act.

and the committee recommends these bills to the favourable consideration of the House, each without amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Ordered that these bills be referred to the Committee of the Whole on Bills.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS****GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

RESOLUTION NO. 2543

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

Whereas since 1985 there have been 811 diagnosed cases of HIV in Nova Scotia;
and

Whereas estimates show that nearly 25 per cent of people with HIV do not know they are infected, as discrimination and stigma continue to discourage people from being tested and seeking the care they need; and

Whereas the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS works to advance prevention, early testing, and diagnostic services to improve life expectancy and quality of life for those living with HIV/AIDS;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House recognize today, December 1, 2015, as World AIDS Day here in the Province of Nova Scotia.

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

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

Is it agreed?

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 Business.

HON. MARK FUREY: I rise on behalf of the Premier and request permission to make an introduction from the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. FUREY: Joining us today in the gallery are Norbert and Helga Sattler, as well as Sue Obata. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Norbert, Helga, and Sue have worked very hard to create a unique stained-glass window, and the results, frankly, are stunning. This artistic trio has painstakingly recreated the Nova Scotia coat of arms in stained glass. You'll see the stained glass is placed at the top of the stairs on the third floor, and it is quite remarkable. Their work not only enhances this Legislature but captures and preserves a piece of history for future generations to enjoy.

I ask my colleagues and invite the full Legislature to offer its warmest welcome and sincere appreciation to these incredibly talented individuals. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Business.

RESOLUTION NO. 2544

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

Whereas Norbert and Helga Sattler moved to Nova Scotia from Germany in 1993 to start a stained-glass art studio in West LaHave, Lunenburg County; and

Whereas the couple has enjoyed tremendous success over the past 22 years, creating, restoring, and installing traditional and contemporary stained-glass artwork throughout North America and even as far away as Hawaii; and

Whereas the Sattlers teamed up with artist Sue Obata to create a one-of-a-kind representation of the Nova Scotia coat of arms for this very Legislature, in a process that required each and every piece to be hand-painted and fired several times;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize these three very talented people for their artistic contribution to Nova Scotia and for their work to enhance Province House.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 141 - Entitled an Act to Implement an Electricity Plan. (Hon. Michel Samson)

Bill No. 142 - Entitled an Act to Ensure Economic Growth in Nova Scotia. (Hon. Jamie Baillie)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

LOBSTER SEASON (DIST. 33 & 34) - TRAGEDY (11/30/15)

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Nova Scotians were reminded of the power of the ocean when they learned of the tragic death of a fisherman off our shores yesterday.

Monday marked the first day of the lobster season in Districts 33 and 34. Optimism for a good season soon turned to sorrow when the news broke that three men had gone overboard and that one man had perished.

Nova Scotians live on and by the sea, and yesterday's tragedy is deeply felt by every family who has a father, a daughter or sister, a son or brother, who goes out to fish. At this sad time I know that the thoughts and prayers of all MLAs are with the family, friends, and co-workers of the man who passed away yesterday and, of course, we wish them our best.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

LOBSTER FISHERMAN: DEATH OF (11/30/15) - SYMPATHY EXPRESS

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Nova Scotia NDP to pass along our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of a lobster fisherman who did not make it home yesterday.

The open water is symbolic of the complexity of life. It is beautiful, serene, yet harsh and unforgiving; it can provide a livelihood for you and your family while posing a real risk of death. It is during these tragic times that we also see the complexity of rural Nova Scotia. The tightknit nature of communities means that all will share in the grief of the loss of a loved one; however it is the sense of community that will also help to give people the courage to go forward.

I wish the men and women strength during these difficult times, to work hard and to be safe and to remember those who did not make it home.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

FRASER, SEAN: HOUSE OF COMMONS - SEAT

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Madam Speaker, before a duly elected Member of Parliament can take his or her seat and vote in the House of Commons, a member must

first take an oath or make a solemn affirmation of allegiance or loyalty to the sovereign and sign what is called the “test roll”. The duly-elected Member of Parliament for Central Nova, Sean Fraser, was in Ottawa yesterday, Monday, November 30, 2015, to take that oath or affirmation and sign his name to the test roll.

Madam Speaker, you and my colleagues know as well as I do what an honour and special occasion it is to be officially sworn in and become a part of history. As elected representatives, we have the privilege of representing our constituents and being part of the decision-making process that affects the lives of so many Nova Scotians and Canadians.

On December 3, 2015, the first session of the 42nd Parliament is scheduled to open and Sean Fraser will take his seat in the House of Commons for the first time. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sean in becoming MP for Central Nova, and to say that I look forward to working with him as we represent our shared constituents.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**RYAN, ANGELA & CYNTHIA/DART. & DIST. PIPE BAND
- WORLD PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise to congratulate Angela Ryan and Cynthia Ryan, members of the Dartmouth and District Pipe Band, for placing fourth in the World Pipe Band Championships. The championships took place in Scotland and featured a field of 242 pipe bands from around the world.

The Dartmouth and District Pipe Band is well-known throughout Nova Scotia and Canada and is currently celebrating its 50th year. Angela and Cynthia are formerly from Pictou; they are the daughters of Jim and Shawn Ryan of Pictou. I am honoured to congratulate Angela and Cynthia and all the members of the pipe band on the best competition result in the band’s history. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Chester-St. Margaret’s.

PARIS SUMMIT: ATTENDEES - CONGRATS.

HON. DENISE PETERSON-RAFUSE: Madam Speaker, after a decade of the Harper Government where Canada won fossil awards for inaction on climate change, it’s time for Canada to commit to ambitious action to tackle climate change at the UN Convention in Paris. New Democrats are calling for firm targets to reduce carbon pollution and a real plan to meet those targets.

I would like to congratulate all the provincial Premiers who are attending the Paris Summit: Alberta’s Rachel Notley; Prince Edward Island Premier Wade MacLauchlan; Ontario’s Kathleen Wynne; Saskatchewan’s Brad Wall; Quebec’s Philippe Couillard; and

British Columbia's Christy Clark. Unfortunately, our Premier apparently has no plans - perhaps that why he's afraid to be seen with his colleagues from across the country. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

HATS, MITTS & SOCKS CAMPAIGN: MLAs - PROMOTE

MR. IAIN RANKIN: Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize a local initiative, the Hats, Mitts, and Socks Campaign, started four years ago by Faye Edwards and her family from Lewis Lake. The family set up a Facebook site that now has close to 1,400 members. The purpose of the group is to collect donations of money and or hats, mitts, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, et cetera, to be distributed to homeless shelters in HRM.

Last year was their biggest year yet, they were able to fill 200 bags with brand new socks, mitts and hats, candy, toothbrushes, toothpaste, et cetera. They also filled 20 or more backpacks with blankets and school supplies for the Turning Point Bingo. This year a new Facebook page was added and will be managed by Cindy and Shelby Landry. Hats, Mitts and Socks Campaign online auction with the hope of increasing the reaching impact of this wonderful grassroots initiative.

I would encourage all members of this Nova Scotia House of Assembly to promote the Hats, Mitts and Socks Campaign Facebook pages in their ridings so that others can show their generosity of spirit to those less fortunate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

**KAREN LYNN MACDONALD ALLERGY AWARENESS SOC.:
EXEC./DIRECTORS - ACKNOWLEDGE**

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Madam Speaker, Karen Lynn MacDonald made an incredible impact in her community and province before an untimely passing at the age of just 26 years old as a result of anaphylactic shock due to ingestion of peanut oil. At the time of her passing, she was already an accomplished musician and teacher.

A dedicated group of volunteers recognized that something had to be done to keep Karen's legacy alive and the Karen Lynn MacDonald Allergy Awareness Society was born. For 10 years they have been raising money and distributing EpiPens to those who need them but cannot afford them. Their main fundraising activity is a monthly fundraising concert. This weekend they hosted an amazing evening to celebrate their 10th Anniversary, featuring the Dock Gang, Heather Cameron, Robyn Thompson, Chantal Saulnier and Ray Stewart.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this house acknowledge the society's executive and directors for their incredible dedication to helping others: Joan MacDonald, Janice MacDonald, Karen LeBlanc, Heather Stewart, Krista MacGregor, Shirley Dewtie, Elaine Delaney and Marie MacDonald. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

HOPE BLOOMS/ATLANTIC SUPERSTORE - PARTNERSHIP

HON. MAUREEN MACDONALD: Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise as the MLA for Halifax Needham, because I, like many residents of North End Halifax, have watched with great pride the activities of the youth-run social enterprise Hope Blooms. This feeling was no different last Thursday when Hope Blooms announced their partnership with Loblaw's to bring Hope Blooms' salad dressings to four Atlantic Superstores.

This partnership comes after this Liberal Government made the decision to cut funding to Hope Blooms. The partnership with the Atlantic Superstores will greatly enhance the amazing work already being done and bring Hope Blooms' delicious recipes to home across the province.

Hope Blooms is an amazing organization with amazing kids and the wonderful Jessie Jollymore, and I'm looking forward to seeing where this new venture takes them. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

MCKENZIE, ASHLEY: FILMMAKER - RECOGNIZE

MR. DAVID WILTON: Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize local filmmaker Ashley McKenzie. Ashley has been involved in filmmaking for over 10 years and has had short films shown at the Cannes Film Festival, the Atlantic Film Festival, the Cape Breton Island Film Series. Most recently her film, 4 Quarters, a 13-minute film based on a struggling young couple from Cape Breton, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival as part of Short Cuts Program, which features short films from around the world.

I'd like to congratulate Ashley on her dream of becoming a filmmaker. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

DLAMINI, MS. STACEY
- PICTOU CO. ROOTS FOR YOUTH PROG. DIRECTOR - THANKS

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Ms. Stacey Dlamini, as she takes on the position as program director for the Pictou County Roots for Youth.

Stacey brings new energy and ideas to Roots for Youth, with the intention of building relationships between the organization and the youth in the community. In September, under Stacey's direction, Roots for Youth launched a new program called Inward and Upward, that helps at-risk youth build self-esteem and assertiveness skills to help them gain the confidence to move forward in life, either by furthering their education or gaining employment. This new program has the potential to reach 110 youth per year. Roots for Youth accomplishes much on a small budget.

Madam Speaker, I wish Stacey well in her new position.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

WORLD AIDS DAY (12/01/15) - IMPORTANCE

HON. DAVID WILSON: Madam Speaker, World AIDS Day is held on the first of December each year, and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died.

World AIDS Day was the first ever Global Health Day, held for the first time in 1988. Globally there is an estimated 34 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS.

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away. There is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

HFX. FIRE & EMERGENCY SERV. STA. NO. 63 (SAMBRO)
- LONG-SERV. AWARDS

MR. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, on October 6th the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Service Station No. 63 in Sambro honoured members with the length of service Award. Five years of dedicated service awards were presented to firefighter Jeff Dowling, firefighter Michelle Landry, firefighter Paul Smith and lieutenant Tim Hatcher. Station Chief Jared Doucette received an award for 15 years of outstanding service.

Station No. 63 is in Sambro, serves the communities of Harritesfield, Williamswood, Sambro, East and West Pennant, Sambro Creek, Sambro Head, Bald Rock Road and Ketch Harbour. The volunteer fire department plays a vital role in protecting these communities from disaster and this is made possible by the dedicated volunteers who work out of Station No. 63.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank all volunteer firefighters for their dedication to their communities and also congratulate all the Station No. 63 Long Service Award recipients and thank them for their service to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

NELSON, MS. MERLE - BIRTHDAY (107th)

MR. LARRY HARRISON: Mr. Speaker, recently I was privileged to share in the birthday celebration of a special resident at Elk Court in Brookfield. Merle Nelson was surrounded by her family and friends as she celebrated her 107th Birthday. The festivities included two cakes and music, which she accompanied with her maraca in hand.

Born on November 24, 1908, the youngest of five siblings, Merle had a fulfilling life working as a private nurse, marrying Frank Nelson in 1934, and having seven children.

The adage that you are only as old as you feel certainly suits Merle for when she was asked, she responded with, "I don't feel older than 100." I ask the members to join me in wishing Merle all the best; she truly is an inspiration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

KENTVILLE LAND REGISTRY OFFICE - CLOSURE

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Kentville Land Registry Office was set for permanent closure. It was one of 13 land registry offices axed by the Liberal Government in the Spring Budget. The government will tell you that these closures will have little impact. However, where is the discussion on how these savings will be reinvested in rural Nova Scotia? The cumulative effect of cuts to rural Nova Scotia on this government continues to add strain on communities across this province.

Mr. Speaker, without a plan to stimulate the economy in rural Nova Scotia, the government continues its plan of death by a thousand cuts.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

BROUWER, RACHEL - CAN.-WIDE SCI. FAIR GOLD MEDAL

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Rachel Brouwer on winning a Canada-wide Science Fair gold medal in Fredericton in May of this year. Rachel was a Grade 8 student at Bedford Academy when she crafted her project, which investigated ways to improve the quality of water in developing and Third World countries. Rachel designed a water pasteurization unit made out of materials that are readily available in those countries: ABS pipe, water bottles, cotton, charcoal and sunlight. Tests showed that Rachel's design killed 100 per cent of the e-coli in samples.

She was only 13 when she designed this filter and in her spare time she actually started her own natural skin care business so she could raise money for the IWK. She is an impressive young woman and I can't wait to see what she does in the years ahead. Congratulations Rachel.

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

NASH, REV. ARTHUR: ANGLICAN CHURCH - SERV. (55 YRS.)

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Reverend Arthur Nash for his 55 years' service as an Anglican Church minister. For 13 years, Reverend Nash was the minister at Trinity Anglican Church in Sydney Mines and was heavily involved in the community.

Trinity Anglican Church celebrated Reverend Nash's service to the church and also his 50th Wedding Anniversary, with a special window at the entrance to the church this past summer as he vacationed home in Cape Breton.

It's a true honour to have this opportunity to recognize a great man and his commitment to the church and our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

HOUSING: CRISIS - ACTION

MS. MARIAN MANCINI: Mr. Speaker, providing safe and affordable housing is not only a way to ensure that all Nova Scotians can meet their full potential but it was also a commitment by this government in 2013. Two years into this government's mandate and affordable housing seems to have fallen off the radar. About 4,700 households are waiting for seniors and family public housing.

In the HRM alone, one in four households spends 30 per cent of their income on shelter, and close to 12 per cent of all households are spending 50 per cent or more on

shelter. These numbers are unsustainable. When families are spending the majority of their income on shelter, other important expenses like healthy food get pushed to the side.

Nova Scotia is in an affordable housing crisis, and I hope that soon this government takes real action to address this growing problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston-Dartmouth.

**WOURNELL, ASHLEY - SPECIAL OLYMPICS: PERFORMANCE
- CONGRATS.,**

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Ashley Wournell for her outstanding performance in swimming, and proudly representing Nova Scotia at the Special Olympics.

Ashley is a highly acclaimed athlete on the Dartmouth Dolphins swim team. She has won many medals in provincial and national meets. This year at the nationals in Vancouver she won 100-metre butterfly silver; 200-metre breaststroke silver; 100-metre IM bronze; 100-metre breaststroke bronze; and 200-metre IM fourth-place medals. Ashley's impressive record at the provincials at St. Francis Xavier University include 100-metre butterfly gold; 200-metre breaststroke gold; 100-metre IM gold; 100-metre breaststroke silver; and 200-metre IM silver medals.

I applaud and commend Ashley on her tremendous achievements, and wish her every success in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

BURDEN, DR. ARNOLD: FRENCH LEGION OF HONOUR - CONGRATS.

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: I wish to congratulate Dr. Arnold Burden of Springhill, 93 years old, who received the Legion of Honour in the degree of Knight at a ceremony in Springhill this past weekend. The Legion of Honour is the highest honour in France, and is bestowed upon those with excellent civil and military conduct.

Dr. Burden served with the No. 7 Canadian General Hospital, which was the first hospital to land on Juno Beach on D-Day, and cared for the victims of the concentration camps as well.

After the war, he went on to serve the residents of Cumberland County for over 50 years as a doctor and surgeon, and also captain of the militia. Dr. Burden was a central figure in the rescue efforts of the mine disasters at that time in Springhill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask members to join me in congratulating Dr. Burden, a true Canadian hero, on receiving the French Legion of Honour. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

**WHITE, JAMES - RIVERSIDE EDUC. CTR. HERITAGE FAIR
CDN. HISTORY MEDAL**

MS. MARGARET MILLER: Thirteen-year-old James White from Enfield is a student at Riverside Education Centre in Milford.

Earlier this year he was discussing, with his grandfather, topics for the upcoming heritage fair. His grandfather suggested that he do his project on the HMCS Kootenay, and after doing some research, James agreed that it would make an interesting project.

The final project, titled HMCS Kootenay: Fire at Sea, won the REC Heritage Fair, the Grades 4 to 6 Canadian History medal, the Historian Award at the 2015 Regional Heritage Fair in Truro, and the Maritime Heritage Award at the 2015 Provincial Heritage Fair.

James had the opportunity to meet two local survivors from the HMCS Kootenay. One gentleman was from Enfield, and another one was from Milford. They were so impressed with James that they asked him to lay the wreath at the memorial service in October - this was quite an honour for this impressive young man.

James' project is proudly displayed in the foyer of the Maritime Forces Atlantic. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

SEAMAN, DR. DONALD: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

MR. JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform members of the passing of an extraordinary man, Dr. Donald Seaman, in Kentville on November 26, 2015, at the age of 86.

