



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Second Session

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Sixty-third General Assembly

Second Session

1:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Mr. Brendan Maguire

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Before we begin the daily routine today, right off the top I'd like to draw all members' attention to the Speaker's Gallery where I'm pleased to welcome to our Assembly the new U.S. Consul General, Mr. Kevin Skillin. (Applause)

I'd like to give a warm welcome to him, his wife, and his two children, to Halifax as they get started on their term here in our fair province. Welcome.

We'll now move to the daily routine.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Immigration.

RESOLUTION NO. 279

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Monsieur le Président, à une date ultérieure je demanderais l'adoption de la résolution suivante:

Attendu que, depuis sa création en 1878, la Municipalité de Clare a demeuré fidèle à sa langue, à sa culture, et à son patrimoine contribuant ainsi de façon considérable à la voix et au caractère unique de la Nouvelle-Écosse; et

Attendu que, depuis les 250 dernières années, la Municipalité de Clare a été le lieu d'origine de certains des acadiens les plus éminents de la Nouvelle-Écosse et d'ambassadeur de la riche diversité culturelle de la Nouvelle-Écosse; et

Attendu que la Municipalité de Clare continue de faire connaître sa culture dynamique et son riche patrimoine à toute la Nouvelle-Écosse dans le cadre des célébrations telles que le plus ancien festival acadien de la province;

Par conséquent, qu'il soit résolu que les membres de l'Assemblée législative se joignent à moi pour féliciter la Municipalité de Clare à l'occasion de son 250^e anniversaire.

Monsieur le Président, je demande l'adoption de cette motion sans préavis et sans débat.

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

Whereas since its creation in 1878 the Municipality of Clare has remained true to its language, its culture, and its heritage, thus contributing significantly to Nova Scotia's unique voice and character; and

Whereas over the past 250 years the Municipality of Clare has consistently brought forward some of Nova Scotia's most prominent Acadians and ambassadors of Nova Scotia's rich cultural diversity; and

Whereas the Municipality of Clare continues to share its vibrant culture and rich heritage with all Nova Scotians, through celebrations such as the oldest Acadian festival in the province;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Municipality of Clare on its 250th anniversary.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Justice.

RESOLUTION NO. 280

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

Whereas our police from across the province work hard every day on behalf of their communities to protect the lives of Nova Scotians; and

Whereas their leadership and commitment to policing has resulted in developing innovative ways to better understand the challenges of an ever-changing world; and

Whereas the dedication and commitment of our local police officers and members of the RCMP was recognized earlier this week at the Long Service Awards where I was pleased to extend congratulations and sincere thanks to those who have served Nova Scotians for 15 and 25 years;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House join me in congratulating the members of our law enforcement community who received a medal for their long service and unwavering commitment to public service.

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 Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. DELOREY: I'd like to draw the attention of the members to the east gallery where I would like to introduce some special guests, and I would ask the guests to rise when I acknowledge them: Joy Owabolu, who is a continuing care assistant at Northwood; Josie Ryan, the executive director for long-term care at Northwood; and Mary Lee, who is the President and CEO of the Health Association of Nova Scotia.

I would ask the members to give them the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 281

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

Whereas continuing care providers and volunteers promote the health, well-being, and independence of people of all ages who require care and support in their homes and communities; and

Whereas important work, research, and advances are being made in the sector, helping to improve quality of care; and

Whereas Continuing Care Month is an opportunity to recognize dedicated staff and to learn more about continuing care programs and services across the province;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize September as Continuing Care Month.

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. 67 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 418 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Securities Act. (Hon. Karen Casey)

Bill No. 68 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 44 of the Acts of 2005. The Pre-primary Education Act. (Mr. Tim Halman)

Bill No. 69 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 494 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Vital Statistics Act. (Ms. Susan Leblanc)

Bill No. 70 - Entitled an Act Representing Gender-Neutral Identification. (Ms. Claudia Chender)

[1:15 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

PGA/CAF: SOLDIER ON GOLF - THANKS

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, the Abercrombie Country Club hosted an event for the Soldier On program, which toured the Atlantic Provinces during this summer.

This program, which is run by PGA of Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces, is designed to recruit ill and injured veterans and service personnel to play golf. Through this sport, veterans become more active again and reap the therapeutic effects, which are beneficial for those suffering from PTSD. Through this program and the venues that host them, the program has raised enough funds this year to have 15 ill and injured veterans from the Atlantic region play golf together, a total of \$62,000.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the PGA, the Abercrombie Country Club, and the Canadian Forces for what they are doing for veterans who have given so much to us.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**MACDONALD, DAVID/STRONGMAN, CHRISTINE:
MARRIAGE - CONGRATS.**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a special occasion in the life of two young, bright constituents, David MacDonald and Christine Strongman.

David and Christine started a new chapter in their lives as they celebrated their marriage on September 12th after being together for eight years. Many of their family and friends gathered to witness them committing their relationship publicly and officially at their wedding celebration ceremony in Las Vegas. The newlyweds are both involved members of our Halifax Armdale community, and I was glad to meet them on the campaign trails as they were preparing to purchase their first new home in Armdale.

I ask all members of the House of Assembly to congratulate the couple on their wedding and wish them a life marked by many happy healthy years.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

AMHERST RAMBLERS HOCKEY TEAM - BEST WISHES

MS. ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I would like to wish the Amherst Ramblers and their coach, Jeff LeBlanc, good luck in their upcoming season.

They have already scored a shutout in one of their pre-season games. Goalie Joel Goguen stopped all 20 shots during the game. This year, the Ramblers welcome new goalie Matt Williams to their team. The Ramblers games usually attract over 500 fans to the Amherst Stadium, and it's a big part of Cumberland's fall and winter activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all MLAs to join me in wishing the Ramblers a successful hockey season.

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

COLE HBR. & AREA BUS. ASSOC.: ROUND TABLE - THANKS

HON. TONY INCE: Mr. Speaker, this past spring and summer, I was pleased to co-host a small business round table intended to address some of the challenges small businesses are facing in our community.

The round table discussions engaged 12 to 14 local business owners and took place over a span of three months, consisting of a facilitated session each month. Working as a group we were able to identify three core items that participants wanted to address: (1)

develop a shop local initiative, (2) develop recurring business expos, and (3) creative use of existing local attractions and bring new attractions to our area.

With over 180 small businesses and over 30 non-profits active in my constituency and in partnership with the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association, we are now focusing on bringing community partners together to create a task force to get the ball rolling on all the exciting initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask that everybody join me in thanking the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association for helping us do this.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton-Richmond.

GENDER EQUALITY WK. (SEPT. 23rd- 29th): AWARENESS - RECOG.

MS. ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the first Gender Equality Week in Canada, September 23rd to 29th. This important initiative recognizes benefits for women, men, and all gender identities. Gender equality benefits all Canadians, and the country as a whole, by promoting fairness, economic prosperity, health, happiness, peace, and security.

While much progress has been made, there is still much to be done. I call upon all members of the House to acknowledge and recognize the continued efforts that individuals across our province and our country have put forth in an effort to advance awareness and the importance of gender equality in today's society.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

WATCH THAT ENDS THE NIGHT REST.: ACCOLADES - CONGRATS.

MS. CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate owner and Executive Chef Mark Gray and the entire team at the Watch That Ends the Night. In less than a year since Mark took over as owner, it has garnered the accolade of Best New Bar in Canada by *EnRoute* magazine.

Nestled in King's Wharf on the Dartmouth side of the harbour, the Watch and its team have put passion, heart, soul, and a whole lot of work into making the bar and restaurant what it is and there's more to come. In less than a month, they'll open their new 12-person dining room, Cassiopeia, dedicated to creating unique and noteworthy culinary experiences for their guests.

I'm excited to be able to rise in the House today and give credit to a small bar in Dartmouth that has gained such national attention. I'd ask my colleagues to join me in

congratulating Mark Gray, Executive Chef Janie Bogardus and the entire crew of the Watch That Ends the Night. They've made Dartmouth very proud.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

PELRINE, CATHY: COMMUN. SPIRIT - THANKS

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Cathy Pelrine of Timberlea. Cathy is a wonderful community member who routinely ensures that my office is aware of activities and issues within the community.

Cathy and her husband Bill are both engaged community members who have a keen interest in what is happening in their neighbourhood and have served with several organizations over the years. If there is a community meeting being held, Cathy is always in attendance. She likes to keep herself informed as to what is happening. She pays attention to things that can be improved such as noting the location of potholes and reporting them to me so that they can be taken care of.