After Dr. Seaman graduated from Dalhousie School of Medicine in 1957, he spent a year in Sydney, seven years in Guysborough, and 47 years practising medicine in Kentville, where he was also one of the last family doctors to make house calls. Dr. Seaman held one of the largest medical practices in the Annapolis Valley.

Dr. Seaman had outstanding knowledge of and love for medicine and was considered a pillar of the medical community in the Valley. He had a legendary sense of humour and was loved by all, and he will be sorely missed by the entire Annapolis Valley

community. Please join me in acknowledging the condolences to his wife, Joan, his son, and his sister and two brothers. Thank you.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT - NECESSITY

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, climate change is a threat and the provinces must all understand its seriousness as they attend the Paris summit. This is not just an environmental issue. It's also a moral issue. Canada has the least-ambitious targets of all the G-7 countries heading into the UN climate talks.

The country needs a climate change accountability Act, like what Jack Layton proposed: strong, effective legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need ambitious emission-reduction targets and accountability for meeting targets enshrined in legislation.

The greatest legacy we can offer future generations is a clean and healthy planet. Let us work together to make this happen. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

INTL. DORY RACES (LUN.): PARTICIPANTS - RECOGNIZE

MS. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of this summer's International Dory Races, hosted in Lunenburg. For 63 years, rowers of the Lunenburg area have been in competition with those of Gloucester, Massachusetts, for bragging rights as the best dory rowers.

This year the rowers of Lunenburg proved victorious by winning all five races, including the juniors division, mixed doubles, women's division, over-50 division, and seniors division. Next time, I'm certain the rowers of Gloucester will be ready to avenge these defeats, but until that time, Lunenburg will reign as the 2015 International Dory Races champions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing all those who participated in the International Dory Races for both countries, with a special recognition going to the victorious Lunenburg team. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, can I make an introduction, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. D'ENTREMONT: Joining us in the west gallery, we have some parents from Paths2Learning. I'll ask them to rise to receive the warm welcome of the House. Jodi Blondon, Michelle Arsenault, Lisa O'Driscoll, Jocelyn Tingley, Hillary Chouinard, Jodi Amon, Sarah Hubley, and Rob Turpin. I just want them to receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause) I thank them all for being here.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

PATHS2LEARNING: WORK - LIB. GOV'T. RECOGNIZE

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Paths2Learning is a unique not-for-profit school setting for children with learning difficulties, or who face challenges in a traditional school setting. Teaching and therapy methods at Paths2Learning are evidence-based and proven effective in helping children and students with attention deficit disorder, autism spectrum disorder, and other special needs. The school also offers equine-facilitated learning. It is a facility that has changed the lives of families for the better.

Unfortunately, the demands for programs at Paths2Learning have grown beyond their financial ability to provide services, and there may not be another organization to provide the services that Paths2Learning families rely on.

I hope the Liberal Government recognizes the good work of Paths2Learning and helps to continue these important programs. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

REC. FACILITIES DEV. FUND - CUTS

MS. MARIAN MANCINI: Mr. Speaker, members across the floor correctly outlined the amazing impact of the new skate park in Dartmouth South. The skate park has been a wonderful addition to Dartmouth South for children of all ages to get involved, be active, and try new sports.

It is unfortunate, however, that this government has cut the same Recreational Facilities Development Fund that built the skate park by \$1 million this year. It is unfortunate that communities across Nova Scotia won't get the same wonderful opportunity as Dartmouth South has had.

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

**PAN CAPE BRETON FOOD HUB CO-OP:
COORDINATOR/VOLS. - CONGRATS.**

MS. PAM EYKING: Mr. Speaker, the Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op is wrapping up the first year of a two-year pilot project to distribute local food in Cape Breton, with partners that include the Municipalities of Victoria, Inverness, Richmond, and Cape Breton; the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; and both Federations of Agriculture.

The project was launched as a 12-week pilot project to distribute food around Cape Breton. However, due to member requests, the project was extended to 14 weeks.

The co-op allows producers from all around Cape Breton to post their product on the website and then allows households and restaurants to purchase online. The Food Hub has also formed a partnership with Star Delivery to pick up and deliver the products all across the Island.

Over the 14 weeks the pilot project had gross sales of over \$38,000. Through the sale of food, we know that over \$30,000 went into the hands of local producers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-op coordinator Alicia Lake and all the volunteers who made this project such a success. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

SOBEY, DAVID & DONALD - RETIREMENT

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of two individuals with strong Pictou County roots that I am extremely proud to call friends. David and Donald Sobey officially retired from the Empire Board of Directors at the company's annual general meeting in September. Each contributed over a half-century and played significant roles in the growth and the development of Empire and Sobeys.

There is no way to measure the positive impact the Sobey family has made, not only in Pictou County but in Nova Scotia, Canada, and beyond. To both of these gentlemen I extend my personal thanks and best wishes for their retirement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Beaver Bank.

PINKNEY, SAMANTHA: BARREL RACING - COMP.

MR. STEPHEN GOUGH: Mr. Speaker, I stand today to tell you about a 10-year-old Beaver Bank girl by the name of Samantha Pinkney. Samantha and her horse Smoking Okie won the Maritime title in the 19-and-under division for barrel racing. Samantha

competed in the barrel racing event at the Nova Scotia Fall Fair in Halifax. In the three-day event she placed 15 and 20 out of 40 competitors. Samantha's father, Kevin Pinkney, is quoted as saying, "Samantha got into it in a more professional aspect about two years ago, so she started quite young at eight years old . . . she definitely had a knack for it. She has no fear whatsoever."

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the three-day event Samantha got fourth in the pole bending with open horses and came in 12th in barrel racing. Despite Samantha's young age, she is at the level that meant that she was eligible to compete in Ohio, U.S.A., during that time. On behalf of the residents in Sackville-Beaver Bank, I would like to thank Samantha on her outstanding achievements.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

MACMILLAN, LUKE - DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

MR. LARRY HARRISON: Mr. Speaker, on November 16th I had the honour of presenting a hard-working young man, Luke Macmillan, with the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a non-competitive, internationally recognized program to encourage young people to develop positive skills and lifestyle habits. This Grade 11, South Colchester Academy student was kept very busy completing all four sections of the bronze level award. For the service section he taught children how to skate through the CanSkate Program; for the skills section he completed wood-working projects through 4-H. Playing hockey covered the physical fitness component, and hiking through Economy rounded out the adventurous journey section.

I wish to acknowledge his hard work and dedication, and congratulate Luke in earning the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage.

HELPING HANDS - YOUTH GROUP

MS. JOYCE TREEN: Mr. Speaker, during the summer months my office started hosting a youth leadership group, Helping Hands. The group consists of six youth at the moment, who want to make a positive impact and be involved in their community. The group is still in the beginning stages and accepting new members as well as working on their vision.

These youth have already volunteered at many events, face painting, organizing craft stations, plus cleaning up the local garden. They have also been busy sewing bandanas that they would like to sell at a local craft fair this holiday, and they have opened an account at a local bottle exchange in hopes of being able to purchase a banner and some business

cards for their new group venture. I'm very proud of the work they have done so far and look forward to the group growing and reaching new and exciting goals. Thank you.

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

NORTHSIDE/HARBOURVIEW HOSP. FDN. - COMMUN. IMPACT

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: I rise today to thank the Northside/Harbourview Hospital Foundation. Since 1992 members of the foundation have helped the two Northside hospitals. Executive Director Terri Dennis, office manager Lynn Clarke, and board chairman Daniel McKeough have spearheaded campaigns to improve the quality of health care for more than 30,000 patients. They are responsible for raising funds for medical equipment, education, clinics, palliative care, and transportation.

It is a true honour to have this opportunity to thank the dedicated people of the Northside/Harbourview Hospital Foundation for making such a positive impact on our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

**MCCONNELL, BRIAN - UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS ASSOC.: PRES. -
ELECTION**

MR. GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Brian McConnell for his recent election to the presidency of the Nova Scotia Branch of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada last April. The association focuses on the history of people who remained loyal to the British Monarchy, moving north during or following the American Revolution. Many Nova Scotians can trace their roots to these migrants who could not stay in the former 13 colonies that had seceded from the British monarchy.

Since their arrival the Loyalists have made an enormous contribution to their province. Over time their descendants wanted to ensure that their history would not be forgotten and formed the first Loyalist Association in Nova Scotia in 1898. Coincidentally, its first president, Alfred Gilpin, was also from the area; his ancestors having moved from Massachusetts to the Weymouth area.

Since then the association has continued to preserve the history and traditions of the Loyalists. Over the years they have been a great resource for people wanting to learn about the history of their ancestors. During his term Mr. McConnell will continue to research and celebrate the history of the Loyalists in Nova Scotia. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

AIDS FIGHT: NOVA SCOTIANS - THANK

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Today is the 27th annual World AIDS Day. It is a day dedicated to remembering who have died, and to raise awareness about AIDS and the global spread of the HIV virus.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2015 is Getting to Zero - that means zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths. HIV and AIDS are a reality in Nova Scotia and across Canada. Stigma remains a primary driver of the epidemic itself.

I'd like to thank all those Nova Scotians engaged in the fight against AIDS who worked so hard to raise awareness and end the stigma. Because of these dedicated individuals, we are making progress and someday we'll get to zero. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hammonds Plains-Lucasville.

MR. BEN JESSOME: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. JESSOME: I'd like all members to direct their attention to the east gallery, where this afternoon we are joined by my constituency assistant, Teresa Trider. Could we all welcome her to the House today, please. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

10% SHIFT: SHOP LOCAL EFFORT - CHALLENGE

MR. JOACHIM STROINK: Mr. Speaker, today is December 1st; this leaves 24 days until Christmas. I ask once again that the members of this House practice "Shift 10%" This is where people make a considered effort to shop local, to support our local retailers, to support our local crafters, and to support our local products from Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge all members of this House once again to do their part in this province and concentrate their Christmas shopping with local businesses, and that they take a leadership role and Shift 10% of their shopping to local businesses. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Portland Valley.

COLE HBR. BARBER SHOP - ANNIV. (20th)

HON. TONY INCE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and extend congratulations to a staple of the Cole Harbour business community that recently celebrated a milestone.

The Cole Harbour Barber Shop, which happens to be a neighbour down the road from my constituency office, celebrated 20 successful years of business this past July. Aside from being an essential part of the Cole Harbour business community, the shop is also a family business and was first opened by Shirley McSween, but now it is run by her daughter, Melinda O'Hearn.

There is a wealth of loyalty to the business that has been a fixture for so long. I'd like to wish the Cole Harbour Barber Shop many continued years of success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

PRENTICE, KOURTNEY: PAINT NITE INIT. - CONGRATS.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Kourtney Prentice and her Paint Nite Initiative that recently took place here in Halifax. Paint Nite is a company with operations across numerous countries. It provides space in a social setting, usually a bar on a slower night, where a locally hired artist takes participants through step-by-step instructions on creating a painting.

Kourtney Prentice applied to become a local licensee and, in September, launched Halifax's first Paint Nite at Gahan House pub on the waterfront. It was a sold-out event and recently other local pubs and eateries have expressed interest in hosting Paint Nite at their locations.

As of right now there are 20 events on Halifax's Paint Nite calendar. It has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for people to connect through the arts in a relaxed, upbeat social setting where their artwork isn't critiqued or graded.

My sincerest thanks to Ms. Kourtney Prentice and our local artists and eateries for exploring such a unique opportunity here in Halifax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**SOUTH SHORE U-14 TIER 1 BOYS SOCCER TEAM
- MALE TEAM OF YR.**

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, Soccer Nova Scotia recently hosted its First Annual Awards Banquet. One of the big winners of the banquet was the South Shore Under-14 Tier 1 Boys Soccer Team, who were named Male Team of the Year. After a very successful season the South Shore team won provincials with a 3-2 win over Dunbrack in the championships, which qualified the South Shore team for nationals held in Newfoundland in October, as Nova Scotia's representative.

I'd like to congratulate the South Shore Under-14 Tier 1 Boys Soccer Team for their incredible season, and also recognize all the coaches, parents, family and friends who cheered them on and provided the opportunity to a group of talented young athletes to participate in sport.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

AINSWORTH, JANICE - WORK RECOGNIZE

MS. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janice Ainsworth, the co-chair of TEAM Work Cooperative and a key member of the Ability Employers Board for her hard work and dedication to educating employers on hiring and working with people with disabilities.

Ability Employers is a fantastic program that educates and certifies employers to ensure they are fostering an inclusive workplace for everyone. Janice is a major voice at the table promoting this wonderful program to the employers in the community. Today being the start of the Ability Starts Here Symposium here in Halifax makes it the perfect time to recognize Janice and all of the great work she does.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth on an introduction.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, if I could bring the attention of the House to the east gallery, I am pleased to have in attendance today the newest addition to our Municipal Affairs team, Jacinda Jennings, in the minister's office. She's here with my executive assistant Shawn Lawlor. This is her first time in the House of Assembly and we're proud to have recruited her from the private sector. She brings a lot of expertise and hard-work ethic to the department. So, if the House could please join me in welcoming Jacinda. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

**LANDER, DOROTHY/GRAHAM-POLE, JOHN:
ART INITIATIVES - THANK**

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, this summer Antigonish Culture Alive hosted its 18th Annual Arts Festival. Gathering of the Arts, or GoArts, is an exhibition featuring art from local artists, community organizations and schools.

At the opening of this year's GoArts, Dorothy Lander and John Graham-Pole were recognized for their commitment and dedication to art in Antigonish. They were presented with the Antigonish Culture Alive Community Arts Supporter Award. Dorothy and John's work include many new and great initiatives in the community, including the hiring of a music therapist at St. Martha's Regional Hospital, a story-telling group for youth called Thundertales, an Imagine Antigonish photo exhibit, and a production of 1784 (Un)Settling Antigonish, plus much, much more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dorothy and John for all of their amazing work enhancing art in Antigonish and therefore life in Antigonish.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

COOL RUNNINGS (TATAMAGOUCHE)

HON. KAREN CASEY: Mr. Speaker, May 9, 2015, saw the second annual Cool Runnings in Tatamagouche, Colchester North. Cool Runnings encourages physical activity by offering a 1km, 5km walk-run or a 10km run. The event is timed with prizes given out for inspiration rather than for placement. The event is for all ages and all fitness levels. The North Shore Area Community Health Board supported the event. The ultimate goal of Cool Runnings is to inspire and motivate people to become more physically active.

Cool Runnings also teamed up with the North Shore Recreation Centre, which hosted a health and wellness expo on the same day. The goal of the expo was to bring public awareness to the wide variety of health and wellness-related services that are available in Tatamagouche and the surrounding communities.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

BEDFORD VOL. FD: RECOGNITION DINNER - HONOUREES

HON. KELLY REGAN: I would like to tell you today about several members of the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department who were honoured earlier this year. As you know, Mr. Speaker, volunteers staff many of our departments here in Nova Scotia. They train regularly but hope their services won't be needed.

Earlier this year at a recognition dinner Neil Hutchings and Robert Coldwell were each recognized for 10 years of service to the Bedford Volunteer Fire Department and our community. Ryan Yeadon and Brin Jones were both honoured for five years of dedicated service.

The Bedford Volunteer Fire Department is an essential part of our community and I'd like to commend these volunteers for answering the call and rushing to the aid of their fellow residents.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

SPRYFIELD BLUE HATS - NATL. MEN'S SLO-PITCH CHAMPIONSHIP

MR. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Spryfield Blue Hats on their win this summer at the National Men's Slo-Pitch Championship, held in St. John's, Newfoundland. The national championship took place from July 30th to August 3rd with 20 teams competing in the event. The Blue Hats faced the Boarder Lounge Bombers of Glovertown in the championship game, defeating them to win the championship. The tournament gave the teams an opportunity to meet others from across the country and to compete in a friendly competition.

I would like to congratulate the Spryfield Blue Hats on the outstanding performance at the national championship and wish them continued success with their sport. They represented our community well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

BURNTCOAT HEAD TIDAL MUD RUN

MS. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 15, 2015, the Department of Recreation and Culture for the Municipality of East Hants hosted the 6th Annual Tidal Mud Run at Burntcoat Head Park, home of the world's highest recorded tides.

Runners of all ages had the opportunity to participate in the 5 km running race, or for those looking for the chance to splash in the water, slide in the mud, or just have fun, they have the option to join the shorter 2.5 km Family Walk and Explore Adventure.

We all know about the world's highest tides at Burntcoat Head, but for those who want to experience the Bay of Fundy in a unique way, I challenge them to sign up for the Mud Run and walk, run, play, or explore our ocean floor. I would suggest that folks remember to wear clothes and footwear that they don't mind getting muddy, or preferably they might want to throw it away.

Mr. Speaker, 2016 is just around the corner, so plan to make your way to Burntcoat Head for this special day next year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**WALKER, DAVID/CARVER, JOANNE:
WEDDING CONGRATS./FIREFIGHTER COMMITMENT - RECOGNIZE**

MS. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize true love and commitment. The true love is that of David Walker and Joanne Carver, who were married earlier this Fall. The commitment is that of Mr. Walker to the Dayspring and District Fire Hall and the people it helps protect.

During the couple's wedding reception, which was at the fire department's hall, of course, the firefighters were summoned to a call. True to form of a firefighter, Mr. Walker, with the permission of his new bride, left his reception and flew into action. He eventually returned to the reception and continued one of the happiest days of his life, but not before doing his duty as a firefighter and first responder.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in recognizing Mr. David Walker and his bride Joanne Carver for their special day and an added recognition for Mr. Walker's commitment as a firefighter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage.