Cathy is the kind of person who works with her elected officials for the betterment of the community. I would like the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in thanking Cathy for her community spirit and wish her well into the future.

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

SYD. MINES MIDDLE SCH.: RED BRICK ROW MURALS - THANKS

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the students of Sydney Mines Middle School and their art teacher, Sharyn Brennan. The students were asked to create murals to cover the last three units of the Red Brick Row, built in 1830. Most of the family units in this building have been rehabilitated for public housing, but funding dried up before the last three units could be addressed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the students who participated in this venture and learned the history of the Red Brick Row. Their community service is very much appreciated.

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

MORRISON, SCOTT - FLAVOUR REST.: 10th ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott Morrison from Sydney. Scott is a local entrepreneur. He's had a chain of very successful restaurants - Flavour Restaurant in Sydney. He has multiple locations, but most importantly, he's celebrating 10 successful years in business.

Scott is a champion in the community. He's involved with many organizations and through his businesses, he has been very successful and hired many local residents of the CBRM. So, Mr. Speaker, I rise in my place to recognize Scott Morrison for his success and wish him all the best on his 10-year anniversary of Flavour Restaurant.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: INDIGENOUS EDUC. - IMPORTANCE

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of days, schools and students around the province will be marking Orange Shirt Day by encouraging their students to wear orange shirts in support of residential school survivors.

Rooted in our troubled history, Orange Shirt Day is a specific reference to Phyllis Webstad's story. When upon arriving at the mission, her bright orange shirt that her grandmother had saved up to buy for her first day of school was stripped from her and never returned. She wrote of the experience, "The colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, and how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

Reconciliation includes truthful accounts of history that need to begin early. We can't reconcile if we don't remember, if we don't acknowledge the intergenerational trauma that our residential school legacy resulted in.

It's important for these schools to participate in Orange Shirt Day, and it's important that Indigenous education has a home in all of our school programs. Only by informing the next generation can we ensure that the horrors of our colonial past are reconciled and healing can begin.

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

BEATTIE, ERIN: EXEMP. PARTICIP. AWARD - CONGRATS.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erin Beattie, a recent graduate of Fairview Junior High School for being recognized at the Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation luncheon this spring with the exemplary participation award.

Erin excelled both academically and in a variety of athletics, specifically soccer, while at Fairview Junior High. Claudine White, the director of sales and marketing at Eastlink, had the pleasure of presenting Erin with this prestigious award. Erin was also accredited with the title of Female Athlete of the Year, selected by the staff at Fairview Junior High.

As Erin enters her first year at Halifax West High School, I know that she will continue to exceed expectations amongst her peers. Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this House to join me in recognizing Erin Beattie for her remarkable athletic and academic career during her time at Fairview Junior High School and wish her the best of luck as she continues on in her high school career.

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

QUEENS CO. FAIR ASSOC.: COUNTY FAIR (2018) - CONGRATS.

MS. KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Queens County Fair Association on this year's county fair which took place between September 18th and September 22nd. This is the only remaining county fair in Nova Scotia that uses the original heritage buildings. It has remained a true agriculture fair since its inception in 1886, including a street parade; horse, beef and oxen competitions; and produce and craft exhibits.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the association and all its volunteers who worked tirelessly through the year bringing this event together, preserving and enhancing the buildings and grounds, and preserving a real step-back-in-time agriculture fair.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank.

ALFORD, EMILY: CDN. YOUTH DART CHAMPION (2018) - CONGRATS.

MR. BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Beaver Bank resident Emily Alford, a Grade 9 student at Lockview High School on her amazing win at the Canadian Dart Nationals in Quebec. Emily won the 2018 Canadian Youth Dart Championship.

This win qualifies Emily to compete for Canada at the World Masters Dart Championships taking place later this month in England, as well as taking home a bursary of \$1,000.

Mr. Speaker, we wish Emily the best of luck when she competes in London and thank the community for the support they have given her.

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

CHWRA: TRAIL GROUP OF THE YEAR (2018) – CONGRATS.

HON. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association which won the Trail Group of the Year Award from the Nova Scotia Trails Federation. The Nova Scotia Trails Federation attributes hard

work from volunteers like those in the Coxheath group for trail development in this province.

The Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association was founded in 2006 with the goal of enhancing the understanding of nature through wilderness experiences. While it looks after the trails near the intersection of Blacketts Lake Road and Coxheath Road, it also sponsors a variety of events throughout the year, including the annual Hike the Coxheath Colours and Ceilidh which takes place in October.

I stand today to congratulate the Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association on winning this award and to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who make the Coxheath Hills Wilderness Recreation Association such a success.

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

ST. BARNABAS: TURKEY SUPPER (2018) - SUCCESS

MR. HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the St. Barnabas Anglican Church in Blandford for another successful turkey supper held last Saturday.

Although the annual dinner raises money for the St. Barnabas Church, now in its 80th year, volunteers from the wider community - from Deep Cove to Northwest Cove - step up to help prepare, cook, and serve, all of which is masterfully watched over by principal organizer Samantha Murphy and ably assisted by Bev McDonald.

Rev. Louis Quennelle, pastor of St. Barnabas, reported that there was a long line stretching out from the Blandford Community Centre waiting for the first sitting to start. Guests, including myself, were served over 400 delicious turkey suppers with all the fixings, dessert, tea and coffee in just under one-and-a-half hours.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating St. Barnabas Anglican Church on its annual fundraising event and wish it continued success in future endeavours.

[1:30 p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

SCOTS HIGHLAND CADET CORPS: FUTURE LEADERS - RECOG.

MR. TIM HALMAN: I rise today to acknowledge the inspiring young Canadians I've had the pleasure to meet at 848 the Scots Highland Army Cadet Corps that parade in

Dartmouth East. Whenever I get the opportunity to visit these amazing young people, I'm inspired.

Mr. Speaker, these youths are developing life and work skills that stick with you for the rest of your life. More than that, it is the lifelong friends and memories they are making as members of the Army Cadets.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, there was a time when the person before you was not very confident. I owe so much to my experiences at 803 North Shore Sabre Air Cadet squadron. They pushed me out of my comfort zone and taught me the skills that have stuck with me all this time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this House to join me in recognizing Nova Scotia's future leaders from 848 Army Cadet Corps and all cadets across Nova Scotia and Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

MAHONE BAY HERITAGE AWARDS (2018): RECIPIENTS - CONGRATS.

MS. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, the Mahone Bay Founders Society established the Heritage Awards to recognize individuals, groups, or projects that have made lasting contributions to the conversation of heritage in the Town of Mahone Bay.

I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2018 Heritage Awards: the Calvary Temple for the restoration work on their church and hall; Meg Craig and Justin Weins for The Barn for adaptive reuse of a heritage structure; the Summer Troupe Glimpses for increasing awareness through theatrical and musical performance; and Owen Kosiba, who received the Youth Award for his Heritage Fair Project, the 3 Churches.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and all members of this House of Assembly please join me in congratulating the 2018 Mahone Bay Heritage Awards recipients.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

WILSON, BRENDA: CONSTIT. ASST. (PICTOU CTR.) - DEDICATION

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, I often hear my colleagues talk about their wonderful constituency assistants. There's no question in my mind that I have the best constituency assistant in the province. Brenda Wilson has been a very valuable employee in the Pictou Centre office since 2013. She is one of the most competent, dedicated, professional employees I have met in the workforce. Whether she is assisting constituents experiencing problems with Child Protective Services, housing, health problems, or a

variety of other issues, she offers a smile and isn't satisfied with her effort until the job is done.

Brenda puts her heart and soul into each and every constituent she helps. I am very grateful to have her as an assistant; she does her work so well, pleasantly, and professionally.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, and I would say she probably makes you look good.

The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

VINSON, RICHARD: VOLUN. EFFORTS - THANKS

MS. RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a dedicated volunteer and environmentalist from my riding. Richard Vinson is one of the founding directors of the Friends of Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Society and a member of the CARP Nova Scotia Environment Committee. He also volunteers with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Halifax Northwest Trails Association.

Aside from the environmental work, Mr. Vinson also lends time to Planned Parenthood, Phoenix House, United Way, Dunbrack Soccer Club, the Halifax Hawks, and the Maskwa Aquatic Club.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Richard for his numerous contributions to nature and to the community at large.