PARKER, NATHAN - 4-H AWARD

MS. JOYCE TREEN: Mr. Speaker, the 4-H Provincial Show was held the weekend of October 2, 2015, in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Members of 4-H from all over Nova Scotia attended the show to compete for top honours in different categories. These categories range from cake decorating and woodworking to showing cattle and sheep.

Nathan Parker, a youth from Eastern Passage who attended the 4-H Provincial Show, won Top Senior 4-H Small Engine Member of Nova Scotia. Nathan attributed some of his successes to his project leader and the many kind and knowledgeable neighbours in his community, who helped him with his outstanding accomplishments.

Not only is Nathan a very talented and smart individual, but he remembered to thank those involved in his successes. Good job, Nathan, and keep up the hard work. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

LAHMAR, DONNA SUTTON - COMMUN. CONTRIBUTIONS

MS. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donna Sutton Lahmar, who works as the director at Bayers Westwood Family Resource Centre. Donna was the lead on organizing and hosting a fantastic community barbeque and celebration on August 8th, with over 300 community members in attendance.

Donna continually brings meaning to the word “community.” She consistently goes above and beyond in her role with the community centre to be a great support for everyone in such a compassionate manner.

I feel very lucky to not only get to work with her on a regular basis but to also call her my friend. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Barring no more members’ statements, the House will now recess for less than one minute.

[1:59 p.m. The House recessed.]

[2:00 p.m. The House reconvened.]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS**

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

PREM. - CHILDREN & FAM. SERV. ACT: CHANGES - DEFEND

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: My question is to the Premier. Yesterday, the government’s latest plan to update the Children and Family Services Act was sent back to the drawing board for the second time in two weeks. This is a very important issue. As Rollie Thompson, who wrote the original Act, said, “It affects potentially every family and every child, and it definitely affects every poor family and every poor child.” I will table that.

The government has been accused of a lack of meaningful consultation, a lack of notice of the changes that are proposed to people working on the front lines. Those children who are affected and the families that care for them deserve better.

My question to the Premier is, how can he defend the way his government is going about making these important changes?

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I want to thank the minister for the work leading in to the bill being presented to this House and the consultation that has happened prior to the bill being introduced. I want to thank all of those Nova Scotians who came and made presentations to Law Amendments Committee. Obviously they had an impact with the presentations they made.

The bill was referred back to the department to see if it could be strengthened. There were changes made. It was brought back to the committee and the two Opposition Parties said they didn't have time to look at those amendments. We're providing them an opportunity; the bill will be returned tomorrow.

MR. BAILLIE: The Premier can thank them, and we should all thank them. But the fact of the matter is, they themselves have come and said that the changes that came forward yesterday in no way reflected what they had been telling the government needed to be done. They may have been thanked, but they were not heard. That is the issue. That is no way to go about making important changes like this.

Now the government has decided it doesn't want to hear from them anymore. It's uninterested in hearing what they have to say from this point forward.

If the Premier really wants to thank them, will he now get up in his place and commit that we will hear their voices again when Law Amendments Committee next meets?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. Again, I want to thank all those Nova Scotians who came in and made presentations.

I want to thank the members of the committee, Mr. Speaker, because as long as I've been here, never has a committee listened to the presentations that were presented before them. Did we accept all of the recommendations presented by those making presentations? No, we did not. But the changes to the bill were made by the foundation of what was presented before that committee. We've listened.

We actually made that committee mean something in this House, unlike when that Party was in power, and they ignored Nova Scotians' presentations.

MR. BAILLIE: If this was the first time, it would be a reasonable question, but there is the Limitation of Actions Act; they didn't listen and they had to come back and fix it again. The Tobacco Access Act - they didn't listen, and they had to come back and do over. Now we're dealing with children and the families that care for them, and twice they haven't listened, and they have to go back to the drawing board yet again.

If they truly want to honour the people who come to this building and give their opinions, the least they can do is hear them when they bring in their more recent changes. I'll ask the Premier to commit to listen to what they have to say and allow them to present at Law Amendments Committee, the way it is supposed to be done.

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, let me tell you how Law Amendments Committee works. People come in and make presentations, and the committee members listen. Finally Nova Scotians have a committee that's actually listening to what's being presented to them. We thank them for making those changes. We brought them back to the department. They will go back to the committee and be presented to the House.

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

PREM.: LEGISLATION - CONSULTATION

HON. MAUREEN MACDONALD: Yesterday at the Law Amendments Committee we saw an unprecedented six government bills get returned to their departments for further work and review. One of them, the Children and Family Services Act, was sent back for the second time. It is a clear example of the flawed legislation this government is producing, due primarily to their complete lack of consultation with important stakeholders and other Nova Scotians beforehand.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier said his government was the most open and transparent government the province would see, so why is the Premier's government making all its decisions behind closed doors in government departments, without regard for the input and the advice from Nova Scotians?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I couldn't disagree with the content of the question. The reality of it is, the departments have gone out and spoken to stakeholders. We provided an opportunity for Nova Scotians to come to Law Amendments Committee. We listened to Nova Scotians when they came and made presentations.

Have we accepted all of the changes that were coming forward? No. But have we listened and made amendments to the bills that we believe will strengthen in the best interest of Nova Scotians? Of course we did. It's unfortunate that that member didn't practise that when she was on this side of the House.

MS. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, the reality is that we see time and time again a government that fails to consult with Nova Scotians.

Mr. Speaker, they are attempting to make amendments to several substantial pieces of legislation, including the Children and Family Services Act, the Liquor Control Act, the Motor Vehicle Act, all without ample consultation. Advocates and experts and many others

who sat through Law Amendments Committee yesterday, including HRM - the entire council rejects the Heritage Act - have said they were not consulted on these important matters.

My question for the Premier is this, why isn't the Premier ensuring that his ministers consult widely before bringing flawed legislation to the floor of the House?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for the question. Again, I want to assure the member and all Nova Scotians that consultation is taken with stakeholders across our province on all legislation that comes before this House. Unlike what took place when that Party was in power, Law Amendments Committee actually is working; Nova Scotians have come in, made changes, made recommendations for changes. We've accepted some of those recommendations.

The bill went back to the department to be amended. We'll present it back to the committee tomorrow, to be returned to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: PATHS2LEARNING - MIN. MEET

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, Paths2Learning is a non-profit that has been providing innovative learning environments for children with special needs for about two years now. The demand for their services has grown to the point where they are not financially able to continue to provide children with the tailored, unique education programming that they require. Some parents are in the gallery here today.

Will the Minister of Health and Wellness commit to meeting with the Paths2Learning, with the goal of providing funding that will enable the children they serve to continue receiving the programming they need?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. There have been a number of private schools and organizations that have started up in the province, especially in the past decade. Some of them fit within the education model, some fit in the health care, especially programs that could be associated with the IWK. This is one that I don't have great familiarity with, but I am certainly prepared to meet with those parents.

MR. D'ENTREMONT: The reason I am asking the minister the question is that last April the Minister of Health and Wellness noted the importance of specialized programming for children with autism and to quote, "Giving children the best start in the early years will help them reach their full potential." I will table that.

For children who attend Paths2Learning, there may be no other viable option or location to get the services they need to help them reach their full potential. My question to the minister is, what advice does the minister have for parents of children who attend Paths2Learning if their school is forced to close?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I believe my colleague, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, also has some further knowledge about this organization.

HON. KAREN CASEY: Thank you for the question. I certainly would like to welcome again the parents who are here from Paths2Learning. I do want to clarify, so that everyone in the House understands, this is a private school. They have applied to the department for designation as a special education school, for which we provide tuition support.

We have three schools in the province now that currently have that designation. They have applied for that designation. Their application is at the department and it is in the application process right now.

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

COM. SERV.: BRUNSWICK ST. NON-PROFIT ORG. - FUNDING CUTS

HON. MAUREEN MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is to the Minister of Community Services. The Brunswick Street non-profit organization is located in North End Halifax. They saw their subsidy cut this summer by Housing Nova Scotia. Following the subsidy cancellation, residents were hit with large rent increases in order to stay in their homes.

Ursulla Kellum, a single mom, has lived there since 2011 with her young son when her subsidy was eliminated by Housing Nova Scotia in August. Her rent increased by \$220 a month, an increase of 34 per cent. I wonder if the minister can explain to Ursulla and other residents of the Brunswick Street non-profit association why the subsidy was eliminated.

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: Thank you for the question and I absolutely understand the uncertainty for the tenants who were caught in non-profit organizations that are struggling with their financial viability. How subsidies work, and I know this from my previous experience with Alice Housing, is that a subsidy is given to the non-profit; as the mortgage comes down, the subsidy decreases. The goal of the subsidy at the end of the day is for the non-profit to use the mortgage payment, when the mortgage is done, and then help the tenants have a reasonable, affordable living situation.

We continue and will continue to work with the tenants and certainly the non-profit automatous board because they do have a board of directors. They have the right to make those decisions but we are dedicated to working with them so that we can have a real clear affordable way forward for folks that are living with this organization.

MS. MACDONALD: I thank the minister for her response. According to a briefing note prepared for the minister, it shows that her department has yet to allocate as much as \$4 million under the federal/provincial social housing agreement, and I'll table that. Shirley Joyce, an 80-year-old woman who has lived at Brunswick non-profit over three decades, received an eviction notice last week. She has until December 15th, two weeks from now, to pack up her things and find a new place to live. I want to ask the minister, how is possible that an 80-year-old woman is being forced out of her home when the minister has millions at her disposal?

MS. BERNARD: Thank you for the question. I would hope that, to everybody in this Chamber, it would be unconscionable to have something like that to happen to any tenant, let alone a senior living in affordable housing. All landlords, whether it be social landlords, public-sector landlords, must follow the Residential Tenancies Act and I encourage anyone who has been given two weeks to vacate a unit go with that.

I have actually released millions upon millions of dollars from the deferred federal contribution fund, which no other government has done over the last couple of decades, and provided over 300 rent supplements in the last year, not just for a year, but for 10 years going forward to make sure that those units stay affordable in the community.

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

PREM.: ELECTRICITY PLAN - NSP FUNDING

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Today Nova Scotians got to see the details of the government's new electricity plan called Our Electricity Future. It appears that our future includes continuing to pay for the guaranteed profit of Nova Scotia Power, which is directly contrary to the Liberal election platform which said, "Stop asking Nova Scotians to fund Nova Scotia Power's profits". I ask the Premier, why is it now okay with him that Nova Scotia ratepayers will fund Nova Scotia Power's profits?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell the honourable member, in case he doesn't have time to read the entire bill, that performance standards have been put place. Never before has this utility been held to a standard of excellence. Those standards will be developed through the Utility and Review Board and they will accountable to the people of this province and the Utility and Review Board. I want to remind this House, never before has that utility been held to that standard and power rates are reflecting this government's ability to rein in that utility.

MR. BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, Nova Scotia Power's guaranteed profit remains at 9.25 per cent. The government proposes a fine up to \$1 million, less than one per cent of that annual profit. That is not a serious fine.

I don't know if the Premier had time to look across the country to see what other province's do but in Alberta, and I will table this, the draft regulations there propose that they fine their utilities up to a million dollars a day. In Nova Scotia it's a million dollars per year - a joke of a fine.

On top of that, we now know that they're going to extend the efficiency tax another year, up to 2019, and we'll all pay for that too. So I'll ask the Premier, why is he asking ratepayers now to pay for that guaranteed profit and the efficiency fee - that he campaigned against - for an extra year?

THE PREMIER: I again want to thank the honourable member for his question. I want to thank the Minister of Energy for the great work that he has been doing on behalf of the citizens of this province. I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, finally a government has put in performance standards that this utility will be held accountable for, and finally Nova Scotians can bank on stable energy prices.

I want to remind all members of this House, the last time the two Opposition Parties were in power, power rates had grown by 70 per cent under their leadership; under our government they're stable.

MR. BAILLIE: We'll see, Mr. Speaker. (Interruption) Whose side are you on? (Laughter)

We'll see, we'll see because the government itself is allowing Nova Scotia Power one more kick at the can by next March to raise their power rates for all Nova Scotians, something they clearly campaigned against. On top of that, it also appears that our electricity future, as the government puts it, includes continuing the monopoly that Nova Scotia Power enjoys that all Nova Scotians have to pay to one supplier, which is Nova Scotia Power.

But I'd like to give the Premier a chance to clear that up. Can he stand in his place and tell Nova Scotians when they will be able to buy power from someone else besides Nova Scotia Power?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I want to tell all those citizens that live in the municipal utilities across the province - the six of them - they can do so now, and I want to tell the honourable member and all members of this House, there's a hearing ongoing right now and the rest of Nova Scotians will be able to do so soon.

MR. BAILLIE: Well, now we see the Premier defending the status quo. The municipalities have always had that ability and nothing has changed. Premier Dexter could have easily given the exact same answer that this Premier just gave, but now they've painted the picture of what our electricity future looks like, and it includes more rate increases, we continue to pay the efficiency fee until at least 2019 through our rates, that guaranteed profit remains with a tiny, tiny little slap on the wrist maybe someday, and the monopoly rolls on.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is, why did he make this list of promises to the people when he had no idea how to keep them?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I'll have the Minister of Energy respond.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, we heard from 1, 300 Nova Scotians who told us exactly what they wanted to see in the electricity plan, which was predictability, stability, accountability, and innovation - all of that has been provided.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one would think after a while that the Leader of the Official Opposition would learn, because for the past year we've watched both him and the member for Pictou East remind us a bit of a Chicken Little episode of running around the province saying: power rates are going up in 2016!

Mr. Speaker, if everything goes as anticipated, I get to use a word that no Minister of Energy has been able to use in the last 10 years: in 2016 power rates are expected to decrease.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

COM. SERV.: HBR. CITY HOMES (HFX.) - AFFORDABILITY

MS. MARIAN MANCINI: Mr. Speaker, today we are joined by three women who live in Harbour City Homes residences on Brunswick Street, in the north end of Halifax. Harbour City Homes is another non-profit housing society. The society has put a number of buildings up for sale, including those that Deb, Linda, and Jennifer reside in. The sale of Harbour City Homes likely will mean an increase to their rent, and they are very concerned that they have been unable to get any answer from Housing Nova Scotia on their future housing prospects.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister detail for residents of Harbour City Homes here today what her department is doing to keep Harbour City Homes affordable?

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: I thank you for the question. Like Brunswick Street, like every other non-profit housing organization that really strives every day to provide affordable housing for folks in Nova Scotia, Harbour City is a non-profit that's autonomous

of Housing Nova Scotia. They have their own board of directors, and they have their own sustainability and business plan. My commitment to the people who live in Harbour City has been and will be, if they find they cannot afford to live there, I will offer them rent supplements so that they can find safe, affordable housing within the community.

MS. MANCINI: Mr. Speaker, residents across Nova Scotia are increasingly unable to afford staying in their homes. The women from Harbour City Homes have been calling on the minister to address this situation since August.

We know that the minister has millions of dollars at her disposal to invest in rent subsidies for women like Deb, Linda, and Jennifer, but to date has failed to do so. Mr. Speaker, affordable housing was part of this government's election platform; however, it seems to have been a false promise.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to meeting with residents of Harbour City Homes to hear their concerns and offer the services of her department to address their concerns?

MS. BERNARD: Thank you for the question. Of course I would, I've met with many people throughout the province who work in the non-profit housing industry, and also tenants. I have not seen a request for a meeting, but I think I just answered your question in saying that I absolutely would offer rent supplements to anyone who felt they had to leave Harbour City.

This government, and I'm very proud of the record of releasing millions of dollars from the deferred federal contribution that has not been released by any government, including that member's, for decades. We have really made investments from rent subsidies to shoring up co-operatives to assisting non-profits throughout the province to make sure that safe, affordable housing is there for people when they need it.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: KINGS CO. HOSPICE - FUNDING

MR. JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. The Minister of Health and Wellness was in attendance in late September when the Digby and Area Health Services Centre was officially opened. Digby and area residents raised \$2.1 million for this centre and it led the Premier to say that afternoon at the opening, "Thank you for knowing what your community needed, for fighting for it, and for not letting anything get in your way." I will table the article from the *Digby Courier* where the Premier is quoted, from September 27th.

Kings County residents have now completed raising \$8 million towards the cost of a new hospice. Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is this, does the minister feel that

volunteers in Kings County are not doing enough or maybe they are letting things get in their way on the hospice project since we've been waiting for this announcement for two years?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I would say that the member for Kings North has made a totally inaccurate picture in terms of where we are with hospice funding. When we came to government it was zero around a provincial palliative care strategy - there was nothing in terms of how you could have governance or a funding model for the hospice.

What I can tell the member opposite is that they are now at the MOU stage with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the hospice to work out a funding agreement that in fact will see the project go forward.

MR. LOHR: Thank you to the minister, Mr. Speaker, for that answer. In a June 4, 2015, article in the *Kings County Advertiser*, the Minister of Health and Wellness announced a new collaborative health centre for Kingston. The office is close to his constituency office in Kingston, only about a 15-minute drive from Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Middleton, which ER struggles to stay open on a consistent basis, and only about a 15-minute drive from a health clinic in Berwick.

There was no community fundraising reported in this Kingston announcement in June. My question for the minister is, how does announcing a collaborative health care centre for Kingston make any sense in light of the millions raised for the hospice, the huge community support for it, yet no announcement for it?

MR. GLAVINE: As we know, collaborative practices have been developing across the province for the last six to eight years. Also we need to correct his announcement about the closures at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. I am pleased to say that in 2015 it had two closures for the entire year.