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

THE BADDECK CREW: DANCE COMPET. SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

MR. KEITH BAIN: Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of talented young step dancers attending Sarah's School of Music in Baddeck. With encouragement and training from owner/instructor Sarah Doran, the group competed at the First Island Step Dance Competition in Prince Edward Island on June 23rd.

The Baddeck Crew, which was a group dance featuring all nine dancers, won silver in their category. Besides the group dance, individual dancers had great success as well. In the category for 10-year-olds, Elsie Latwaitis received gold, David Ross received silver, and Hannah Phillips received bronze. In the duo/trio groups for 10-year-olds, Elis Latwaitis and David Ross received gold for their duo performance and also took home the top award of Top Duo/Trio Performance of the competition.

I rise today to ask all members of this Legislature to join me in congratulating the Baddeck Crew on their success, and special congratulations to both Elsie and David for their gold and silver placings.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

TAKE YOUR MLA TO WORK DAY: SPRYFIELD PHARM. - THANKS

MR. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, September 24th was Take Your MLA to Work Day for the Pharmacy Association. I changed it up a bit this year and brought my two young . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: “Madam Speaker.”

MR. MAGUIRE: Madam Speaker. Can I start over, Madam Speaker?

MADAM SPEAKER: You have 51 seconds.

MR. MAGUIRE: Madam Speaker, September 24th was Take Your MLA to Work Day for the Pharmacy Association. I changed it up a bit this year and brought my two young daughters, Rufina and Isla, with me.

I’d like to thank pharmacist Kurt Ryan and all the staff at the Spryfield Shoppers for their generosity and for being very loving and caring to my two young daughters. I think they created two future science students.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

ANTIGONISH GAMES: SPECIAL OLYMPIANS (PICTOU W.) - CONGRATS.

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Madam Speaker, Pictou West had two tremendous athletes take part in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics National Summer Games in Antigonish.

Lucy Rogers from River John participated in Athletics, and Kara Scott from Scotsburn participated in Rhythmic Gymnastics.

We know how difficult training for these events can be and the focus and dedication that are required to perform at your best. Everyone in Pictou West is proud of these athletes for the many hours of hard work they have put in to excel in their sports.

Madam Speaker, it is a true pleasure to congratulate Lucy and Kara on competing in the Canadian Special Olympics National Summer Games and to wish them well in all their future endeavours.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**MACLELLAN, KATHRYN/JANET:
THE WAITING RM. THEATRE - THANKS**

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Madam Speaker, this week saw the closure and dismantling of the Waiting Room, a small, flexible black-box theatre located in the space that used to house the old bus station on Almon Street in Halifax.

The creation of the Waiting Room was the result of the vision, passion, and hard work of sisters Kathryn and Janet MacLellan, who are also the driving forces behind KAZAN CO-OP. Four years ago, KAZAN was looking for space in which they could rehearse and perform their theatre productions - space that was, and still is, extremely hard to find in HRM. Through their hard work and leadership, the industrial space was transformed into a viable, popular venue that ended up hosting the work of 18 local theatre and film companies and productions, including my own.

Sadly, the building is being repurposed, and Halifax's theatre scene is losing yet another affordable place to work and produce its world-class offerings. The lack of usable space in HRM is a major issue for our working artists.

I want to thank Kathryn and Janet, and all who worked with them to make the Waiting Room a reality, for their dedication, courage, and passion for our local theatre community. The Waiting Room will be dearly missed.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

NOVAK, JEREMY: BUS. CONTRIB.: THANKS

MR. KEITH IRVING: Madam Speaker, the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well throughout the Annapolis Valley, and one local man exemplifies this spirit as much as anyone. Today I would like to recognize Jeremy Novak of Wolfville for his innovations in business and his unbridled enthusiasm, passion, and energy for his local community.

In June 2008, Jeremy developed Valley Ghost Walks, and he continues to write, act, recruit, and promote this must-see local attraction. He is one of the original managers of our well-read and trusted community paper *The Grapevine*. For six years, he's been the lead guide for thousands of wine enthusiasts visiting the fabulous wineries of the Annapolis Valley on board the Magic Wine Bus. Recently, Jeremy has started Where It's At tours, which invites travellers to create their own adventures.

I invite all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in thanking Jeremy Novak for his entrepreneurial spirit and remarkable contributions to the vitality of the beautiful Annapolis Valley.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**MARTIN, BILL - PASTOR (PUGWASH):
FIRST RESPONDERS TRIB. - THANKS**

MS. ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize Pastor Bill Martin of Pugwash Memorial Baptist Church. The church hosted a First Responders Tribute Service and luncheon in honour of those who help protect their community. This is the seventh year they have put on a thank-you service for the RCMP, the EHS, and firefighters who give so much to keep us all safe.

Madam Speaker, I want to join my voice to that of Pastor Martin and thank all of our brave and dedicated first responders. I also want to extend a sincere thank you to Pastor Martin for his ongoing support of our first responders.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**BARRACUDAS SWIM CLUB (BRIDGEWATER):
PROV. CHAMPS. - CONGRATS.**

HON. MARK FUREY: I'd like to recognize the Bridgewater Barracudas Swim Club. The "Cudas" clinched their eighth straight provincial championship in Bedford in August. The team finished 64 points ahead of the hosts, the Bedford Beavers, a finish many believe to be the closest in the history of the Summer Swimming Provincial Championships.

Sarah Johnson set a 50-metre backstroke provincial record, while Travis Smith broke the 50-metre backstroke record as well. Travis, Jonathan Haas, Sarah Johnson, Thomas Owen, and Mariah Kelley were named to the Provincial All-Star Team.

I'd ask members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the Bridgewater Barracudas Swim Club, the 2018 Nova Scotia Summer Swimming Provincial Champions, a fun and inclusive team with amazing spirit.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton-Richmond.

HEUDES, ROCHELLE - LT.-COL.: STAD. POSTING - CONGRATS.

MS. ALANA PAON: Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Rochelle Heudes of Isle Madame, a former classmate of mine, on her recent posting as administrator of the naval hospital at the Stadacona Base in Halifax.

Lieutenant Colonel Heudes grew up in Petit-de-Grat on Isle Madame and attended Isle Madame District High School, graduating in 1988. She served as a health services officer for the Department of National Defence since July 1990.

It is always an honour to be able to recognize the achievements of those living in my constituency; however, it is equally a moment of celebration when a member of our community who has left to serve her country works hard to achieve her professional goals and then returns home to serve in Nova Scotia.

I ask the House to join me in sending our congratulations to Lieutenant Colonel Rochelle Heudes for becoming the new administrator of the Stadacona Base Naval Hospital in Halifax. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

COX, PHILIP: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

HON. KELLY REGAN: Madam Speaker, I want to tell the House about a Bedford volunteer who passed away suddenly in June.

Philip Cox was a dedicated Nova Scotia Government employee, husband, father, and volunteer. He was a role model who encouraged people to be better. At TIR, Philip was a dependable master problem-solver. At home, he was a loving partner and role model for his daughters.

At church, he lived his faith and was dedicated beyond all measure to his church, Bedford Baptist, where he was the chairman of trustees. In fact, one of his final gifts to the church was an application to the Community Facilities Improvement Program for renovations to the children's facilities, and since Philip was thorough and professional, it was a successful application. No one knew that though until a month after he passed.

Philip was only 61 years old, and our thoughts go out to his family - wife, Dianne, daughters, Stephanie, Jennifer, and Heather and their families, and to his extended family, friends, golfing buddies, and fellow parishioners.

Philip Cox was a special man and he leaves his friends and family saddened by his loss, but richer for having known him.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

COMMUN. RADIO (QUEENS CO.): ANNIV. (10th) - CONGRATS.

MS. KIM MASLAND: Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Queens County Community Radio on their 10th anniversary. This local radio station was officially launched on June 19, 2008, and acquired its full licence on September 15, 2009.

Since June 2012, it has been operated by the not-for-profit CJQC Radio Society, entertaining with an assortment of music and interesting community information. From contemporary to blues to country and old-time favorites, there is something for everyone.

I would like to commend the society and all its volunteers who produce interesting and varied programming, fundraise, and work tirelessly to keep the local radio station going. Congratulations, and here's to the next 10 years.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

BENOIT, SHANNON - WEIGHTLIFTING ACHIEVEMENTS.