The member opposite knows that in order to have a hospice run sustainably for the future you have to have a proper funding model, and that is what is now currently being worked out between the Hospice Society and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. I think we will all see good progress in the new year, in terms of the future of the Hospice in the Valley and the one in Halifax as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

HEALTH & WELLNESS: ONCOTYPE DX - FUND

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, in the last two sessions I have asked the Minister of Health and Wellness for an update on his department's decision to fund Oncotype DX. It is a diagnostic test for women diagnosed with breast cancer.

According to the organization Rethink Breast Cancer, roughly 780 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in Nova Scotia this year. This test would help determine whether or not a woman would undergo chemotherapy and helps predict whether the cancer will reoccur.

The physical toll, long-term consequences, and emotional stress chemotherapy can cause should be considered and women should not be put through it unnecessarily. My question to the minister is, has the minister come to a decision on whether or not the province will fund this important diagnostic test?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: What I can report today to the member opposite is that we know the value of this particular procedure, however, there are also alternatives to that particular test. Right now the medical community is still doing trials to see whether or not they will even ask that this test be funded.

MR. D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, not only can this test save women from unnecessarily undergoing chemotherapy treatment, it can also save the health care system thousands of dollars. Nova Scotia Breast Cancer Site Team made a positive recommendation to the minister. Last year he told the members of this House that, "We did not receive an advisory to proceed at this time with that particular procedure to be covered by the Department of Health and Wellness."

My question to the minister - and I'll table these documents - who exactly advised the minister against this procedure and why hasn't he accepted the recommendation by the experts to save both women and the health care budget unnecessary stress?

MR. GLAVINE: I am pleased to say we have great outcomes with breast cancer treatment here in Nova Scotia. In fact we moved from - at one point we had the worst outcomes in the country, now we have the best or second-best. We alternate there, according to whatever year the whole evaluation may be done.

I know that this particular screening test is still one that we don't have certainty about and it's one that I'm certainly open to review as more information comes forward.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

TIR - SEGWAY LEGISLATION: INTRODUCTION - TIMING EXPLAIN

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. In 2014 the minister introduced a Segway pilot project to test and consult - and I repeat consult - on the Segway use on streets and sidewalks.

The pilot project continues until January 2016. I'll table that, Mr. Speaker. My question is, why has the minister introduced legislation prior to the completion of this pilot project?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, with the two-year pilot Segway there were a number of respondents with respect to actual users, of which there were about 420 pedestrians who witnessed the Segways in use, which was about 850. Over the three years since the Segways have been introduced to the waterfront there were 7,000 users with no collisions or injuries reported.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of this session we figure we want to give the private sector entities that are looking at Segways time to be ready for the Spring tourism session so the legislation makes sense now.

Just as a note with respect to the pilot project, when we were receiving this feedback in October there were 11 respondents. In November, the entire month of November, there have been two respondents. So as the season gets colder and winter comes on there's not a whole lot of update with respect to the feedback for Segways. We really feel we have enough data and we're making a good decision.

MR. BELLIVEAU: Increasingly the public are seeing flaws in this government - they don't consult and they don't use good information before they make decisions. Yesterday at Law Amendments Committee we heard from the Halifax Cycling Coalition that they were asked to give their members a survey on the use of Segways. Before the minister saw their results, he was on the news, telling CBC, "From a consultation perspective, there has been no negative feedback whatsoever."

How can the minister say there has been no negative feedback when he has yet to receive the feedback?

MR. MACLELLAN: From our perspective, the studies and the surveys weren't directed at any particular group. They were open to the public, obviously, with 850 witnessing the Segways, 400-and-some-odd who actually used them and were riders, and again, with the 7,000 in total who did use them but who didn't do the survey.

From a perspective of satisfaction, 93 per cent who used them felt in control, and 94 per cent who saw them figured they were safe to ride. In all of the feedback with respect to collisions - there was a very small amount, 2 per cent - it was all related to Segways bumping into each other. It wasn't a pedestrian issue, a cyclists' issue, or an issue for vehicles.

We've done a lot of consultation here. There has been two years of a pilot project. We're fully in support of this. We did the right thing. This is a good step for tourism, economic development, and supporting entrepreneurs in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

COM. SERV.: BEDBUG INFESTATIONS - ELIMINATION

HON. PAT DUNN: The issue of bedbugs continues to plague too many Nova Scotians. The same can be said for other housing units managed by Housing Nova Scotia.

An effective measure is the use of trained dogs. We have recently learned from pest control professionals that these dogs are no longer permitted to be used to identify bedbug infestations. A garbage chute at Vimy Arms here in the city is infested with bedbugs. Many housing units are facing the same problem.

My question for the Minister of Community Services is, what plans does the minister have to ensure people living in Housing Nova Scotia units do not have to deal with bedbug infestations?

HON. JOANNE BERNARD: The welfare and the comfort of the people who call social housing within Nova Scotia home is absolutely imperative.

One of the issues that has been ongoing for both the private sector and the public sector has been bedbugs. Yesterday I was really encouraged to hear that some of the pilot projects that we've done in some of the manors in Halifax using diatomaceous earth have been working, so much so that the non-profit sector and the private sector want to come in and study those pilot projects because we've had such extraordinary results with that earth, which eradicates the bedbugs in the housing organizations.

MR. DUNN: Bedbugs were a problem for at least a year at the Harbour View Apartments in Dartmouth. People were actually moving out in September.

Nova Scotia's Residential Tenancies Act states that the landlord is responsible for keeping the building in a good state of repair and fit for living. In New Brunswick, the Residential Tenancies Act goes a step further and states that the landlord may be ordered to compensate tenants for the cost of extermination.

My final question for the minister is, will the minister ensure Housing Nova Scotia units are effectively treated for bedbugs, or will she compensate tenants for the cost of exterminating bedbugs?

MS. BERNARD: Thank you for the question. Last year, just in the Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority alone, we invested over \$330,000 on the bedbug issue. We are probably one of the few landlords in Nova Scotia that have a 24-hour turnaround where either spraying or this new pilot project will happen.

We work very diligently with our clients to ensure there's education for the people who live with us. We help them in decluttering. We help them move furniture out and clean that furniture. We've had wonderful feedback from clients who have said we've gone above and beyond.

I'm really pleased with this pilot project. It has worked, and I think we're going to increase it so it goes to all of our housing authorities.

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

**BUS. - NSBI BD. OF DIRECTORS:
CAPE BRETON MEMBERS - CONFIRM**

HON. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is to the Minister of Business. Last year, this government saw fit in their budget to do away with the Department of Economic and Rural Development. They also have a department known as Nova Scotia Business Inc., and it's under the responsibility of this minister. Currently, to the best of my knowledge, we only have one individual employed in that department in Sydney.

Quite simply, my question to the minister is, are any members of the board of directors of Nova Scotia Business Inc. from Cape Breton Island?

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for the question, recognize the hard work of the NSBI employee in Cape Breton. That was a significant investment in the dialogue and discussion within Cape Breton Island and supported by the full team at NSBI in Halifax. I don't have the list of NSBI members before me, but certainly I am more than prepared to review that list and respond appropriately to my colleague.

MR. MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will inform the minister that there is not a single person on the board of directors for Nova Scotia Business Inc., a question that begs to be answered for all the members for Cape Breton Island, for the community of Cape Breton Island. Last week in this House you stood and you could not give a real answer . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to remind the honourable member not to refer to members opposite directly.

The honourable member for Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg has the floor.

MR. MACLEOD: Thank you for that correction, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate it very much. Last week the minister could not answer with a direct yes or no about the closure of the tourism office and visitor information centre in Port Hastings. Today he doesn't know who is on the board of Nova Scotia Business Inc. and as a matter of fact, there is nobody

there from Cape Breton. I would like him to explain to all Cape Bretoners, why is there nobody good enough from Cape Breton to be on your board?

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. We have been criticized for not having dialogue with stakeholders and when we do go out and engage stakeholders and have robust, genuine dialogue, we're still being criticized. The objective is to recognize the value and assets of Cape Breton. We work locally and we work collectively across the province to support the (Interruption)

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

MR. FUREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS: PHYSICIAN CREDENTIALING - CHANGES

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, we've learned recently that new guidelines are being proposed, or for that matter may be in effect today, dealing with the credentialing of physicians who want to work or practise in Nova Scotia. I'm wondering, can the Minister of Health and Wellness provide us with an update on the changes made with the approval of physicians' credentials which allow them to practise medicine in Nova Scotia?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, as the former minister would know, we had nine different health districts that would do credentialing in the past. Now that we have the one provincial health authority, plus the IWK, we will have an even greater streamlining of the credentialing process. I'm pleased to say that when applications come to the department, we are able to get them out in about a month, in terms of their approval to practise, and then they're taken over by the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, the minister is not providing us with the information. Some of the guidelines are going to restrict physicians and their ability to have the credentials that they need to practise medicine, and one of those areas is in walk-in clinics.

Primary care is something that we supported and invested in as a government. The recruitment of newly-graduating medical students is extremely important, so how are the changes to the credential guidelines going to ensure that newly-graduated medical students stay in Nova Scotia when they are indicating the opportunities for those new students will be restricted?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that there will not be any significant restrictions on doctors to practise in the province. What we will have in place is a streamlined process that the Nova Scotia Health Authority will bring into practice in

February. Walk-in clinics are part of the current primary care model, and they will remain in place. Unfortunately, there was some misinformation that went out to residents. I'm pleased to say that as of today, Dr. Harrigan will meet with all residents in the province and give them that clear path to practise in Nova Scotia.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

AGRIC.: WOMEN'S INSTITUTES - FUNDING

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, my question through you is to the Minister of Agriculture. There are 56 branches of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia in our province. Guided by their motto, "For Home and Country," these women do excellent work that strengthens our communities. Women's Institutes aim to help rural and urban women acquire knowledge and skills needed to meet the demands of life in the 21st Century, including nutrition, education, consumer awareness, environmental issues, and balancing family and work. In addition to this, they support many worthy causes and charities.

Does the minister agree that the Women's Institutes do tremendous work that should be encouraged and promoted by this government?

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It's a very important organization in the province, and I've met with them on more than one occasion. They do provide an excellent service to the province, and help the farming industry in the province as a whole.

MS. MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia have a provincial office, which is instrumental in providing support and coordination for the province's 56 branches, in addition to being a central contact point for those interested in volunteering. There is a concern among members, though, that funding for the office may be in jeopardy. The province's public accounts released a report last spring that indicated the department provided the Women's Institutes with a grant of \$27,000, and I'll table that.

Will the minister commit today to continue providing at the same level or more to the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia to help them continue the good work they do in our communities?

MR. COLWELL: I'm very pleased that the member has raised this question. Evidently you didn't do your homework very well. We have signed a five-year MOU with the Women's Institutes regarding funding for this very important topic, and the first year of that funding is well over double the \$27,000 a year.

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS: OBSTETRICIANS - RETIREMENTS

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. CBC has reported an exodus of obstetricians in Nova Scotia, and I'll table that. This year six Dalhousie residents didn't stay in Nova Scotia, and there were six resignations as a direct result of the government's mishandling of the malpractice insurance fees. The NDP caucus has obtained a briefing note that indicates there will be multiple obstetrician retirements in the next 12 months, but doesn't say how many.

So I'd like to ask the minister, how many obstetricians are going to retire this year, and where?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the member opposite is that we're now in that time of the year where we are receiving some notification to the department that we will have a few retirements in the specialty area of obstetrics/gynecology. We also have residents and people who are finishing fellowships who will also be looking at the province. I'm pleased to say that we've also attracted a couple of new obstetrician/gynecologists to the province, and I will get that exact number for the member.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, 12 will have a dramatic impact on the services that they provide Nova Scotian women. The minister's briefing note also shows that surgical wait times in gynecology have risen 20 per cent in the last two years, and the Valley Regional Hospital has seen the most significant increase - 62 per cent after gynecologists had their access to the operating room reduced.

So I'd like to ask the minister, how does the minister explain the reduction in gynecologists' access to operating rooms, and how is that going to improve health care services for Nova Scotians?

MR. GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, we do have a couple of pressure points in the system in terms of timely access. What I can tell the member opposite is that now we are able to have those who are needing that clinical service, some have been able to come to the IWK and others are able to move to other sites across the province and that wait-list, I am convinced, will go down in the next year.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

TIR: GRAVEL RDS. - REDO

MR. LARRY HARRISON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of TIR. Most of my calls that come in have to do with roads and a lot of my roads are gravel roads. When they are graded, they're good for a day or two but when the rain comes afterwards,

the roads are right back to where they were before. My question is, is there an initiative in progress to redo some of these gravel roads?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I can certainly relate - a lot of my calls are on roads too so I can say you're not alone there.

With respect to gravel and grading, without question it's a challenge and any time we get significant weather, sleet and precipitation as we did last year, it becomes a challenge that really gets bad in the Spring and then we're in the dry season where we're trying to keep dust control and add gravel and do some grading where we can.

There is certainly no easy answer to that question and again - as the member and I have had conversations many a time - it really becomes about the staff at the local level. At TIR they do their very best and prioritize based on feedback from the community, based on feedback from the stakeholders. I know they have a good relationship with the MLA so if there is anything specific that I can bring forward to my very competent department members down there, I will certainly do so. Thank you.

MR. HARRISON: Just a follow-up - is there money available now to redo some roads? Gravel?

MR. MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, as we get into the winter maintenance season, obviously the line items are pretty stretched for the local budgets. But certainly the local department staff can do things, especially if there's an urgent nature as the member is indicating there may be on some of his roads. Certainly that's a decision and a conversation we can have at the local level and for sure, if there is anything we can do, we'd be happy to help out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

MUN. AFFS. - GAS SUPPLY: REPORT - DETAILS

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. A serious gas shortage hit the province in August and the minister has said that a report on gas supply with recommendations was due in November. So my question for the minister today is, has the minister received the report on the gas supply in Nova Scotia?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I've been informed by the independent panel that the report itself has been completed in draft form. However, they do want to double check some of the findings in the report with stakeholders, with certain companies, and we are anticipating releasing that report by December 8th at this point.

MR. HOUSTON: I thank the minister for that answer, but just to clarify - no one in the department has actually seen the report yet? It's with the independent panel? Is that correct?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have not seen the draft report yet. We are giving the independent panellists - again, this is an independent group - the chance to fact check the report before they submit it for my viewing. At that point we will move very quickly to make that report available to public, as I know Nova Scotians are very anxious to see what we were able to do mitigate the risk of a fuel shortage happening again in our province.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: My question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Last session I was on my feet regularly to address the Minister of Health and Wellness about the chronic closures of Roseway Emergency Room. I was also one of over 100 people who rallied in Shelburne last month when the minister was in town and I heard him finally promise to address the closures by November 15th of this year and tell the crowd he had a short term and long term plan.

It has been over a month since the minister has made this promise. Where is the short-term solutions he promised and why does this ER close . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The time allotted for Oral Questions Put by Members to Ministers has expired.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 110.

Bill No. 110 - Marine Renewable-energy Act.

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

HON. JAMIE BAILLIE: Mr. Speaker, I do wish to say a few words on this bill. It is, in fact, a very important bill for all of Nova Scotia, but also of particular interest to Parrsborro and the Fundy Shore area.

I think all Nova Scotians have come to learn that the energy potential of the Bay of Fundy area is one of our greatest opportunities for a future supply of renewable, permanent, long-term, fixed price energy - and it's one of the great wonders of the world that we have right here in our own province. Developing that resource in the responsible way, encouraging private investment in that resource, is something that does fall to the government to get right, and that is why I want to spend a few minutes on this bill.

I will say, right off the top, I am very pleased that one of the priority areas that have been identified is the Fundy area. There are others like in the Bras d'Or area, in the Digby area, and their representatives, I'm sure, will speak to their importance. I want to focus for a moment on the Fundy area and its importance to the future economic development of Cumberland County, on that side of the Bay of Fundy and, also, how we can contribute to the overall renewable energy needs of the province.

After all, we're in this Chamber today at the same time that the Climate Change Conference is going on in Paris. Our Minister of Environment is there and we're all hoping that the conference results in real initiatives on a worldwide basis and isn't just a lot of talk - that is something I know many Nova Scotians are watching to see. We're already sitting here in Nova Scotia in a province that has come a long way on the generation of renewable energy and paid a hefty price for that.

When the PC Government first brought in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act, it included some real targets on renewable energy, opening the door for investment in things like tidal. The NDP took those renewable targets and they expanded them up to 40 per cent, driving up our electricity prices. We have all paid for that and we've debated that many times in this Chamber, but, again, reinforcing the need for fixed price, privately invested, long-term sources of renewables. The Bay of Fundy is a great example of something that could really make a difference not only in Cumberland County, but around the province. That is why I'm so glad to see the FORCE power area identified as a marine renewable electricity area, allocated up to 64 megawatts of nameplate power.

Having said that, it is also important that the pristine Bay of Fundy environment be protected; that the unique ecosystem of the Bay of Fundy be maintained. The bill does provide for a strategic environmental assessment and that is very important. There are some great scientists - I've seen them at Acadia University in the science department and other places - who are actually mapping out the floor of the Bay of Fundy to determine how we can put in an array of tidal generators that respects the unique fish migration patterns there and the unique ecosystem that has developed around the Bay of Fundy over many millennia. These are very important decisions that will be made in the future on both sides of the Bay of Fundy.