HON. KAREN CASEY: Madam Speaker, Shannon Benoit, a resident of Valley, is co-owner of CrossFit Bluenose in Bible Hill. In February 2018, she decided to take up the sport of Olympic weightlifting. She journeyed to Quebec to participate in the Canadian and Pan-American Masters Olympic Weightlifting Championships.

Not knowing what to expect, since she had never competed at that level, she set personal goals to achieve. Shannon surpassed those goals by setting new national and Pan-Am records in the 63kg class for female lifters between the ages of 40 and 44. During the national competition, she also established new marks in the snatch, clean and jerk, and the total. At Pan-Ams, she achieved a new record in the clean and jerk of 82kg.

The competition was made even more special by the attendance of her parents who travelled from Kingston, Ontario, to see her compete for the first time. They were not disappointed.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

MR. TIM HALMAN: Madam Speaker, in the west gallery, we have 24 Grade 12 students from Prince Andrew High School, from the global politics class. With them, are their two amazing teachers, Mr. Rodney St. Pierre and Mr. Ben Sichel. I had the honour of teaching with Mr. Sichel and Mr. St. Pierre for over a decade at Prince Andrew High School. I ask Mr. Sichel and Mr. St. Pierre and the class to please stand to receive the warm welcome of the House of Assembly.

[1:45 p.m.]

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

MACRAE, COLIN: VOLUNTEERISM - CONGRATS.

MR. TIM HALMAN: Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the most impressive people I have had the pleasure of meeting since getting elected, Colin McCrae.

Colin is a force of nature. You are hard-pressed to go to a community event in Dartmouth without seeing Colin's smiling face somewhere. Whether he's filling produce packs with the mobile food market, lobbying NSCC on behalf of the age-friendly community committee or finding guest speakers for the Port Wallis Seniors' Lunch and Learn, Colin doesn't seem to take a break.

I'm so happy to have met Colin and heard about his impressive career. Our community in Dartmouth would be a lesser place without the incredible work Colin does. Join me in celebrating Colin McCrae and the positivity he brings to all of Dartmouth.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings West.

AVGVG: 10th ANNUAL COMP. & WEIGH-OFF - CONGRATS.

HON. LEO GLAVINE: I rise today to congratulate the Annapolis Valley Giant Vegetable Growers on their 10th Annual Competition and Weigh-off held on September 22nd at Glad Gardens in Waterville.

They are a group of enthusiasts formed to bring together giant vegetable growers to share their knowledge and experience with young and old. The idea for this event came to light over a cup of coffee at Tim Hortons when Jeff Reid, Andy Hamilton, Brian Kenneally, and Wayne Knox met and advanced a plan.

While the heaviest pumpkin gets great attention, vegetables are judged from the tallest sunflower to the heaviest tomato, watermelon, and squash. A crowd favourite is always the most odd or unusual giant vegetable. This year, Daryl and Maureen Tingley from Fredericton stole the show with an 1,808-pound pumpkin.

Congratulations to AVGVG as they continue to grow and gain further international membership. Best of luck in making the 2019 event even bigger and better.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

MARINE ATL.: RESCUES AT SEA - RECOGNIZE

MR. TIM HOUSTON: The staff at Marine Atlantic are used to shuffling passengers from point to point, but over the past couple of weeks, they've moved some passengers that didn't actually leave the dock with them.

The staff at Marine Atlantic have made two rescues at sea in the past two weeks. Just two weeks ago, they rescued three fisherman who had to abandon ship after their vessel caught fire. They were bobbing in the ocean for two hours before the staff of the *MV Leif Ericson* came to their rescue. That was a wonderful rescue at sea for them. Over the past week, the staff of the *MV Highlanders* rescued a sailboat that was in distress at sea.

A tip of the hat to the staff at Marine Atlantic for all the fine things they do and being steady at the ready to rescue people at sea.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

DELOREY, WILL: 11th BIRTHDAY - RECOGNIZE

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Madam Speaker, I just wanted to let you know that my son, Will, turns 11 today and I invite all members to join me in wishing him a very happy birthday. Will says all he wants for his birthday is for his dad not to have any questions during Question Period. Who knows? Maybe today's that day.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

BROWN, TIM: PACIFIC COAST TRAIL FINISH - CONGRATS.

MR. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate my good friend and local Herring Cover Tim Brown on his completion yesterday of the Pacific Crest Trail.

Tim hiked over 4,264 kilometres from the Mexican border to Canada all the while raising money for the Canadian Paraplegic Association. Tim documented his travels through social media, documenting all the beautiful sites and new friends he met along the way, including the member for Kings South's son, Simon.

Congratulations, Tim and Simon, on their amazing accomplishments. We're all proud of you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

DIGBY & AREA BRD. OF TRADE: BUS. AWARDS WINNERS - CONGRATS.

MR. GORDON WILSON: On June 22, 2018, the Digby and Area Board of Trade presents its Business Awards of Excellence at its annual awards banquet. Since 2004, the Board of Trade has presented these awards to people nominated by locals as well as visitors to our area.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, given to a business or individuals who have made significant contributions within the context of their career, went to Ed's Take-Out founder, Ed Francis; and the Digby Salvage and Disposal founder/owner Richard Thomas.

Excellence Awards were presented to Brier Island Whale & Seabird Cruises for hospitality and tourism; to the Transport de Clare and Sports Entertainment Atlantic for community contribution; to Lazy Bear Brewing for entrepreneurship; to the Crows Nest Restaurant for customer service; to Webber's Bottle Exchange for environmental service; to Glenn Dunn for business excellence; to Birch Street Seafoods for achieving and exporting; to Wenedi's Yard & Garden for being a rising star; and to Kevin Ellis for being an ambassador for our area.

Thanks to the Board of Trade for their support of our local businesses and honouring the excellence in our community. Congratulations to all the winners.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie.

MACDONALD, AMANDA: VOLUNTEER EFFORTS - COMMEND

HON. LLOYD HINES: Madame Speaker, I rise today to commend Amanda MacDonald of Erinville for her continued efforts in supporting the Erinville and District Volunteer Fire Department. She has been a member for the past 10 years and takes an active role in the various fundraisers and events put on by her department. She also sits on the board of directors which includes monthly meetings and fire practices.

Along with her work with the volunteer fire department, Amanda is also a lead organizer for Erinville Come Home Days, a two-day event packed with family activities, food vendors, a community dance, and a very popular woodsmen competition. The event is attended by the entire community and Amanda puts in many long hours making sure that each event is well cared for.

Amanda MacDonald is a very charitable person who takes the initiative to chip in where needed. Her role in the community of Erinville is invaluable, and for that I commend her.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

WALKER, BERT/GATTO DOLCE DUO: GREAT EVENING - THANKS

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Madam Speaker, music is good for the soul. This summer I was invited by my constituent Bert Walker to take in a very special performance in Armdale. Alongside a group of residents at Ramsgate Lane, I was treated to an hour-long performance of selections of the music of Bach, Beethoven, Satie, Bartók, and more by the enchanting Gatto Dolce Duo.

The duo, composed of Colin Matthews on cello and Max Kasper on bass, have been playing together for some 20 years and have performed all over the country. Their style combines great chamber music with humorous anecdotes on the life and times of the composers whose work they showcase, and I can tell you that the audience loved it.

I was happy to have had a chance to see them perform and encourage all members to check out their recently completed first CD, *Gatto Dolce Duo, Duet for Cello and Bass*.

I want to thank my great constituent, Bert Walker. Merci.

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

PARTY ON PEOPLE: NEW BUSINESS - WELCOME

HON. TONY INCE: Madame Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit and I am pleased to acknowledge one of these new ventures. I'd like to welcome Party On People to my constituency.

Party On People is a laser tag and Nerf gaming facility with over 6,500 square feet of arena. In fact, this is the largest indoor gaming area in Nova Scotia, and it houses the only on-site Nerf gaming in the province.

Party On People provides a fun alternative recreational activity for young people and adults. In collaboration with a local non-profit, there are plans to develop this space into an exciting community recreational facility.

They are located at 899 Portland Street and I invite everyone to come check this place out and experience some of the great team-building and lots of fun. Party On People is not just a place for kids to party, it is also a place for adults. It will provide

MADAM SPEAKER: Time is allotted.

The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

WEIGAND, HEIDI - PhD: NON-PROFIT PRGM. - RECOG.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Madame Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Heidi Weigand of Mount Saint Vincent University who has just launched a new non-profit leadership program.

Dr. Weigand, a full-time professor in the Department of Business, Tourism and Hospitality at Mount Saint Vincent, has had tremendous success in her career with jobs at both IBM and Xerox. She is passionate about youth leadership which is apparent in her role as Chair of the Board for Motivate Canada.

Dr. Weigand has just completed her Ph.D. in Management at Saint Mary's University which will aid her in spearheading this new program. By allowing students to build connections within the area of study, the non-profit leadership program will provide students with the skills needed to excel in the workforce. Students will gain hands-on experience while developing leadership skills which are important in pursuing a post-secondary education.

Mount Saint Vincent University is an outstanding educational institution that provides students with numerous opportunities while exposing them to an exceptional faculty, as seen in the work of Dr. Weigand.

Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the members to join me in congratulating Dr. Weigand and the Mount Saint Vincent University community for their efforts in providing students with exceptional opportunities.

MADAM SPEAKER: The honourable member for Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank.

GIRLS METRO WEST: BANTAM AAA HOCKEY TITLE - CONGRATS.

MR. BILL HORNE: Madam Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Girls Metro West Force Bantam AA hockey team for winning the Bantam Female Atlantic AAA hockey title. Lucy Phillips is a goalie for the team and attends George P. Vanier Junior High School in Fall River. She is in Grade 8 and is very proud of how her teammates played together which allowed them to win the Atlantic hockey title in April.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the Legislature to congratulate all the girls of the Metro West Force Bantam AA hockey team for winning this important title.

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

DEEP CRYOGENICS INTL.: SPARK INNOV. GRANT - CONGRATS.

MR. HUGH MACKAY: I rise today to congratulate the firm of Deep Cryogenics International, a start-up tech company we recently welcomed to the constituency of Chester-St. Margaret's. Deep Cryogenics was recognized recently by Innovacorp and awarded a \$45,000 Spark Innovation Challenge grant. The Spark Innovation grant is awarded through competitions to start-up businesses with a new, knowledge-base, product or service, to encourage innovation and economic growth.

Deep Cryogenics International has been exploring a cold temperature called deep cryogenic treatment, to reduce corrosion. This process has significant implications for reduced maintenance costs for such things as subsea equipment; gas, turbine, and wind-power generators; electric vehicle gears; and industrial bearings.

Mr. Speaker, I invite the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Deep Cryogenics International on their successful Spark Innovation Challenge win and to wish them great success as they move their innovative technology firm forward in the future.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

MAKDISSI, STEPHANIE: VOLUNTEER EFFORTS - COMMEND

MR. RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a young lady who uses her gifts and talents to help her fellow students. Stephanie Makdissi tutors math and science at Dalhousie University. She also sits on the Dalhousie Student Union and hosts functions for students. Stephanie is a member of the Microbiology Society and is a current vice-president of the University's Arabic Society. She also donates her own arts to the Dalhousie Arts Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this House of Assembly join me in commending Stephanie for the many ways that she gives back on campus. Thank you, Stephanie, for all you do.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

**FERGUSON, NEIL - CHIEF CLERK:
BIG JIMMY BUFFETT FAN - RECOG.**

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a shout-out to our Clerk. He is well-known to members in here - Mr. Neil Ferguson, massive Jimmy Buffett fan, met him three times, founder of Parrot Heads North, and an excellent Clerk in this House as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

THOMPSON, BARB: RETIREMENT - BEST WISHES

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, Barb Thompson retired in July after serving as the Director of Bridgewater's Desbrisay Museum for 11 years. Barb's career also included eight years as the Curator for the Cumberland County Museum and Archives and several years in community development.

Barb played a key role in the Desbrisay Museum receiving the highest evaluation for community museums in Nova Scotia in 2016. She is most proud, however, about the interviews the museum recorded on elders from the community, which captured their childhood memories and experiences growing up in Lunenburg County. She was also honoured to assist with the preparation of 14 interpretive panels that showcase the history of Bridgewater and its connection to the LaHave River.

Barb believes that the Desbrisay Museum and the Wile Carding Mill, which she also managed, provided a tangible record of the community's past. She also feels that the museum brings great value to the community, providing a space for art and culture and a place for showcasing our community's traditions, celebrations, milestones, and accomplishments. Barb's passion for history shone through her every day.

Congratulations and best wishes to Barb Thompson on her retirement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[2:00 p.m.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS

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

PREM. - CAP AND TRADE: PLAN DETAILS - RELEASE

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, we have been after this government for some time to provide Nova Scotians with more detail on its proposed cap and trade tax. The Premier has been reluctant to share those details. The Minister of Environment has been reluctant to share those details. We've asked how much it will cost Nova Scotians - no answer. We've asked how it is going to work - no answer. Then we find out that Nova Scotians won't get to hear about it until the Prime Minister signs off on it.

Could the Premier please explain why Nova Scotians are second in line to hear about a plan that they will have to pay for?

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): Actually, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member's incorrect. What we have said is that when you're going into the Department of Environment, there's a number of benchmarks associated with your own plan. We needed to make sure we've met those benchmarks, which we have through the entire process working with Environment and Climate Change Canada. We'll hear back from them some time this month and we'll communicate the results to Nova Scotians.

MS. MACFARLANE: The Premier of Saskatchewan will challenge the carbon tax in court. The Premier of Ontario will challenge the carbon tax in court. One of the Premiers in New Brunswick will challenge the carbon tax in court. However, this Premier challenges Ottawa to go ahead and tax everybody. The Premier was quoted on Tuesday as saying he thinks the Prime Minister should impose the carbon tax on everybody. Why is the Premier in such a rush to get into the pockets of Nova Scotians?

THE PREMIER: That's not what I said. She's completely incorrect. What I have said is we have a cap and trade system inside of Nova Scotia. We'll continue the move that will smooth it out across our entire sectors. What I've also said to the Prime Minister, very clearly, that if he's not going to impose the backstop on those other provinces, who have not done the hard work that Nova Scotians have done, we will continue to do what we have been doing.

If I followed the path of some premiers who are on the path to go to court, which I believe the federal government has its right to do what its doing, that would be the beginning of going down that path to have the federal government impose a 10 or 12 cent per litre tax on gasoline on the people of Nova Scotia, and I simply won't do that.

MS. MACFARLANE: The fact is at the end of the day, it's going to cost Nova Scotians hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. The Premier has said that the Prime Minister promised to impose a carbon tax and that the Prime Minister should follow through on that promise. The Premier promised to make the FOIPOP commissioner an officer of this House. The Premier promised to run the most transparent and accountable government in Canada. The Premier promised a doctor for every Nova Scotian. Does the Premier think he might be putting a little too much faith in his promises?

THE PREMIER: What I can tell all Nova Scotians is they've done a tremendous job in reducing greenhouse gases across our province. The fact is, I want to thank them for their continued work. They allowed us to use the carbon credits that had existed, that had been earned by Nova Scotians, and when it comes to the power side - to be able to smooth it out across the entire sectors. The other thing they should be grateful for is that they did not elect a Progressive Conservative government in this province because everything

would be costing more because of their appetite to go to court instead of standing up and defending the pocketbooks of Nova Scotians.

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

PREM.: ECONOMIC PICTURE - ACKNOWLEDGE

MR. GARY BURRILL: Often when members of the Opposition ask the Premier about things that are challenging for us in Nova Scotia, the Premier responds with a recitation of things like the provincial credit rating and population levels and youth retention as though this were somehow establishing the government's unprecedented record. These are half stories.

Take the credit rating - bond ratings are only meaningful when they account for fundamentals. Some fundamentals about our situation in Nova Scotia: we have got the highest percentage of people with low income of any province. We've got the highest percentage of people with credit delinquencies.

I want to ask the Premier: Wouldn't he be better off to acknowledge frankly where we are in Nova Scotia than to try to paint an economic picture that is incompletely true?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the honourable member I appreciate his question. As he would know, in 2013, Nova Scotian's gave us the privilege to be the government. We inherited a half a billion dollar hole and the cost of managing that was going up. Our inability to continue to invest in programs that Nova Scotians relied on was affected by that.

What we did in the period of time has put us back to the fiscal health that is allowing us to make the largest tax cut. We directed it towards low-income Nova Scotians. We created the Graduate to Opportunity program, which is attaching more young people to the workforce in this province. More people are working in Nova Scotia now than they ever have before. We're continuing to see the population grow, and we're going to continue to put ourselves in a good fiscal position, so we continue to make strategic investments to improve the lives of Nova Scotians.