This bill is designed to put the legislative and regulatory framework around that development - that is why it is so important that we get it right. I can't help but wonder when the government talks about the energy pipeline going to Saint John, why they also don't see the wisdom of advocating to have it extended into Nova Scotia to save the environment of the Bay of Fundy from the multitude of oil supertankers that will inevitably be exporting crude oil from the Irving terminal on the Saint John side and allow that exact development to happen much more safely from the ocean side of Nova Scotia. But that is not what this bill is about. I only raise it to point out the importance of preserving the ecosystem around the Bay of Fundy while we develop the resources that we have around us and create the jobs that go with them.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is important; it's important the government get it right. There are amendments that are coming forward on this bill already, even before we finish debate in second reading, even before the bill makes it to the Law Amendments Committee. I'm not going to dwell on them at this point, other than to say that given the government's record at introducing bills and then discovering that they didn't get it right the first time and having to amend them over and over and over again, it is a cause for concern for the residents of Cumberland South, who are hoping to see employment and jobs and renewable electricity flowing out of the Bay of Fundy. That's why governments should consult with experts and the people affected before they draft up a bill and bring it to this House, because people need to have confidence in the government's ability to plan for these things.

Having said that, I'll give an example. One of the amendments that we know now is going to come forward later is to expand the FORCE tidal area to include provision for subsea electrical cables. Well, obviously that's very important and it leads to the question of, why was that not provided for the first time around? Why would we put a turbine in the water but not allow for a cable to bring that electricity ashore? The amendment does address that, but it leads to a concern on the Cumberland side which is, where will that electricity be brought ashore?

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that Parrsboro is by far the closest point of land to the most generation-rich portions of the Bay of Fundy, and it makes total sense that that's where the electricity would be brought ashore by subsea cable. That's why FORCE put their research facility on the Cumberland side, outside Parrsboro - that is the most logical place.

So we have a FORCE tidal area that didn't include the cable; now we need an amendment to include the cable. I certainly support the amendment, I want to be clear about that. We need to have that provision in place. Without it, it would have been an open question where that electricity would come ashore. There is a lot of work that will be generated by the Fundy tidal project. The people of Parrsboro are paying to upgrade the wharf on the Parrsboro side to help with the maintenance and supply of turbines that go in the water. I know, very fairly, that the people in Digby are looking to do a lot of the same work, and although I believe Parrsboro and Digby are better choices, Saint John, New

Brunswick, also wants to be a place to supply the tidal projects once they are up and running. There are real jobs and real wealth to be built doing that, Mr. Speaker.

So we have to be clear that we support Nova Scotia tidal projects, that we support bringing electricity ashore on the Cumberland side of Nova Scotia - which is where it can be dispatched anywhere in the Maritimes where it's needed - and that we support the building up of the supply bases and the maintenance facilities on the Nova Scotia side.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is that Digby and Parrsboro both have unique aspects to their ports. The Port of Digby is a wet port. It has a depth of water 24 hours a day to do maintenance and supply, to have ships coming in and out. The Port of Parrsboro is closer, and therefore easier, but it is a dry port. The tide, as people know famously, flows out completely and flows in completely. Time of day is very important when you're supplying the Fundy tidal projects.

The market and fair regulation will allow those things to be sorted out, and I expect that the member for the Digby area will be equally passionate in his arguments for supply bases in Digby as I am being here today for Parrsboro, both on the landfall of electricity and on the supply and maintenance of the underwater turbines. But what we share in common is an absolute need to make sure that the development of our tidal resources is done in a way that is sustainable and consistent with the unique environment of the Bay of Fundy area.

These are among the reasons that we need to get this right, that we are counting on the government to get this right, Mr. Speaker. So without dwelling on this at great length, I do want to say that I do support putting in place a sustainable framework of legislation and regulations that allow private investment in our tidal resource to go forward. This bill is a step in that direction.

The people who are making these investments, the companies literally from around the world that are looking at the Bay of Fundy as a place to invest in future renewable energy need to know what the rules of the game are - then they make those investments and support making that happen in a timely way, Mr. Speaker.

Of course our own energy needs need to be looked after and I hope tidal will be part of the Nova Scotia energy mix in an affordable way in the near future. For the people of Cumberland County who hope to work on these projects, Mr. Speaker, on the construction, on the maintenance, on the building of transmission facilities on the Cumberland side and the maintenance of those facilities as we distribute the electricity that is generated around the region, they all need to know that the rules are in place so we can get the ball rolling.

I am sure that's what the minister intends to do with this bill. I certainly support those intentions, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned that a bill as important as this one to the

people of Cumberland County and to the people of Nova Scotia already needs to be fixed before it even makes it out of the very preliminary step of second reading in this Chamber.

We'll be looking at those amendments very carefully as the bill goes through Law Amendments Committee and comes back, to make sure that whatever package completely passes through this House meets the needs of the people of Cumberland County, meets the needs of the people of Parrsboro and the Shore area, meets the needs of those investors who want to use their own private money to build these generators, meets the needs of those who care about the environment around the Bay of Fundy, that the bill accomplishes all those things.

There is work to do on this, Mr. Speaker. Clearly we have to track these amendments that the government has already discovered they need to bring. Having said that, getting on with the job of developing that resource for the benefit of all Nova Scotia is the most important thing and that's why I wanted to speak to the bill today. Thank you.

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

HON. DENISE PETERSON-RAFUSE: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to speak about the Marine Renewable-energy Act - and I heard that from the minister.

Mr. Speaker, one of the important factors that many people comment on is the need for the politicians to think beyond a four-year political cycle and that is very important. Unfortunately sometimes it doesn't seem to work that way, therefore putting pressures that sometimes decisions are being made with the results that are not the best for Nova Scotians, because of that pressure of the political cycle.

We took the opportunity - I'm proud of that - in government, in 2012 the NDP Government developed a marine renewable energy strategy, and that was part of our cleaner energy framework.

By focusing on renewable energy, the NDP demonstrated that commitment to long-term objectives that will benefit Nova Scotia and our environment in which we live, That is vitally important and I encourage all political Parties to keep that in mind, in terms that we have to make those decisions that are long-term, not knowing whether we will be continuing in a position of government or not.

The marine renewable energy is very important, very vital to our future in the province. As we know, it has been an upward swing over the last number of years in terms of electricity prices. We often hear in the arguments of the political sides trying to blame one or another because of that.

There are a few factors that have created that monster that we have to deal with, Mr. Speaker, in terms of having a private corporation that took place under other

governments a number of years ago. That has really been a stronghold around all of our necks in terms of having lower electricity prices.

I do know, too, that one of the other important factors that people have to understand and realize is that the electricity prices, because we are so reliant on fossil fuels, rise when the cost of oil is high. That's basically one of the downfalls that occurred to us when we were in government. It wasn't that the NDP allowed Nova Scotia Power to put up the cost of electricity; it was due to the fact that we have a private corporation which we have no control over - number one. Number two: it's reflective of the cost of oil. As we know, now the cost of a barrel of oil is almost half the cost that it was three years ago. It is important to have the facts when you are talking to Nova Scotians so they can understand where we were in the past and where we want to go in the future.

The Marine Renewable-energy Bill is a very important one because there are so many opportunities with tidal power, and we're surrounded by the ocean. So we have the resources right here ready for us to utilize.

It's good that the Liberal Government is going forward to have a renewable energy Act. I know that there are very high-level targets there, and I'm looking forward to seeing what happens as we go forward. The bill details energy security and looks at some environmental responsibilities, which is a good thing.

There are some points I think that it's very important, in my position, to bring forward for consideration. I don't want them to seem as criticism; it's about the best interests because as you know, I rarely criticize the government in this House.

There are some things that I do want to bring to the minister's attention, and I do know that he will listen respectfully to these comments. One of the things that I know will be a challenge for the minister, because of the political world we live in, is to build and maintain the public trust going forward with this Act. We are talking about the future, and sometimes it can be very challenging for us and for the public who are trying to live day by day to be able to look further into the future and to see the way things need to be. Sometimes that means that we have to bite the bullet now in order to make sure that we have a better, more secure future for our children and our children's children.

One of the challenges that I think the minister may have will be to manage that expectation because there is a lot of excitement around tidal energy. It's good to be energetic about this and to be optimistic, so I don't want to take that away. But I think that we have to look at ensuring that there's very good consultation and very good communications. We have the Municipality of the District of Digby which has put a lot of time and effort into tidal energy development. Naturally, they would be the port of choice to develop this opportunity. So we have to make sure, and I encourage the minister, and I believe he will do this, to work very closely with the members of the community and the municipality in Digby and make sure that, every step of the way with the bill, they are not

only consulted but that they're part of giving some advice. They'll be at the grassroots level, and the activities will be taking place right in their community, so it's important that they feel that they have the ear of the minister.

Also, in the Town of Parrsboro, the mayor is very hopeful about tidal energy, and she commented "When things don't happen over time, people get a little cautious." That's one of the things we have to educate about, too, as we go along with a project of this nature - to keep the lines of communications open with the communities and also educate the public and those who are the stakeholders that these things do take time. They do take more than one political cycle to become a reality; that's important.

A couple of other little points that I've seen within the bill and with a little bit of limitation to the legislation that's before us today. I know that speaking to this bill back in May of this year, the minister did say this legislation ". . . will allow for clear, predictable, and efficient processes to support the sustainable growth of our marine renewable energy sector." However, while this piece of legislation does lay out a general regulatory framework, it's evident the government's ability to provide clarity and predictability is quite a challenge in the marine energy development because it is so new to us and, at a later date, will determine more of the details around the regulations and how those are going to be established.

There are some questions that I know haven't been addressed and it could be the fact that we don't have a clear outlook at the future and having that crystal ball, but there are a few things that I hope the minister will keep in mind, and that means questions like: how will applications be assessed? Those are the details that we don't have before us right now. I know it takes some time to develop those but they are important factors that I know the stakeholders and Nova Scotians will ask, and those who are involved. What would be the terms and the conditions of the permits or the renewals? What will the royalty structure look like? These are all important questions that I know the government will need to address, and I hope there will be consultation and a flow of information to the Opposition members, too, so they're aware of how this piece is moving forward.

There are some clear timelines, and while the clear timelines can be beneficial to industries that await government approval of licences and permits, it's going to be a bit of a headache for any government to establish timelines if they're not able to meet them themselves. That's just a word of caution because I know when we're putting legislation together we want to make sure - normally we're excited about the legislation but sometimes we don't look at all of the details and there is often, as we have learned, even at Law Amendments Committee, it's such a wonderful process that people are able and groups are able to come in and often we will hear things that we have not even considered. That process is vitally important and that's why the consultation process on any types of these bills is so critical.

It's very important that the review process be one of quality and to make sure that, you know, there are some challenges with the six-month timeline that the minister has in terms of the applications which must be decided upon within 90 days. So that will be something that we have to watch and see if it's workable. I think that it's important. Sometimes we don't allow for governments to have that flexibility in changing their decisions as they move along and I think that's important for the government to be able to do that because it's a learning process and it's a new type of renewable energy, as we've seen.

I know that when we were in government there was some testing of the turbines and that the power of the ocean was so, so strong that those turbines did not work. We were excited at the time thinking that, you know, here it is, this is going to go forward. It was back to the drawing board and that is part of the flexibility that we must all make sure that the government has in implementing the bill.

I think it's important for us to know that there have been a lot of federal dollars that have been put towards the Sustainable Development Technology of Canada for the project, a clean energy fund. One of the things that I have some concern over is the small amount of dollars that we have committed to, because this is a major project. We're looking at \$1.5 million that the Minister of Energy had recently announced under the electricity plan for a three-year period for a renewable-energy pilot program. Although that does sound like an awful lot of money, we have spent millions of dollars in some other areas that we're not as proud of, like \$20 million to RBC and \$40 million to the *Nova Star*, so I think it's important that we put it in perspective in the sense of balancing how much money we are going to invest in a project of this nature.

I think that it's important and I think that Nova Scotians would also realize and support the fact that by putting a good investment of dollars, you can do something, because, as I said, the \$1.5 million sounds a lot, but when you put it in comparison to other projects, it's really not a lot in terms of what we want to get out of this particular project.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, we support the fact that the government is going forward with marine renewable energy. There's no question that this is significant and important to the province for today and for the future. It's also important what happens with the energy availability in our province. Basically, one of the main promises during the election was with respect to breaking the monopoly and reducing energy rates, and so forth.

We know from a factual point of view that that's virtually impossible to do. It's more of a shell game rather than the actuality, because renewable resources cost more money. It's factual, you can open up and say you're allowing for other companies to come in, but those companies, plain and simple, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day must utilize the Nova Scotia power grid, and Nova Scotia Power is not going to permit any company, whether it's renewable resources or whatever, to come in and utilize their grid for a lesser amount of money.

The things that we've said to the public are not always the full facts, sometimes they're PR slogans that ring well with the public, and unfortunately that becomes part of the political game, but I have an opportunity here and I think I also have a responsibility in my position as critic to inform the public of what the reality is in terms of our energy and the difficulty in providing energy that is going to cost less.

What we need to educate and encourage the public to understand is that what we need is sustainable energy, renewable energy but sustainable energy for a long period of time so we don't have these ups and downs in the energy prices because of the reflection on what it costs today or tomorrow for a barrel of oil.

That needs to be our plan, and the marine energy will certainly be a part of that renewable resource that's available to us, and we must all work together from all Parties to ensure that we are moving in the right direction, and that we provide the full facts to the public so there are no surprises that come forward in the future to them. We all have to work together as communities and politicians to make sure that we have a better future for our future generations and that they won't be dealing with these issues that hit the pocketbook so hard.

So, I would like to thank the minister for bringing this forward and for the work that he has done on this particular bill, and the work that his staff have also put in. I know it does take a lot of time and effort, and I'm sure that the Minister of Municipal Affairs is also pleased that I was quite delightful and nice this afternoon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

MR. GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, the House is very cordial on this bill. I'd like to start off by saying how much of a privilege it is for myself to rise and speak on the good work that we've seen on this bill by this department and by the minister. To me, this is one of the most exciting pieces of legislation I think the province will see in quite a while, as far as moving our future forward.

I'd also like to thank all the staff of the Department of Energy. I've had the opportunity myself to engage with them, and I think we have a tremendous group of people there who have put together a fantastic plan for us in this regard.

Finally, I'd like to thank my colleagues on this side of the floor for allowing me to stand up and speak. There are several of us who would have liked to have filled in on this one, for sure. It's an opportunity in the ocean energy area that is going to set the path for us down the road.

Obviously with my riding in Digby, I live on the Bay of Fundy. I have the privilege of sitting and watching the tides every day go up and down from my home. Tidal energy in my community has been something that we've talked about for years and years.

Actually, we can probably go back longer than any other community in Nova Scotia, with the start of the tidal project in Annapolis Royal and now continuing on with all the good work we see of our municipal leaders.

I'd like to thank the members across the floor, the Leader of the Official Opposition, and the member for Chester-St. Margaret's for mentioning the good work of the municipal people in my riding toward advancing tidal energy as a potential opportunity.

I was very proud last year to attend the 5th annual Conference on Ocean Energy. We were very fortunate in my riding to premiere the opportunities that the Port of Digby has. It was well organized. This is an international conference that was recognized right across the world, and we were at the forefront of that.

I'm also very proud of the group we have with Fundy Tidal Inc. You'll notice in the legislation that it does mention the opportunities we have in Grand Passage and Petit Passage that are being taken advantage of through a CEDIF with Fundy Tidal Inc. They are showing the way that small communities can rise up and get on the big stage in this area.

To start with, I'd just like to say that ocean energy development is probably one of the most tremendous opportunities that we have in this province. We need a clear and responsible path forward to develop Nova Scotia's marine renewable energy sector. The Marine Renewable-energy Act provides this framework for safe, responsible, and strategic development of Nova Scotia's tidal resource. Our tidal resources, particularly in the Bay of Fundy, will make a significant contribution to the province, both as a growing economic generator with export potential and as a new source of power. Nova Scotia has already been seen globally as a centre of excellence in tidal energy, and this legislation is key in continuing this momentum.

First, I'd like to talk also on a couple of points - there's three points here. We're introducing some changes that will help improve public confidence, and that's probably one of the biggest steps that this government is doing with a lot of our legislation. Our priority is to develop this resource in a safe and responsible way. We want to make sure that Nova Scotians are onboard. We've significantly strengthened the provisions requiring the collection of environmental information from baseline data to other environmental effects. We've strengthened our authority to share this information with regulators, including Environment and the DFO.

Secondly, we're advancing the process of establishing three new areas for tidal energy development for the Fundy tidal COMFIT projects. These areas allow Fundy Tidal Inc. to make progress on their projects while we complete the process and finally confirm the areas under regulation in 2016. These areas - again, as I had mentioned - are areas directly in my community. Just for those who aren't aware, Fundy Tidal Inc. is a community feed-in tariff-approved project, and it has three areas. The Digby Gut is

approved for 1.99 megawatts, and 500 kilowatts each in each of the Passages. They are deploying an instream tidal energy project. This is a little bit smaller than you would see in the FORCE area, and it's an extremely exciting opportunity for development in a lot of areas that don't have the opportunity to expand and develop the larger ones that we're going to see up in the FORCE area.

Lastly there are several administrative changes that clarify the roles and responsibility within government, particularly how DNR and Fisheries and Aquaculture are involved in the administration of the elements of the bill. So those are the three key aspects of the bill that I think are primary to what this will bring.

I heard a few comments across the floor with regard to timelines and flexibility and I would want to bring forward some information also that we've been very fortunate in establishing a tidal working group within the province. I would like to recognize the support that the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Business gave me in asking this to happen. Basically, what it is is an opportunity for all levels of government - it includes the Department of Business, the Department of Energy, Nova Scotia Business Inc., ACOA, municipal people are at that table, and me.