MR. BURRILL: The litany continues. Often this litany contains an element about the province's current population level, but this is a case in point. Population levels of themselves don't really mean very much. In fact, our greatest increase in the Nova Scotia population ever outside of the baby boom was during the Great Depression, and that wasn't because our fundamentals were sound.

The truth about the moment is that RBC is predicting for Nova Scotia in 2018-19 to have the second-slowest provincial GDP growth in the country. Wouldn't the Premier

be better off to square up to the hard facts of our situation than to respond to difficult questions with evasions and deflections?

THE PREMIER: Again, I want to tell the honourable member that by every economic measure this province is moving in the right direction. We have seen it and heard it at every bank and at the federal level. When it comes to the audits committee, we're one of the only two Canadian provinces on a sustainable path. He is absolutely right; our population is at an all-time high. The stats were out today. Almost 960,000 people are living in this province today, a new high.

What's also important is that more people are working in this province too, Mr. Speaker, than ever before. That's positive. What we're doing is continuing to grow the population, which is in turn growing the economic opportunities for all Nova Scotians.

MR. BURRILL: Let us record this word-for-word precisely. Every economic indicator in Nova Scotia is going in the right direction. Let's just register this one economic indicator: the youth unemployment rate. Is it fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, or ninth in provinces in Canada? It is today 10th of all the provinces in Canada, at 16.4 per cent.

Wouldn't the public be better served if the Premier would speak squarely to the real situation of people's real lives?

THE PREMIER: I'm happy to raise the question, Mr. Speaker. When they were in power, youth unemployment was at 19 per cent. It is going in the right direction. It's going down. More young people are attached to work than ever before . . . (Interruption) I was at Volta last night. I can't tell you how often young people are saying how grateful they are that this government is in power.

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

INT. SERV. - FOIPOP SITE BREACH: ANNUAL REPORT - NO MENTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: Today, about an hour before the House was scheduled to sit, the Minister of Internal Services released the information access and privacy services annual report. The report covered the 2017-18 fiscal year, April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

We all know that between March 3rd and 5th, the government's FOIPOP portal was breached, and the personal information of Nova Scotians was accessed. It's a fact that's well known. It has been discussed many times in this House of Assembly.

Can the minister tell me on what page of the 12-page document this breach appears?

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: As the member pointed out, this report only covers until March, so it unfortunately does not cover when the breach occurred. I am looking forward to hearing from the Auditor General and from the privacy officer when they conduct and complete their reports on the breach.

MR. D'ENTREMONT: Mr. Speaker, the breach happened in the year covered by this report. You think you might have put a footnote, an asterisk, or something to underline the fact that it happened between March 3rd and 5th, which is the time covered by this report.

It shouldn't be ignored because the government's department took a month to find it. That's the point here, Mr. Speaker, that it took over a month for that government to find that it had a breached portal. They have tried to push this issue down the road, as they are on this one. They kept it out of Public Accounts. They punted it to the Auditor General.

Will the minister commit to retracting and reissuing it with the details that are required?

MS. ARAB: I would like to correct the member that this report does not cover when the breach was found and what we have covered. He is inaccurate in his statement. The report is accurate for the timeline given.

I would also like to assure the member and all members of this House that we are not trying to push down anything. We have worked in co-operation with the two independent sources who are looking at this particular breach, and we will continue to work with them and we look forward to hearing their recommendations when those reports come out.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

EECD - PACE MEMBERS: SELECTION PROCESS - EXPLAIN

MS. CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Today the 12 individuals who form the Provincial Advisory Council on Education were appointed. The advisory body of political appointees is replacing democratically-elected school boards.

I was pleased to see that 133 individuals from across the province applied. However, it was frustrating that the committee responsible for making the appointments was not given any information about the selection process, how a short list was developed, or how the 12 appointees came to be presented. This lack of transparency naturally leads to speculation about the fairness of the process.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain the criteria, selection and process he used to select these individuals, or can he provide them later to the members of this House?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: In terms of the criteria we look for, first and foremost was regional representation. Secondly was expertise in the field of education. We also wanted to have cultural diversity reflected and we also followed through on the promise that we made based on the NDP amendment to our legislation at first voice on there as well, for those with learning challenges in our education system.

At the end of the day I think we have a good, quality group of people who represent a broad section of our province, who have great expertise and experience that will help us make the decision when it comes to education in the Province of Nova Scotia.

MS. CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I suspect that more than 12 of the 133 applicants might have met those criteria. Our caucus has raised over and over again our concerns about the complete lack of accountability and transparency within this new administrative model. We don't know how PACE members were selected, we don't know what role they will play, and the public cannot attend their meetings. That has nothing to do with the Westminster system, as the minister has previously claimed, and everything to do with the way that this government has chosen to conduct itself.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister agree to make the meetings of the Provincial Advisory Council on Education open to the public, so parents can observe decisions being made that will impact their children?

MR. CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, for the member to suggest that there was anything untoward about this process - we followed the same exact process that all Parties, all governments have followed with the appointments of boards and commissions. We followed that process to a tee, which led to the final recommendations that were made to the all-Party committee on HR. The all-Party committee did delay the passage of those names because they had some further questions, which was fair and well within their right.

I'm happy the committee did decide to meet again this week so that we could get these people in place to begin the important work on helping us continue to make good, important decisions to improve the education system for students across the province, Mr. Speaker.

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

H&W: DOCTORS' COMPENSATION - ADDRESS

MR. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Doctors Nova Scotia has released a paper on the changes they feel can help to recruit and retain doctors. It lists six measures they feel can greatly improve the climate for doctors in this province. Although Doctors Nova Scotia has said that these measures were in no particular order, one can't help but read into their decision to list

compensation first. Nova Scotian doctors are making \$28,000 less than their counterparts in New Brunswick and \$105,000 less than doctors in P.E.I.

Today the government revealed that \$71 million in unbudgeted expenses for the Department of Health and Wellness. I'd like to know: Did any of that go towards better pay for our doctors?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. I believe if the member looks closely at the data she referenced, that comes from 2015-16 year, I believe. That figure does not take into account the nearly \$40 million we invested into compensation incentives for physicians in the Province of Nova Scotia, Mr. Speaker.

MS. MACFARLANE: The problem, Mr. Speaker, is there are still over 100,000 people in this province without a doctor. The other five considerations from Doctors Nova Scotia were: improved succession plan, better engagement with doctors, changes to billing audits, and less administrative red tape. This government likes to proclaim they are the fighters for red tape. They also proclaim to be the most open and transparent government in Canada, and you can take that for whatever it's worth to you.

Mr. Speaker, most of these issues are low-cost or no-cost at all and basically are completely internal measures. I would like to know if the minister can tell me: What is the holdup?

MR. DELOREY: I'd like to assure the member that there is no holdup. In fact, we are working on many of those areas of concern with respect to things like red-tape reduction, reducing some of the administrative burden. We've been taking steps in areas like the locum program to be more efficient, to provide some concierge-type services to help address the administrative steps for physicians who would be providing temporary services. That's what the locum program is all about. We've been taking steps like that with respect to the audits. We do share a desire to have an educational component in the billing audits. We've reached out. We've engaged our billing services group to work with them to improve that side of things.

But, Mr. Speaker, when the member suggested there's no financial cost to these, I'm sure she's not suggesting that our audits not be comprehensive and complete at the same time as education.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

H&W - PHYSICIAN RECRUIT.: NSHA EFFORTS - LACKING

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, another question for the Minister of Health and Wellness.

There are thousands of Nova Scotians who need a family doctor. Many of them worry what will happen if they get sick and have no one to quarterback their care. You can only imagine the disappointment many of them felt when they learned that one young doctor left because the Nova Scotia Health Authority couldn't figure out a way to keep her. I will table that story.

When so many people are desperate for a family doctor, why didn't the Nova Scotia Health Authority work harder to keep Dr. Monika Dutt?

MR. DELOREY: With respect to the recruitment efforts that take place across the province, I assure the member . . . (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, with respect to recruitment and retention of physicians across the province, the Nova Scotia Health Authority does work with physicians to help understand their concerns, to provide an appropriate working environment. But, at the same time, the government takes its role seriously, as well. We have provided increased compensation as part of an almost \$40 million investment earlier this year. We are taking steps to help with the retention as well as the recruitment of physicians in this province.

MR. MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the minister's answer did absolutely nothing to help Dr. Dutt. Instead of helping her find a practice to work out of, the Health Authority put that onus on her. Not very welcoming and not very effective.

Dr. Dutt was hoping to work part-time in a family practice in Cape Breton. She was surprised when the Health Authority could not help her. She moved to Ontario. Does the minister accept any responsibility for this? Should he not be ensuring the people who ultimately work under his ministry are actually trying to help doctors wanting to serve the people in this province who need one?

MR. DELOREY: As I previously noted, we are taking steps throughout both the Department of Health and Wellness and our partners at the Health Authority. We have invested almost \$40 million in increased compensation and incentives to help recognize the role that physicians play in providing comprehensive family care. We've created an incentive program to encourage physicians who are here to attach more patients off our Need a Family Practice list. We continue with these investments. We continue to work with our education providers and partners to provide more opportunities for residents and trainees within the medical profession and not just with physicians. We are doing it with other health care providers like nurse practitioners as well.

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

H&W - AMBULANCE OFFLOAD PROG.: IMPLEMENT. - TIMELINE

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, our front-line paramedics and Nova Scotians from tip-to-tip recognize the current system is failing those in their time of need. I along with my colleagues take our first responders very seriously. That's why I have risen in this House on countless occasions to advocate on their behalf, only to be given a non-answer by our Health and Wellness Minister.

We need to improve their work environment and, in the process, improve the level of service Nova Scotians both expect and deserve. Paramedics don't need help today or tomorrow. They needed help yesterday.

My question to the minister is: When will the ambulance offload program at the Dartmouth General Hospital be implemented at other Nova Scotian hospitals?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I don't have a date for when that's going to be rolled out. As I've previously mentioned here on the floor, work is ongoing in the analysis of that program. In the feedback that I've received from front-line health care professionals, paramedics, as well as nurses and physicians who work not just at the Dartmouth site - paramedics who provide services throughout the province and the metro region have commented on the difference they've seen, the improvements at the Dartmouth General.

That work is ongoing, to make sure we have the information so we can roll it out successfully to other locations. We continue to meet with representatives who would be responsible for that work as a department.

MR. ORRELL: Mr. Speaker, the minister touts his Sunday drive with the area supervisor and now claims to be an expert on the struggles that many paramedics are facing on their job. It isn't enough. It isn't enough to hear what paramedics have to say. He needs to experience it too. He needs to experience a full 12-hour day so that he can go on the calls and sit in the hallways of Nova Scotia hospitals, experiencing these offload delays and the frustrations they feel every day.

I would like to table this letter from the union, if it's not already on his desk.

Mr. Speaker, it's not enough to hear about it. It's time to live it as well. My question to the minister is: Will he sign the necessary confidentiality agreements and do what he promised to do in this House, to participate in a full 12-hour shift?

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, it surprises me that the member opposite would suggest that listening to front-line health care workers like paramedics is not appropriate for me to do - that their words (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Northside-Westmount will come to order.

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness has the floor.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That the member opposite would suggest that the feedback provided by front-line paramedics in the hospital system, who I met with in their bases as I toured around, that he would suggest that their input and their feedback were not sufficient for me to understand their work conditions and the opportunities for improvements, I think that's shameful and disrespectful to the work of those front-line health care workers.

I found that input very valuable, and we've been taking that feedback and moving forward with it. That's where I've mentioned the work at the Dartmouth General Hospital, which is what I heard directly from those front-line paramedics.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

H&W - DIGBY GEN. HOSP.: PHYSICIAN RECRUIT. - SERV. ADJUSTMENTS

MS. TAMMY MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Yesterday two family physicians leaving Digby published a letter explaining their reasons for relocating. In the letter, the two young doctors noted a lack of resources and physician burnout as major issues. In light of the physicians' imminent departure, Digby General Hospital staff received notice that some of the health services might need to be adjusted as the NSHA recruits replacement physicians.

Can the minister identify which services will be adjusted, and when they will be up and running again?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, as the member would know, the letter that was published by these two physicians does outline a number of the concerns that they've raised. By my reading of it, I think one of the significant things that was highlighted was the personal circumstances of the physicians and what role that plays when they're making their decision of where to practise.

We heard loud and clear from physicians throughout the last election campaign. That's why we've brought more flexibility to allow physicians the ability to practise within the province. We've established a pool for vacancies, to ensure that primary-care access and physician services can be provided where and when needed.

MS. MARTIN: The doctors leaving Digby suggest that attracting locums and physicians who have roots in Digby or the surrounding communities is key to retention and recruitment. However, even doctors who are rooted outside Halifax are finding it

impossible to stay. Dr. Monika Dutt of Sydney recently left for Ontario after trying and failing to find part-time general family medicine work in Cape Breton.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who works in health care in Cape Breton can tell you that when recruitment was in the hands of the former district health authorities, we didn't have this kind of problem. Will the minister admit that taking power away from local communities has worsened the health care crisis?

MR. DELOREY: No, I wouldn't. What I would like to note, though, is that
(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I would like to note about the situation in Digby, and as the member noted, the important role of communities and maintaining attachments in communities like Digby, I'd like to acknowledge the work of my colleague, the member for Clare-Digby. He is a member of a committee made up of municipal representatives, representatives from the Nova Scotia Health Authority, very similar to the taskforce that's up in Cumberland County, working to highlight.

I know my member has travelled with the committee to Sherbrooke where there are a number of French members from the community in the region, to attract them back to their community, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank them and all those members of the community throughout the province for doing this kind of work to bring people back to their communities as part of their (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

EECD: PRE-PRIMARY PROG.: APPROP. DELIVERY - ENSURE

MR. TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. Last year this government implemented pre-Primary very quickly. The rush has caused a number of issues, as members of this House know all too well. The latest is that starting Monday, a dozen four-year-olds are going to attend Fairview Junior High School. I'll table that.

We already know the play structures and issues around catchment areas exist. We can only imagine how many things are unsafe at a school that is designed for a different stage of education.

My question to the minister is: Does the minister believe it's wise to send our pre-Primary four-year-olds to a junior high school?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: There is a fundamental difference between the Opposition and us when it comes to pre-Primary. We believe that early learning is critical to the success of each and every one of our students, and we are looking forward ambitiously to ensure that every single four-year-old in this province and every single family has access to early learning in their communities.

The area of Fairview-Clayton Park has high needs in this area, Mr. Speaker. We're going to deliver to that community along with every other single community in this province. At the same time, we're doing that, we're also expanding the regulated childcare sector, which is already expanded by 1,500 spaces in this province. That's something we can all be very proud of on this side of the House.

MR. HALMAN: Well, there the minister goes again. This government likes to paint every pre-Primary discussion as either for the program or against the program. He leaves no room for the notion that the program is good, but it's the execution on the part of this minister that is lacking.

Mr. Speaker, junior high school is a time when young people start experimenting and exploring. We all know this is a different stage of development that requires different resources and a different approach to teaching, but it's not the appropriate place for four-year-olds. There are many concerns that the junior high school level is simply not appropriate.

My question is: Could the minister update this House on what steps have been taken to prepare the students at the junior high school and what steps have been taken to ensure proper program delivery for pre-Primary?

MR. CHURCHILL: We have engaged in an ambitious new social program for this province. We have successfully brought over 3,000 four-year-olds into our early learning program. Some of those classes are in junior highs, but that's not to suggest that the incredibly trained staff, our early childhood educators in those schools, can't provide safe learning environments. To say otherwise is absolutely false and contrary to the facts and evidence we have with the information that's coming today with pre-Primary.

That Party voted against pre-Primary, they continue to attack that program, and that is the difference between the Progressive Conservatives and Liberals.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

H&W: DIALYSIS UNIT (PICTOU CO.) - EXPANSION

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, dialysis patients in Pictou County continue to patiently wait for increased services in their area. The last budget included new dialysis units for Bridgewater, Kentville, Digby, Glace Bay, but none for Pictou County.

Presently many dialysis patients in our county are left wondering why the minister is choosing other areas and ignoring the needs of Pictou County.

My question to the minister is: When will dialysis patients in Pictou County receive good news about an expanded local dialysis unit?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I'm happy to advise the House that the work that was done to identify locations of the sites, I believe six sites in total across this province, making up 48 additional dialysis seats at those six sites was done as a review looking at the distance that people are travelling and the demands across the province. Those were the areas that were prioritized at that time. Work is under way, Mr. Speaker, to complete the renovations and implement those additional seats to provide care in those communities. As that work moves to completion, we'll continue to look at other opportunities to improve the dialysis treatment options for all Nova Scotians.