We know as government sometimes we don't move at the same speed that industry does and this forum is providing an excellent opportunity for all sectors of government to be on the same page and understand the tidal energy industry as it is moving forward. To me that's key for us to be able to keep up and keep ahead and be within established timelines and have that flexibility that was mentioned by the members opposite.

This tidal working group allows us all to understand what's going on in each department and it allows us all to understand from right down to the grassroots with the municipal people who are involved. It's a tremendous opportunity and an example for a lot of different opportunities within government to establish, again, to make sure that we're moving as government at the same speed that industry is.

I've had the opportunity to tour the Aecon facilities in Dartmouth and in Pictou and I would encourage anybody, if they ever have the opportunity, to do it. It is tremendous to see the massive design and technology that's going into one particular project with open hydro. For those who don't realize it, that project alone employs 300 people in Nova Scotia, just on the building of these two turbines. When you expand that out to look at the opportunities that we have down the road with tidal and what that might mean, I'll put it into perspective.

Two tidal turbines are being built right now, employing 300 people. If we can get to the point where we're going to be commercially developing tidal energy in Nova Scotia, there are two mainstems that we, as Nova Scotians, are going to get benefit out of. One of them is the actual direct deployment, construction and maintenance of these tidal turbines. If we get to the point where we want to put 300 megawatts of power in the water

that potentially could mean upward to 150 to 200 turbines. When you think of 300 people being employed to build two turbines, just think of the massive opportunities that this province has if we're ever in the position in the future to maintain and build upward to 200 turbines.

The second stream of opportunities is the intellectual properties that we're developing here in this province. It is extremely important and exciting to realize that we are becoming global leaders. The Bay of Fundy is the Mount Everest of tidal energy in the world. It is the place that it is known that if we can harness it here, we can harness it anywhere. The supply chains that are being developed, the companies that are actually operating right here in Nova Scotia right now, are setting the foundation for the opportunity down the road for us to show the world that not only can we do it, but we can show the world how to do it, and we can take that opportunity and move it anywhere that we want within the world, so those two opportunities are huge.

They had mentioned briefly climate change discussions that are going on. I think we're all going to keep a very close eye on that. The opportunities for us to export more energy into the United States, if and when they come on line with higher carbon reduction opportunities, is something I think that our tidal sector will eye very closely.

In closing, I'm very proud just to be able to be here as the member for Clare-Digby. Probably what, going back to my inaugural address, Reply to the Speech from the Throne, tidal energy has been something that I think will touch my community more than any other opportunity that we have. There was mention on different locations, we certainly have Parrsboro, we have Hantsport, we have Digby, those areas, depending on the nature of the technology that is going to be developed, either a wet port or a dry port, are going to be key in our ability to capture the opportunities to maintain these and to build on the jobs that are available.

One thing that I was encouraged about in the legislation is that there is a requirement in there, if we ever go to the future commercialization that the socio-economic opportunities have to be proven by the applicants. What that simply means is that Nova Scotians are going to be rewarded with the opportunities for tidal down the road when the commercialization of this happens simply by the fact that anybody who wants to come into our area and wants to develop our resources is going to be required to show the Province of Nova Scotia the socio-economic impacts for Nova Scotians are there. So the work is not going to happen outside of this province; the majority of the work is going to happen inside this province, as it is now. I'm very, very pleased to see the vision and the insight was put in place to allow that to happen down the road.

In closing, again I would like to thank the minister very much for his vision on this; I would like to thank everybody for speaking positively about this on both sides of the House. I look forward to this going to third reading. Thank you.

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

The honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues from all sides of the House for their remarks, certainly my colleague, the member for Clare-Digby who just spoke and he has shown great initiative on his own. He approached both me and the Minister of Business basically to say, can I have access to your staff to put a working group together to talk about opportunities for the tidal industry for Digby County?

I think that's a great sign of leadership on behalf of the member for Clare-Digby, that he has gone out and done that. Rather than wait and simply sit on the sidelines he has instead taken a leadership role and I know that his municipality is very grateful for the work that he has done. I know my staff has also found it very refreshing to see a member take that type of initiative and we're certainly looking for some of the exciting things to come. I assure the residents of Digby County that they have a great champion in the member for Clare-Digby when it comes to tidal energy and, more important, benefits for his area.

Madam Speaker, the member for Chester-St. Margaret's had a few words to say as well and, in light of her commitment to be nice today, I think she gets maybe a B- on that one. It was close at times, but I will say that while she did provide some nuggets there that I could easily bite on and respond to, I will choose not to.

I have to say, Madam Speaker, how disappointed I am in the Leader of the Official Opposition, in hearing the remarks that were made here. I know that he is listening very intently as I speak today in closing debate on that; I know that he will pay very close attention to my remarks. I know that my staff back at Energy must just have been cringing the entire time hearing the Leader of the Official Opposition because the one thing we said clearly in bringing this bill, which is a first of its kind, is that we wanted to consult and we wanted to take our time.

So in the Spring we tabled the bill in the Spring and specifically said that we are not going to pass this bill during this session. Instead, we're going to allow all stakeholders, who have already been consulted, to have their opportunity to speak on this bill, to look at it, to make any sort of comments, any recommendations and that we'd come back in the Fall. Madam Speaker, to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition somehow suggest that we haven't consulted, we haven't gotten the bill right, is a clear misrepresentation.

It's interesting, Madam Speaker, on a side note, I received a Facebook message yesterday from a constituent - someone I have to say I was a bit surprised by as I didn't think he watched Legislative Television - telling me how sick and tired he was of hearing the negativity coming out of the Leader of the Official Opposition. In case he missed the remarks of the Leader of the Official Opposition, I just want to give him a warning right

now that if he is to go back and listen, he won't feel any better today than he felt yesterday, after he has to hear what came from the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Now, Madam Speaker, we tabled the bill and said we're going to allow Nova Scotians and industry to comment on it. As a result of that, amendments were proposed. As minister and as Government House Leader, I said until the amendments are ready, we're not going to call the bill again for second reading, until they are presented to the Opposition for their consideration.

What we did, I believe yesterday, there was a type of bill briefing to advise the Opposition that here are the amendments; we want you to have them before debate continues on this bill, so that you clearly know what the amendments are going to be, before you get up and before you are asking to speak on this bill, that you see the amendments beforehand. Madam Speaker, the fact that we've done that and to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition criticize us, what message does that send? Does it send a message that governments should be giving these amendments before? (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, I hear the member for Pictou East clucking over there. If he wants to stand and say something, let him stand and say something. I believe I listened when he spoke in the Spring and I would ask him to do the same now.

It is one thing to criticize but when you can't even get the facts straight, which is what we saw from the Leader of the Official Opposition, somehow suggesting that by giving the amendments to the Opposition before we resumed second reading was somehow wrong, that's a sign that democracy is working. It's a sign that this Legislature is working. It's a sign that as a government we respect the process and we're making it work.

Now Madam Speaker, this bill will move on to Law Amendments Committee where there will be an opportunity for any Nova Scotian who wants to make a presentation or raise comments on it and the amendments will be up front. We've already shared them with the Opposition; we've shared them with the media. They are aware of them. They will see what changes are being proposed. (Interruptions)

Madam Speaker, let me just say this, I've been here for almost 18 years and I know the member for Pictou East thinks he has been here for 18 years but he hasn't been here for two, alright. Let me just say this, in 14 years I've been a member of the Law Amendments Committee. The Law Amendments Committee is such that when people come in, they make presentations, government will look at the bill, see if there are any amendments to be made and bring the bill back. There's nothing surprising here. The suggestion yesterday that after there was a presentation on the Children and Family Services Act and some amendments, that somehow the bill was being sent to the department to be rewritten - that is how the process works and that is how it should work.

I'll tell you what I saw in Opposition, under Tory Governments and NDP Governments. Presenters came in and brought amendments, only to see the government members ram it through without any consideration. Now suddenly, because we've allowed these bills, out of respect for the presenters, to be held for consideration, is somehow a bad thing. What message is the Official Opposition sending to Nova Scotians when a government is actually listening, taking its time, showing respect for the process and that's what you get from the Opposition Parties? I can fully understand why my constituent said that he was sick and tired of the negativity from the Leader of the Official Opposition.

Let me point out one other thing. It was interesting to hear how the Leader of the Official Opposition is so focused on negativity that when he spoke on this bill, he talked about opportunities in the future for Cumberland County and opportunities in the future for Digby County - which we agree with, and we all look forward to that - but there was a glaring omission in his remarks. There's one county in our province that's doing quite well from tidal industry.

I know it might be a foreign county to the Leader of the Official Opposition, and possibly the residents in that county don't speak to him, and possibly his colleagues from that county don't speak to him. But there are 140 men and women working at the Pictou shipyard right now who are being employed because of the tidal industry in this province, and not once did the Leader of the Official Opposition even make mention of that.

Madam Speaker, I toured that shipyard. The member for Pictou West was there with me. Prior to Cape Sharp Tidal's project, there were 25 employees at that facility. There are now 140 unionized men and women working at that facility, yet somehow, the Leader of the Official Opposition did not at one point think that he should mention the positive news coming out of Pictou County because that doesn't fit the narrative. It just doesn't fit his narrative.

We've seen it day in and day out. Rather than take the opportunity as the Leader of the Official Opposition to say, this is a great thing and look at the jobs being made right here in Pictou County, he mentioned Cumberland and he mentioned Digby - not one word about Pictou County. I'll let the residents of Pictou County judge for themselves as to the reasons for that.

Madam Speaker, the fact is that we have brought forward a bill which is the first of its kind, which does significant work to set up the rules of what will happen in the development of our tidal industry - I actually do have some prepared remarks that I'll just read for the record.

We need a clear and responsible path forward for developing Nova Scotia's marine renewable energy sector. The Marine Renewable-energy Act provides a framework for the safe, responsible, and strategic development of Nova Scotia's tidal energy resource. Our tidal resources, particularly in the Bay of Fundy, will make a significant contribution to the

province as a growing economic generator with export potential as a new power source. Nova Scotia is already seen globally as a centre of excellence in the tidal industry, and this legislation is a key step in continuing on that momentum.

When we brought this legislation forward in the Spring, we said we would be consulting with partners and stakeholders over the summer. Staff at the Department of Energy met with communities, environmental groups, academia, industry, and government over the summer on the bill's content and direction.

This is what my notes say. It will probably be different when you hear it. I won't take too much time, but I do want to fill the House in on what these amendments are all about.

First, we are introducing some changes that will help improve public confidence. Our priority is to develop this resource in a safe and responsible way, and we want to make sure Nova Scotians are on board. We've significantly strengthened the provisions requiring the collection of environmental information from baseline data to environmental effects. We've strengthened our authority to share this information with regulators including Environment and DFO.

Second, we are advancing the process of establishing three new areas for tidal energy development for the Fundy Tidal COMFIT projects. These areas allow Fundy Tidal Inc. to make progress on their projects while we complete the process and finally confirm the areas under regulation in 2016.

Finally, there are several administrative changes that clarify roles and responsibilities within government, particularly how the Departments of Natural Resources and Fisheries and Aquaculture are involved in the administration of elements of the Act.

Madam Speaker, the result is a stronger piece of legislation that reflects an important government priority while addressing the concerns and interests of our partners and stakeholders. I'm pleased to see support from all sides of this House for the direction we are taking in the safe and responsible development of Nova Scotia's tidal energy resources.

With that, I move to close debate of Bill No. 110.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 110. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill be referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Madam Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 139.

Bill No. 139 - Municipal Elections Act.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand and move that Bill No. 139, the Municipal Elections Act, be now read a second time.

Madam Speaker, just for the clarification of the House, this is a process that the province undergoes every four years after an election is completed by our municipal governments and our school boards. After each election there is a review of the Act. We look for submissions from municipal units, from the public, and from school board officials to help us inform our legislative process, so that we can improve our piece of legislation that governs our municipal elections, and hopefully make this process more accessible to Nova Scotians.

In this particular round of changes we were focused on a couple of key priorities as a government, Madam Speaker - the first being, making the elections process more accessible to voters. We do not have a very high rate of voter participation when it comes to municipal and school board elections. I think it is around about 45 per cent of the population. I won't hold that these changes will necessarily change those outcomes alone; I do believe that the changes that we are proposing today will make voting easier for Nova Scotians in municipal elections and school board elections and will also allow more people to actually be eligible to vote.

The major changes that we have made specifically are around the criteria when it comes to voting in a particular municipal election. The current rules stipulate that a Nova Scotian must be a resident for three months in a municipal unit before they are allowed to vote. Of course, Madam Speaker, that ensures that citizens who move within the province within that three-month period are then ineligible to vote in their municipal election. We do not believe that's fair. We believe that disenfranchises a certain segment of the population that moves for whatever reason they may have, whether it's employment, whether it's for another family-related reason, or what have you.

The changes that we are suggesting today are to ensure that Nova Scotians who are living within the province for at least six months, who move within the province, if they move before the advance polling date of their new municipal unit that they are residing in, then they will be eligible to vote. So that is a change from having a Nova Scotian live in a municipal unit for three months prior to being ineligible to vote in an election, to ensuring that if they move before the advanced poll they will be eligible to vote in that election.

We are also making it easier to get on the voters list, Madam Speaker, in these changes. The current rules that we are looking to change through this process stipulate that residents have until August to get their name on the voters list. We are allowing that process to continue up until the advanced poll as well, so that voters have more time to get on the voters list leading into an election.

Also, we've heard from a lot of people - I'm sure many of my colleagues here in the House have heard from constituents who have voiced frustrations over voting and the ID requirements that are necessary. There are a number of our citizens in the province who do not have a licence, so we are allowing an oath to take place at the polling station for people who do not have the necessary ID requirements.

All these changes that I have listed so far bring the Municipal Elections Act into line with the rules that are stipulated in the Nova Scotia Elections Act, Madam Speaker, so we are creating consistency across the spectrum here.

Another big part of this piece of legislation, a focus for us, is around accountability and transparency. Under the current rules if a candidate receives donations that are less than \$50, they do not have to report those contributions to the elections officials under these new rules and amendments. All candidates will be required to submit a statement on the financial contributions that they receive, and we're making that consistent with school boards as well. Those are the large changes I would like to highlight before we begin debate on second reading of this bill.

There are some minor housekeeping items that have been included in this bill as well, including ensuring that municipalities have the flexibility to design their ballots. That is because different municipal units will be using different digital providers - those who are engaged in online voting - and there are some new rules around ensuring that it's very clear in the Act that Nova Scotians are not allowed to vote twice in a municipal election in one county or the next. That is very clearly specified, along with the penalties associated with that. We are also requiring the auditors who audit the online election system to take an oath of secrecy. We would consider those to be minor housekeeping items.

The larger items are associated with the criteria around eligibility for voting and the reporting requirements for all candidates in school boards and municipal elections when it comes to the financial contributions that they receive. I do expect these amendments to the Act to be viewed favourably by House, and with that said, I do look forward to the comments from my colleagues.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Madam Speaker, I want to thank the minister on his comments. I'll just make a few quick remarks in supporting this bill. In general, the Progressive Conservative caucus is in favour of any measure that increases citizen

engagement and voter participation. I know that during our provincial campaign, that was one of my focuses - to get out and engage the youth and make it easier, whether it was transportation or helping someone get their identification in place in order to go vote.

I think these changes are good. However, there was a little bit of concern around the process, and even though I support the bill, I noticed there was little outreach to get opinion on these changes, and the discussion paper was sent out without any thought to publicizing the debate. As a result, there were only 10 online respondents.

No consultation or insufficient consultation has become somewhat of regular criticism of this government from important stakeholders. I hope the department has done its homework and has sought out opinions from stakeholders and listened to what they have to say. I'm wondering if perhaps there might have been more consultation toward this bill, and perhaps the minister can elaborate on what media outlets he took in order to receive feedback. With regard to only 10 online respondents, it's not a true representation of the population, and certainly could not be used to create proper legislation in the province. The department anticipates, though, that there is no financial impact to the province in regard to this bill, and that's a great thing that we all like to hear.

A review of the Municipal Elections Act is conducted following each municipal and school board election. The last election was in 2012, and the next one will be on October 15, 2016, so these changes will be proclaimed as of April 15, 2016, six months before the next election. Any by-elections will come under current provisions. With these changes not affecting the municipal elections in the near term, I look forward to hearing from stakeholders at Law Amendments Committee and discussing this bill further. Thank you so much.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

HON. STERLING BELLIVEAU: Madam Speaker, I certainly welcome the opportunity to be engaged in Bill No. 139, the Municipal Elections Act. I welcome the members' comments here. To me, the municipal government has been recognized as the democracy that is closest to the people. I know that the minister has suggested some changes, and I welcome that.

One he made in his opening comments was regarding the frustration from electors who want to go and vote in the municipal election and do not have their personal ID on them. I can tell you that I have witnessed this a number of times, and I welcome these changes. My understanding is that the individual certainly can just swear an oath and there's no need to produce a personal ID. I can tell you that is very frustrating for an individual who may be a senior in a community and have younger people knowing that individual for a number of years and ask why they have to have this ID. So I welcome that change.

There are a number of amendments that will make it easier to vote during municipal elections, and also for school board elections, and this is always good news. It also addresses the concerns of the returning officer and there are a number of amendments in there that will do just that.

Certainly like my other colleagues have suggested, I look forward to this going to the Law Amendments Committee. One thing that I'll be certainly taking note is that the minister made reference to there were a number of consultations during the previous month and that's something that we'll be looking for - if Nova Scotia's electorate have been consulted on this particular bill. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Whitney Pier.

MR. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Madam Speaker, I am honoured to stand here and offer a few comments in regard to Bill No. 139. First, I want to thank the minister and his staff for bringing these amendments forward.

I'll start by saying that as a former municipal councillor, I've had the opportunity to serve the community of CBRM at large. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the work our school board representatives do, as we all do in this House. In the work they are truly, as my colleague said from the NDP caucus, they truly are the front line. They are dealing with constituency issues on a daily basis; they are on the doorsteps. A lot of times they are advocating for many issues that come across our desks first and foremost. I just want to send my best and my remarks to all the councillors and all the school board reps across the province who do great work on a daily basis.

I just want to make a few comments about the amendments, in particular recently a lot of municipal councils across the province have been doing a number of initiatives to try to encourage, to increase voter participation. We've seen the use of technology in the last number of years to support increased voter turnout and convenience for people to cast their ballot and exercise their right during elections.

I think some of these amendments help to bridge - some of those gaps still remain within the technology. We've seen success with technology in the latest CBRM election but it did not increase voter participation. I can say as a former councillor, especially looking at the amendment here in regard to changing the date that somebody can be added to the voter list from August to October, I can tell you as somebody who campaigned in August as a municipal councillor, we have a beautiful province and people are travelling throughout our communities and visiting various communities. They do return home in the Fall when their children go back to school and it's a process that they never had time to think about. I've had a number of experiences where I've had residents come to my office, and approach me during the municipal campaign, expressing frustration because they never took the time, they never realized the deadline was the end of August to register. Now they can do that under these amendments.

Another important one, too, is I view - and I'm sure we all do - we view this province as one community and now giving the ability to someone who has moved from one community to another, to be able to vote in that area when the election comes is very important. That's from somebody who moves from one province to the other, but in my experience we've seen it from district to district within municipalities where people were not eligible to vote because they moved just before the campaign. So that is very important as well.

I do want to say that I'm impressed with the feedback that has been received. I'm seeing that we've received feedback from . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, please. I'd like to ask the members of the House to please keep the chatter down a little bit here.

The honourable member for Sydney-Whitney Pier has the floor.

MR. MOMBOURQUETTE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it's very positive that we've received feedback from 100 municipal and school board officials across the province. That's credit to the minister and that's credit to his department for reaching out to communities across the province to receive that feedback.

I'll close my comments by saying that of course, we all agree that we need as much transparency as possible in our municipal elections, regardless of what level they're at. I think that the amendments coming forward to provide more transparency in the process are welcomed. I thank the minister for bringing this forward and I thank his staff for the work that they've done and I appreciate the opportunity to provide a few comments here today, thank you.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate the comments from my colleagues in the House. I know that the member for Sydney-Whitney Pier was a very engaged municipal leader, and so his comments in particular are, I think, very telling of the importance of these legislative changes, so I do want to thank him for his service to his community as an elected municipal representative, and now an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly.

The member for Queens-Shelburne did, I believe, speak in favour of the changes around oath-taking at the polling station. I do think it's important to note that I have heard some concerns around whether that process could be abused by voters, not providing factual information on their eligibility to vote. I do want to say it is illegal to perjure oneself in the Province of Nova Scotia, so we act in good faith when we make our laws that citizens

are law-abiding and will follow these laws, under the assumption that if they do break them, there are punitive measures that can be taken by the province and the courts.

I do want to speak specifically to the consultation piece. Always very much appreciative of any feedback we can receive from Opposition members, or stakeholders, or anybody who has suggestions on how we can improve communication with the public. It is not always an easy process to garner this sort of excitement or interest within the public, when it comes to matters particularly around the development of laws in some cases. So, while we did have 10 submissions online, Madam Speaker, we did have 100 submissions from our municipal leadership, from municipal officials and school board officials.

I'm told by our staff that that is actually the most submissions we have ever had from a provincial perspective, on this particular piece of legislation, so I do not think it's fair to suggest that the consultation process was not a success. Of course we can always improve on our reach and improve on garnering interest in the public on these matters, but to date this was the most successful consultation that the province has had in terms of submissions.

I will say that the online process that we did go through was very consistent with an online consultation process we went through on the Sunday hunt, when I was full-time Minister of Natural Resources. That particular issue garnered over 22,000 submissions and it was a very similar format to this particular one, and so one never knows which issues are going to get a lot of excitement in the public, where the public will really want to be engaged in feedback. We had one using this format that garnered 22,000 - we had another that garnered 10.

I really do think that the low public participation, in terms of this consultation process on the Municipal Elections Act, relates to the systemic issue when it comes to voter participation in the municipal and school board elections themselves. We have low participation rates across the board and that's an indication that the interest level on these particular matters sometimes isn't as high as we'd like. But, I will say we did receive over 100 submissions, and I will note - I realize that the Opposition Parties are now trying to develop a narrative that the government is not consulting. I believe that from my standpoint that is unequivocally untrue.

The interesting thing with this particular case, Madam Speaker, is that out of all these submissions that we did receive, we did not receive one from the Opposition Parties, not one submission on how to improve this piece of legislation, and so, if there is one thing that the Opposition Parties can do, when it comes to ensuring the public is engaged in our legislative process, is to lead by example, because to date they haven't.

With that said, Madam Speaker, I move to close second reading debate on Bill No. 139.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 139. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill be referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Madam Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 138.

Bill No. 138 - Chartered Professional Accountants Act.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I move that Bill No. 138 be now read a second time.

I'm honoured to rise in the House today to speak to my colleagues about An Act Respecting Chartered Professional Accountants of Nova Scotia, which I tabled earlier. Madam Speaker, today's legislation will formally merge the Certified General Accountants, Certified Management Accountants, and Chartered Accountants into Chartered Professional Accountants, also known as CPA. With this legislation, the framework will be put in place for CPA Nova Scotia to assume regulatory oversight of all accountants in Nova Scotia.

Madam Speaker, today's legislation is the second step of a two-stage approach. The first was introduced in the Spring 2015 sitting of the Legislature, with the establishment of the new CPA designation. That legislation was proclaimed on July 1, 2015. This second stage completes the merger and creates the regulatory framework for CPA Nova Scotia to govern the membership.

CPA Nova Scotia will work to complete bylaws, and after those bylaws are successfully completed the legislation will be proclaimed. This is expected to take place in Spring 2016.

Although the merger is an initiative led by national professional accountant bodies, the accounting profession is provincially regulated, which is why it requires government legislation to complete. We support these efforts of the legacy accounting bodies and are pleased to work with the profession to complete the merger.

Madam Speaker, Nova Scotians can have full confidence that CPA Nova Scotia is adhering to the highest standards in accounting excellence in Canada. The accounting profession is one that has a long history in our province.

Merging the three accounting bodies will reduce the complexity and cost of regulating multiple entities. It will also create one strong voice and strengthen the recognition of Canada's and Nova Scotia's accounting profession and its brand globally. I look forward to seeing the positive benefits of this unification and hearing from my colleagues. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

MR. TERRY FARRELL: I just want to rise very briefly today on this bill. I know there are two related bills before the House today, this bill and Bill No. 140. The remarks that I make with respect to Bill 138 will apply to both those bills.

First, I want to begin by congratulating the minister and his staff for bringing this legislation forward. It's definitely a piece of legislation that highlights the regulatory efficiencies that we are very, very concerned with and that are being effected throughout the province. I think it's a credit to the minister, the department, and to the professions that came forward to seek this legislation. I want to say some good words about them as well and to congratulate the three professions that are coming forward with this progressive piece of legislation today that's going to make the registration of their professions much better within the province.

As a member of a self-regulating profession I know how seriously members take the regulatory function that they are entrusted with when this type of legislation is put in place. The coming together of the three accounting professions at this point to strengthen this function and to strengthen the protection of the public that is afforded through this type of legislation is to be commended. I think that in the accounting profession I've had the privilege of working with members of all the pre-existing accounting professions in my professional practice, and even for me, who got to work with them on a regular basis, there was always some confusion in understanding each of their respective functions within the accounting profession.

We're moving forward now, Madam Speaker, to a situation where the public will be able to look at the accounting profession as a unified body that, regardless of the previous profession that they may have participated in, will co-operate in one regulatory body that will be there to strengthen their profession, to better serve the public, and to provide a much more efficient form of regulation. With those few remarks, I will take my seat.

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

The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Madam Speaker, I rise to close debate on Bill No. 138. I'd like to thank my colleague, the member for Cumberland North, for his comments and

input on this legislation. I look forward to seeing the bill proceed through the Law Amendments Committee and come back for third reading at a future date. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 138. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill be referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Madam Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 140.

Bill No. 140 - Public Accountants Act.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 140, an Act to Amend Chapter 369 of the Revised Statutes of 1989, the Public Accountants Act, be now read a second time.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to speak for a few moments about the Act to Amend Chapter 369 - Bill No. 140 - that I tabled earlier. The Public Accountants Act is the licensing and consumer protection Statute. The Act requires that anyone providing financial statement audit and review services to the public be licensed by the Public Accountants Board.

The amendments to the Public Accountants Act will ensure that the framework for oversight and licensing of public accountants is modernized. These modifications work in tandem with Bill No. 138. We were pleased to work with the profession as well as the Public Accountants Board to update the oversight of the audit and review function to ensure that Nova Scotians continue to receive quality service from the accounting profession.

Madam Speaker, with those few words, I look forward to hearing comments from my colleagues in the Legislature. Thank you.

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

The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Madam Speaker, I've already provided my comments. I rise to close debate on Bill No. 140. With those few words, I'll take my seat.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 140. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that this bill be referred to the Committee on Law Amendments.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. MICHEL SAMSON: Madam Speaker, that concludes the government's business for today. I can advise the House that the following bills will be considered at the Law Amendments Committee, which will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, December 2nd. Those will be Bill Nos. 112, 118, 131, 133, 134, and 136.

Madam Speaker, I can also advise members of the House that the bills that were done in second reading today, those being Bill Nos. 110, 138, 139, and 140, will be heard at the Law Amendments Committee this Friday, December 4th, at 11:00 a.m.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would now call upon the House Leader of the Official Opposition to give the hours for tomorrow and the business for tomorrow as well.

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

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Madam Speaker, of course we will meet tomorrow between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. where after the regular routine, we will talk about Bill No. 121, Fighting Hunger with Local Food Act as well as the bill that was introduced today, Bill No. 142, an Act to Ensure Economic Growth in Nova Scotia.

I move the House do now rise to meet again tomorrow between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

MADAM SPEAKER: The motion is the House now rise to meet again tomorrow, December 2nd between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

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

The motion is carried.

We stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow, thank you.

[The House rose at 4:16 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 2545**

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Junior Pan American Championships were held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, this past August; and

Whereas Trysten Deveau of Church Point was a member of the women's Under-21 Team Kumite that won the bronze medal; and

Whereas Trysten Deveau was selected to represent Canada at the Worlds in the U-21 division in November;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Trysten Deveau and her teammates for winning bronze at the Junior Pan American Championships, and wish her all the best in the upcoming World Championships in Indonesia.

RESOLUTION NO. 2546

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Worlds Masters Power Lifting Championships 2015 were held in Aurora, Colorado, on September 28, 2015, to October 4, 2015; and

Whereas Paul Gidney of Digby competed in the 105 kilogram division of the Masters 2 level; and

Whereas Paul took top spot in the deadlift event with lift of 277.5 kg (612 pounds), and won a bronze medal in the bench press event with a bench press of 195 kg (430 pounds);

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Paul Gidney for winning a gold and bronze medal at the Worlds Masters Power Lifting Championships 2015, and wish him continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2547

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Sports Nova Scotia presented the 2015 Ricoh Sports Awards on May 30, 2015, at the World Trade and Convention Centre, in front of over 600 members of the sports community; and

Whereas the award ceremony recognizes the achievements of more than 200 athletes, coaches, officials, sponsors, and volunteers, from across the province; and

Whereas the provincial organization for archery named Nicole Theriault of Meteghan River as their Female Individual Athlete of the Year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Nicole Theriault on this prestigious award, and wish her continued success in future athletic endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 2548

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Norman, Gary, and Brian Melanson, of Digby County, were awarded the 2015 Woodland Owner of the Year Award for western Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Melansons have a 212-hectare woodlot in Concession, which has been in the family for more than a century; and

Whereas the Melansons use sustainable management and harvesting methods to ensure the long-term viability of the woodlot;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Norman, Gary, and Brian Melanson, on their much-deserved award, and thank them for their innovative approach to woodland management.

RESOLUTION NO. 2549

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Keith Amirault of Digby competed in the annual race across the Bay of Fundy, put on by the Royal Kennebecasis Yacht Club on September 19, 2015; and

Whereas Dragonfly was the only Digby boat in the racing class, with five Saint John boats; and

Whereas Keith Amirault was the first across the line, making the crossing in just under six hours;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Keith Amirault for winning the Saint John to Digby sailing race with his boat Dragonfly, and wish him continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2550

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas 17 Guy's Frenchys stores from across Nova Scotia and New Brunswick hold annual fundraisers for the IWK Health Centre; and

Whereas the 2015 campaign raised over \$96,000 from all its stores; and

Whereas in the past 15 years, Guy's Frenchys has raised more than \$1 million in support of the IWK Foundation;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the staff and customers of Guy's Frenchys for their effort to raise money for the IWK Health Centre and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 2551

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas on August 22, 2015, Dr. Donald Westby of Weymouth, along with family and friends, participated in their annual 34.1-kilometre Walk-a-Bond from Weymouth to Meteghan; and

Whereas Dr. Westby began the walk 11 years ago as a time to bond with his children, but it also doubles as a fundraiser for various charities and organizations; and

Whereas this year's fundraiser is expressly for the needs of the patients and their families in the oncology department at the Yarmouth Hospital;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dr. Don Westby and his fellow walkers for the success of their fundraiser and wish them continued success as they encourage others to lead a healthy lifestyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 2552

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia 4-H provincial show was held at the Hants County Exhibition Park in Windsor this past October; and

Whereas Thian Carman, 16, of Barton, and his calf, Ms. Classy 7C, won Grand Champion Simmental Animal; and

Whereas the win came with a trip to Toronto to compete at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair November 6 to 15, 2015;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Thian Carman and wish him all the best at the upcoming Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

RESOLUTION NO. 2553

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships were held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on October 11, 2015; and

Whereas Trysten Deveau, a member of the Bushino Ki Karate Club in Church Point, competed in the 18-plus women's advanced division for all weight categories in Kumite; and

Whereas Trysten's hard work and dedication earned her a silver medal in her division;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Trysten for winning silver at the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships and wish her all the best in the upcoming Junior World Karate Championships in Indonesia.

RESOLUTION NO. 2554

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships were held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on October 11, 2015; and

Whereas Alex Comeau, a member of the Bushino Ki Karate Club in Church Point, competed in the 16-17 age division in Kumite advanced; and

Whereas Alex's hard work and dedication earned him a silver medal in his division;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Alex for winning silver at the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships and wish him all the best in the upcoming Junior World Karate Championships in Indonesia.

RESOLUTION NO. 2555

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships were held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on October 11, 2015; and

Whereas Sydney Comeau, a member of the Bushino Ki Karate Club in Church Point, competed in the 14-15 age division in Kumite advanced; and

Whereas Sydney's hard work and dedication earned him a gold medal in his division:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Sydney Comeau for winning gold at the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships and wish him continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2556

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships were held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on October 11, 2015; and

Whereas Riley Deveau, a member of the Bushino Ki Karate Club in Church Point, competed in the 14-15 age division in Kumite advanced; and

Whereas Riley's hard work and dedication earned him a silver medal in his division:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Riley Deveau for winning silver at the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships and wish him continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2557

By: Mr. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships were held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., on October 11, 2015; and

Whereas Denise Thibault, a member of the Bushino Ki Karate Club in Church Point, competed in the 10-11 age division in Kumite intermediate; and

Whereas Denise's hard work and dedication earned her a gold medal in her division:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Denise Thibault for winning gold at the 2015 Atlantic Karate Championships and wish her continued success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 2558

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Adrienne Blumenthal was named by the Learning Partnership of Toronto, Ontario, as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals in 2015, and only 40 principals are so named each year, based on demonstrating innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and problem solving; and

Whereas Adrienne, as the principal of Porters Lake Elementary School, has the strong conviction that each student deserves a quality education, and as she is recognized for her success in developing a co-teaching model between resource and classroom teachers that has improved student achievement; and

Whereas Adrienne is a technology leader in her board and is focused on teaching and learning;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize Adrienne Blumenthal for the contributions she has made to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2559

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Angela Daniels-Drummond was named one of Canada's outstanding early childhood educators as she was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education for her work on bringing empathy, compassion, and inclusion to the children in her child care centre; and

Whereas Angela is the inclusion coordinator at the Dartmouth Day Care Centre, 28 Caledonia Road, Dartmouth, N.S., where she introduced the "Seeds of Empathy" program, which allows her children to follow a young infant's developmental milestones, thus instilling empathy in the children; and

Whereas Angela is recognized for her work mentoring early childhood educators at Mount Saint Vincent and Dalhousie Universities and the Nova Scotia Community College:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize Angela Daniels-Drummond for the contributions she has made to early childhood education in Canada.

RESOLUTION NO. 2560

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture):

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

Whereas Tina and Hans Gerstenecker, owners of the Vines Pasta Grill, 4 Panavista Drive in Dartmouth, held their 5th Annual Free Community Breakfast in support of the Feed Nova Scotia food bank on Saturday, October 3, 2015; and

Whereas the tremendous support for the community breakfast enabled Tina and Hans to make a significant monetary and food donation to the food bank; and

Whereas Tina and Hans also provide hot Christmas meals for those in need through their support of the Rotary Club by coming into their restaurant about 4:00 am on Christmas morning to prepare the food for delivery to families in need;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Tina and Hans for the many meaningful contributions they have made to their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2561

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture):

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

Whereas Burtis Lively and his wife Elsie moved to Lake Echo in 1969, raised their four children in the community, and formed his company Burtis Lively Masonry Ltd. in 1977; and

Whereas Burtis built the chimney for the Lake Echo Fire Department building in the early 1970s and would work all day at his trade and then build the chimney in the evenings free of charge; and

Whereas Burtis is 82 years of age, now retired from the masonry trade, still residing in Lake Echo and, as a testament to his skill as a mason, his work is still standing and functioning fine;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Burtis Lively for his accomplishments and contributions he has made to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2562

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture):

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

Whereas in the past the midwives of North Preston provided essential support to the women and families during the very early days of the settlement of this community; and

Whereas the midwives of North Preston provided a vital service to the women of the community through the birth of their children, as there as little to no medical care available in this community in the 1700s and the work of the midwives is a testimony to the self-reliance of the community; and

Whereas the early midwives of North Preston included Mary West, Bertha Downey, Elizabeth Downey, Margaretta Willis, Lucy Deals, Olive Simmonds, Sophie

Wilson, Barbara Provo, Lydia Willis, Isabel Simmonds, Blanche Deals, Fannie Grouse, Ethel Downey-Grouse, and Agnes Downey;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize the midwives of North Preston for the meaningful and essential contribution they made to the women of their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2563

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture):

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

Whereas Preston Simmons, a resident of East Preston, submitted an essay, entitled Piano Hands-Melodies of Diversity, on the life of Oscar Peterson to the RBC's Black History Month Student Essay Competition; and

Whereas Preston's essay placed second in Canada that entitled him to a \$2,500 scholarship to put towards his studies, and he did a special reading of his award-winning essay at the RBC branch in Porters Lake; and

Whereas Preston completed his Grade 12 at Auburn High School, he is now enrolled in the Bachelor of Neuroscience degree program at Carleton University in Ottawa, with plans to go on to medical school.

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Preston Simmons' high academic achievement on his essay regarding how Black Canadians have helped define Canada's heritage.

RESOLUTION NO. 2564

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture):

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

Whereas Reeny Smith has been named Casino Nova Scotia's new artist in residence and she received \$20,000 to develop her career and to showcase her talent at the Halifax and Sydney casinos, as well as other international music events, through Music Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Reeny has achieved many other awards for her musical talents such as the Portia White Award for Excellence in Vocal Performance, the Rising Star Award at the

2012 African Nova Scotian Music Awards, and a scholarship from the Nova Scotia Talent Trust; and

Whereas Reeny played piano since the age of five and honed her musical skills performing with family at her local church, Saint Thomas Baptist, and continues to enrich our lives through her musical talents;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Reeny Smith for her musical achievements and honours.

RESOLUTION NO. 2565

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas RCMP Sgt. Craig Smith recently achieved the distinction as the first Black RCMP member to receive the honour of appointment to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces; and

Whereas Sgt. Smith is also a chronicler of the African Nova Scotian and Canadian experience, as recorded in four books he authored on the subject, and also lectures at many schools as well as conferences in the United States, including the National Alliance of Black School Educators in Detroit; and

Whereas Sgt. Smith has received other awards and recognition for his advocacy work in the African Nova Scotian community, such as the Canadian National Griot Award and induction into the Rev. Dr. William P. Oliver Black Wall of Fame:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sgt. Craig Smith for his accomplishment as an RCMP member and advocate for the African Nova Scotian community.

RESOLUTION NO. 2566

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Mabel Ashe Winnifred (Grant) Sparks of Cherry Brook held her 100th birthday on January 31, 2015, at the historic St. John's Anglican Church Hall, surrounded by friends and family; and

Whereas Mabel, the sixth and youngest child of Elizabeth (Beals) Grant and James Grant, was born in the community of Cherry Brook, where she lived most of her life and married Lawrence Sparks, and together they had four children, Lillian, Inez, Allen, and Lawrence; and

Whereas Mabel is a lifelong member and a pillar of the Cherry Brook United Baptist Church and the oldest member of the community, and her quiet approach to life is a comfort to her many friends and acquaintances:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Mabel on the occasion of her 100th birthday and for her many contributions to the community of Cherry Brook.

RESOLUTION NO. 2567

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Ashley Wournell of Lake Echo proudly represents Nova Scotia at the Special Olympics and is a highly acclaimed swimmer on the Dartmouth Dolphins swim team; and

Whereas she has won many medals this year at the Nationals in Vancouver, most notably the 100 Butterfly silver, 200 Breaststroke silver, 100 IM bronze, 100 Breaststroke bronze, and 200 IM fourth medals; and

Whereas her impressive record this year at the Provincials at Saint Francis Xavier University includes the 100 Butterfly gold, 200 Breaststroke gold, 100 IM gold, 100 Breaststroke silver, and 200 IM silver medals:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House congratulate Ashley Wournell for her tremendous achievements in swimming.

RESOLUTION NO. 2568

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Tanya Reddick is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Tanya Reddick and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Tanya Reddick and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Tanya Reddick for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2569

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Brother Ernest Colley is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Brother Ernest Colley and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Brother Ernest Colley and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison:

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Brother Ernest Colley for the valuable contributions he has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2570

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Sandra Brooks is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Sandra Brooks and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Sandra Brooks and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Sandra Brooks for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2571

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Rose Brooks is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Rose Brooks and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Rose Brooks and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Rose Brooks for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2572

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Phyllis Colley is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Phyllis Colley and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Phyllis Colley and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Phyllis Colley for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2573

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Pamela Thomas, ministry coordinator, is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Pamela Thomas and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Pamela Thomas and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Pamela Thomas for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2574

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Margaret Diggs is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Margaret Diggs and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Margaret Diggs and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Margaret Diggs for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2575

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Janette Brooks is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counseling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Janette Brooks and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Janette Brooks and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Janette Brooks for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2576

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Mabel Johnston is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counseling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Mabel Johnston and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Mabel Johnston and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Mabel Johnston for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2577

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Heather Colley is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counseling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Heather Colley and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Heather Colley and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Heather Colley for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2578

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Florence Carter is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counseling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Florence Carter and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Florence Carter and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Florence Carter for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2579

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Sister Beryl Carter is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counseling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Sister Beryl Carter and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Sister Beryl Carter and the Prison Ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Sister Beryl Carter for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2580

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Reverend Dr. Joyce Ross is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Reverend Dr. Joyce Ross and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Reverend Dr. Joyce Ross and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Reverend Dr. Joyce Ross for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2581

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Reverend LeQuita Porter, senior pastor, is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Reverend LeQuita Porter and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Reverend LeQuita Porter and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Reverend LeQuita Porter for the valuable contributions she has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2582

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Deacon Harold Johnston is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Deacon Harold Johnston and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Deacon Harold Johnston and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Deacon Harold Johnston for the valuable contributions he has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2583

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Brother Victor Ross is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Brother Victor Ross and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Brother Victor Ross and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Brother Victor Ross for the valuable contributions he has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2584

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Brother Shawn Colley is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Brother Shawn Colley and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Brother Shawn Colley and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Brother Shawn Colley for the valuable contributions he has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2585

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Agriculture)

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

Whereas Brother Mark Colley is a member of the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry team providing worship services and counselling to individuals in our prison system; and

Whereas Brother Mark Colley and the team of 20 volunteers celebrated 35 years of delivering this essential service to those in prison on November 13, 2015; and

Whereas Brother Mark Colley and the prison ministry team continue to show love and compassion in bringing peace to those hurting in prison;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House recognize Brother Mark Colley for the valuable contributions he has made to the East Preston United Baptist Church Prison Ministry and for transforming the lives of those in prison.

RESOLUTION NO. 2586

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas the North Shore Players began their ninth year of performance at the Tatamagouche Elementary School, Colchester North, with a production that included three short one-act plays, plus a scene from a classic play and live musical interludes; and

Whereas the group encourages involvement of anyone with an interest in acting, directing, writing, or any other supporting role in productions; and

Whereas with new people moving in to the area, the Players have been fortunate to get more males signing up as well as more youth and the group is also fortunate that so many residents are supporters of local cultural events;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the North Shore Players for another successful year of entertaining residents from Tatamagouche and area.

RESOLUTION NO. 2587

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Shelby Jamieson from Tatamagouche, Colchester North, had just completed four years of study at the Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture, when she heard about the internship with the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute in Uganda; and

Whereas Jamieson's tasks included researching and reviewing trade agreements, report writing, and helping conduct field interviews with small-holder farmers on the challenges of maize or corn production; and

Whereas she feels her internship provided her with valuable knowledge regarding food security and agri-policy issues, as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by small scale farmers;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Shelby Jamieson for her participation in the Ugandan experience and for her upcoming graduation with a BSc in Agricultural Business and a minor in Agricultural Economics in May 2016.

RESOLUTION NO. 2588

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Jessica McNutt Wells operates Solo Creek Farm in Valley, Colchester North, where she teaches young equestrians by running camps and training riders for all levels of interest and skill; and

Whereas the farm is very family-oriented and both of Jessica's parents often help out around the barn, along with her one-year-old son who clearly enjoys being around the horses; and

Whereas McNutt Wells organizes a small show series to help riders learn about being in the show ring and to further compete in major jumper competitions, as she does with Hudson, her 16-year-old warm blood, who pinned in every class in his last show;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Jessica McNutt Wells for her expertise, for her love of horses, and for sharing both with her young students.

RESOLUTION NO. 2589

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Milfern Holsteins in Onslow, Colchester North, is a successful 450-acre farm operated by Fred and Anne Hamilton, along with their family, and has been in Fred's family for nine generations; and

Whereas this family farm now has 45 dairy cows, 220 ewes, five draft horses, four light horses and seven border collies, offering sleigh and wagon rides year-round for 27 years; and

Whereas their horses are used for weddings, parades, played a role in the *Moby Dick* miniseries, as well as in *The Book of Negroes* and Fred also participates in trials, competitions and herding demonstrations with his border collies;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Hamilton family for their involvement in the local 4-H Club as leaders and for their

success as a result of hard work, diversity, and uniqueness of the enterprises they have undertaken.

RESOLUTION NO. 2590

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Lauchie MacEachern from Debert, Colchester North, spent his early years working in his parents' service station, but working on his friend's farm was what he loved to do most; and

Whereas after going to the Agricultural College in Bible Hill he met his wife Jolene, went West for a time, but returned to Nova Scotia to farm and raise a family; and

Whereas Lauchie and Jolene, along with their three children, now operate Folly River Farms Ltd., a 300-acre farm where they milk 60 cows; grow crops of corn, barley, soybean, clover and alfalfa; and rent out land for carrot production;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the MacEacherns for the pride they have in producing high quality food and for the role they play in agriculture in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 2591

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Wilson Fuel is proud to support its employees, their children and grandchildren, as they further their postsecondary education at university or community college through the Wilson Family Scholarship, awarded yearly to those who have achieved success at school or a trade and are involved with their communities through volunteering, sports or the arts; and

Whereas Nicole Smith from Great Village, Colchester North, graduated from the Cobequid Educational Centre in June 2015 and is attending Acadia University, majoring in business and administration; and

Whereas Nicole balanced a busy schedule of work at Wilson's in Great Village, maintained an honours average in her scholastic studies, played sports, and volunteered in her community:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Nicole Smith as a recipient of a \$3,000 Wilson Family Scholarship for 2015.

RESOLUTION NO. 2592

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas the second annual Cool Runnings was held in Tatamagouche, Colchester North, offering a 1k, 5k, walk/run, or a 10k run for all ages and all fitness levels, with prizes given out for inspiration rather than for placement; and

Whereas the ultimate goal of Cool Runnings is to inspire and motivate people to become more physically active; and

Whereas Cool Runnings also teamed up with the North Shore Recreation Centre, which hosted a Health and Wellness Community Expo on the same day to bring public awareness to the wide variety of health and wellness related services available in Tatamagouche and the surrounding communities:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the organizers of this successful event.

RESOLUTION NO. 2593

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Andrew and Kevin Buckles are the bros in the television reality series, *Brojects: In the House*, which has become a success in Canada and recently began airing in the United States; and

Whereas for this upcoming season they will be doing much of the work, with a crew of about 12, at the former Masonic Lodge building in Great Village, Colchester North, replacing the foundation and windows, insulating the walls, and installing a shower; and

Whereas they have described their project as an adult playground that may have such features as a bar, a climbing wall, a skateboard ramp that converts to sleeping space at night, shuffleboard game, miniature golf course and firehouse pole, all to be used by the community in the future:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Andrew and Kevin Buckles for their successful reality series and for supporting the community of Great Village.

RESOLUTION NO. 2594

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Junior members from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island attended the Maritime Junior Limousin Show recently held at Balamore Farms, home to the largest herd of Limousin cattle in Atlantic Canada in Great Village, Colchester North, hosted by Joe and Carolyn Cooper; and

Whereas this two-day event involved points awarded for judging, clipping competition, photography competition, quality of the Limousin entry, and showmanship classes; and

Whereas two Colchester North juniors received awards: William Cooper, son of Joe and Carolyn Cooper, was awarded Grand Champion; and Megan Wynn of Crowes Mills received Reserve Champion:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate William Cooper and Megan Wynn for their awards, as well as the Coopers for hosting such a successful event that will be held again next year.

RESOLUTION NO. 2595

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas Jonathan Otter from Earltown, Colchester North, is a skilled woodworker and furniture maker, known for his 2012 wooden lounge chair that he designed and built himself and was a finalist for the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award; and

Whereas evolving from that design is Lounge Chair No. 2, which has been selected as a finalist in the Niche Awards, which celebrate excellence in North American fine craft; and

Whereas this Lounge Chair No. 2 continues the tradition of wedged and pinned tenons, where one piece of wood is shaped to fit into a crevice bored into another and then wedged so it will not come apart:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jonathan Otter on his successes and wish him luck at the Niche Awards in Washington, DC.

RESOLUTION NO. 2596

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas knowledge and creativity in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) are celebrated as being integral to the successful development of students and their critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity skills; and

Whereas STEAM is recognized and promoted around the world as key to building a strong economy and is being integrated as part of an innovative curriculum in the public school system under Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education; and

Whereas more than 135 students from Grades 4 to 8 across the province participated in the first invitational STEAM Olympics on November 7th at St. Mary's University in Halifax to explore multidisciplinary, hands-on, minds-on investigations and challenges;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the importance of promoting and supporting science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in our public education system through the implementation of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education to ensure a prosperous future for our students and economy.

RESOLUTION NO. 2597

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 Dave Wright is a father of two who was elected in 2012 as a member of the Halifax Regional School Board serving residents in Lower, Middle and Upper Sackville, Beaver Bank, and Lucasville; and

Whereas Dave is attentive to the needs of children and families in District 8 and responds promptly to address any issues or concerns that arise; and

Whereas Dave works hard for families and has served the community well in his three years to date as HRSB representative for District 8;

Therefore be it resolved that the Nova Scotia Legislature recognizes Halifax Regional School Board member Dave Wright for his efforts in serving the best interests of children and families in District 8, and offers wishes for continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 2598

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Municipal Affairs)

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

Whereas Yarmouth's Colin Fraser has been sworn in as West Nova's Member of Parliament; and

Whereas Colin Fraser was born and reared in Yarmouth and made it his permanent home; and

Whereas Colin Fraser has had a successful law career since being admitted to the bar;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Colin Fraser on his election as Member of Parliament for West Nova and wish him much success.

RESOLUTION NO. 2599

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Municipal Affairs)

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

Whereas Kate Fiander is the 2015 winner of the Yarmouth Lions Club High School Speakout; and

Whereas this is an annual competition that attracts numerous entries; and

Whereas Kate Fiander excels as a student and athlete at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Kate Fiander on her Speakout victory and wish her continued success as a public speaker and as a student.

RESOLUTION NO. 2600

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Municipal Affairs)

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

Whereas Alex Gigeroff, lawyer, criminologist and artist, has had a long and varied career; and

Whereas his wall murals at Yarmouth's South Centennial School are still fresh and beautiful after more than 20 years; and

Whereas Alex Gigeroff remains devoted to the arts at his advanced age;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly congratulate Alex Gigeroff on a successful, active life of devotion to the arts.

RESOLUTION NO. 2601

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on August 6, 2015 Joanne and Evan LeBlanc welcomed their son into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Joanne and Evan on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2602

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on September 18, 2015 Anissa and Carmen d'Eon welcomed their son into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Anissa and Carmen on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2603

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on October 8, 2015 Clara and Rejean Comeau welcomed their son into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Clara and Rejean on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2604

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on June 13, 2015 Allison Gray and Kevin Roberts welcomed their son into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Allison and Kevin on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2605

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on September 11, 2015 Terrilee O'Connell and Joshua Muise welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Terrilee and Joshua on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2606

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on May 19, 2015, Kelly and Grant d'Entremont welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Kelly and Grant on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2607

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on July 13, 2015, Jennifer MacIntosh and Réal d'Entremont welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jennifer and Réal on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2608

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on June 12, 2015, Holly Anthony and Felix d'Eon welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Holly and Felix on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2609

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on May 10, 2015, Alysha LeBlanc and Julian Surette welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Alysha and Julian on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 2610

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 birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "A new baby is like the beginning of all things – wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on August 22, 2015, Ginette Levesque and Riel d'Eon welcomed their daughter into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ginette and Riel on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.