[2:30 p.m.]

MR. DUNN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the minister understands that dialysis patients have enough on their plate without having to travel long distances to access service they deserve and pay for through their hard-earned tax dollars. With winter approaching, patients travelling to Antigonish face the uncertainty of weather road conditions and all the stress it brings. We all know it will be several years before the twin highway will be a reality. A closed highway due to weather conditions could be disastrous for someone who needs regular dialysis.

My question to the minister: Will he commit to the citizens of Pictou County that there will be additional dialysis chairs added during next Spring's budget?

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've previously mentioned, work is under way and expanding six additional sites within the province, an additional 48 chairs of service being provided. That work is continuing to proceed. We'll see what the impacts are on the dialysis demands and delivery throughout the province. But one thing I think is important to note for the member, and I think for all members here, if they have constituents who have to travel for dialysis - while not an option for all patients - a home dialysis program is available as well. I encourage all members if they have constituents who are travelling, dialysis if you don't know, does take a significant toll physically as well as the travel times and the time you're attached to the chair receiving the treatment. So, I encourage all members to let their constituents know about that service to look into if they're eligible.

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

H&W - COLE HBR.-EAST. PASS.: COLLAB. HEALTH CTR. – COMMIT.

MS. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. I am getting tired of having to mention in this House that I have the only constituency without a single family doctor. What upsets the people of my constituency even more is the knowledge that there are 50 collaborative health practices in Nova Scotia. There are 51 constituencies. Guess which one doesn't have one? I've already tabled Liberal election literature from 2017 that promised us a collaborative health centre for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage. Despite that promise, the 2017 budget identified the funding for other centres in the province.

The question is: Will the Minister of Health and Wellness today commit, yes or no, to giving my constituency priority by fulfilling the Liberal election campaign promise of a collaborative health centre for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage in 2018?

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question. As the member would know, we've taken steps - and I believe some of the challenges are with finding location, appropriate location for expanding services in her community, which we're continuing to work on with the addition of a nurse practitioner for her community.

In addition to that, I want to let her and all members know that the popularity of these collaborative practices across the province, when the NSHA put out a request last year I believe we had over 100 applications of practices throughout the province. That's a lot that they're working with to find opportunities to expand. So, the NSHA and the government are continuing to work to roll them out.

MS. ADAMS: So, just to clarify for everybody listening, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take that as a no for my constituents. I will remind the minister that I offered up my office. We have lots of space there.

During my first sitting of the Legislature, the Minister of Health and Wellness agreed to my request for funding for a clinical nurse practitioner. I was overjoyed and I thanked him at the time. At the time of my request, I had a clinical nurse practitioner ready to come. I had a health clinic ready to take her and he gave me the funding. You'd think it would have been a done deal but it wasn't. It took over two months to have someone from the Nova Scotia Health Authority come out to look at the locations that we had identified, only to be told the room was too small and the flooring was the wrong kind.

I cannot begin to tell you how angry that made my constituency. It took another two months to get them to come out to the centre.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the member have a question?

MS. ADAMS: The question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Can you explain what has taken over 11 months to move the process along, and why there is still no advertisement for a clinical nurse practitioner and there is still no one out in my constituency who can provide any health care?

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that work has proceeded on that position. The last time that I had checked, in fact, I was at a collaborative practice that made note that the physicians at this particular collaborative practice had agreed to work with the nurse practitioner being identified to go in and work at a long-term care facility (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness has the floor.

MR. DELOREY: The nurse practitioner would be working out of a long-term care facility within the community. So that work, as I said, is under way to provide that service to the constituents of her community.

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

LAE - STUD. LOAN INT.: GOV. PROFIT - ADMIT

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. The minister dismisses the negative impacts of student debt on our province by saying his government eliminated interest on provincial loans. But his government is continuing to bring in revenue from student loan interest. Last year, it collected \$6 million from people struggling to pay off student debt, and since coming into office his government has taken \$23 million from Nova Scotians by collecting interest from student loans. Will the minister admit that his government continues to profit from student debt? A simple yes or no will suffice.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great opportunity to point out what our government has done to support young Nova Scotians going to post-secondary education. Our government eliminated tuition fees for apprentices. Our government went a further step and we made Nova Scotia student loans non-repayable upon graduation. We have one of the strongest programs in Canada. It is aimed at access, it is aimed at low-income individuals. But I'll take my seat right now. I look forward to the member reading their next question.

MS. ZANN: I find that rather disrespectful to the students who are suffering here in Nova Scotia. I have to say, when the NDP was in office, we introduced the Graduate Retention Rebate program, which cost \$50 million a year to help students stay in the province and pay down half of their debt and these people got rid of it. Debt most severely

impacts low-income students from marginalized communities. A recent cross-Canada poll shows that LGBTQ students are more likely to be burdened by more debt, take a second job, have difficult sacrifices, to pay off their debt. They're also more likely to avoid university all together or even drop out without graduating. So I want to ask the minister: If his government really eliminated the interest on student loans, then why will they be collecting \$2 million more in student loan interest this year than when they first came into office?

MR. KOUSOULIS: It gives me great pleasure to talk about the Graduate Retention Rebate. It was such a great program that I qualified to get it three years ago when I finished my MBA. It made absolutely no sense. Over 90 per cent of the money from that program went to students who are over the age of 30. Undergrads were not collecting the money because to do so (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education has the floor.

MR. KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, what is laughable about that program - it was called retention - and we had young Nova Scotians leaving the province in droves. But now for the last two years, we have for the first time since the 1980s, retained more youth than have left.

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

H&W - NOVA SCOTIANS: FAM. DOCTORS - EQUALITY OF CARE

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: If that was as easy as it was, Mr. Speaker, to get rid of somebody, it'd be a great program to invest in. I, along with my colleagues in this House have all shared stories about the two-tiered health care system that's taking place between those who have a family doctor and those who don't.

One of my constituents who doesn't have a family doctor is in and out of the emergency room because she suffers from nausea, heart palpitations, and can't eat as a result. She's lost over 60 lbs. As a result of not having a steady family doctor, with each new visit to the emergency room she sees a new doctor and is given a new prescription. At one point, she even received a call from the pharmacist advising her not to take the pills because the interaction with the other medications may be fatal. My question to the minister is this: Does he believe that Nova Scotians without a family doctor receive the same care as those who have a family doctor?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, we certainly recognize the importance and the value of having an attached, comprehensive primary care provider for Nova Scotians. That's why we continue to invest in programs and opportunities, increasing

compensation, and various incentive programs. Not just that. We're trying to make it easier to provide the care by providing incentives, as well, and new technology options.

The member referenced the role of the pharmacist in primary care and the programs and the interaction of technology that allows them to monitor prescriptions so that they can intervene to ensure the health and wellness of all Nova Scotians.

MR. ORRELL: Make no mistake, we have a doctor shortage in this province and it is affecting our most vulnerable, hard-working men and women, and our seniors in their moment of most need. The stories I hear from my constituents each and every day are heartbreaking because the system has failed them, and their government is failing them.

Another constituent who is receiving income assistance has to spend \$30 each way to travel to Cape Breton Regional Hospital because she doesn't have a family doctor and the emergency room at the Northside General is closed. She still hasn't recovered financially from the four visits she took in just one week alone.

My question to the minister is: Does the minister recognize that the closure of the Northside General is leaving our most vulnerable behind because they cannot afford to travel to the Regional?

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, the investments we are making in Northside as well as New Waterford are going to provide a new infrastructure which will help attract and retain physicians and other primary health care providers to provide care within those communities.

The type of care that will be provided includes primary care services, they will be able to have blood tests, X-ray services - many, many of those services right there in their communities. As well, that new infrastructure, as the member knows, will be very attractive.

The member questions whether or not the new infrastructure will influence the decision of where new practitioners go. Maybe he should ask his daughter whether she'd prefer to work in a new or an old facility.

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

TIR - HWY. 101 BRIDGE/MAG. HILL: REPAIRS - TIMELINE

MR. BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

On Tuesday, October 12th last year I asked the minister a question about the condition and lack of maintenance around a provincial highway in the metro area. In

particular, I voiced concerns about the state of the bridge located immediately off Highway No. 101 leading to the Magazine Hill. The bridge has dropped below the road surface and is on a sharp turn.

My question to the minister is: Could the minister please update the House regarding the bridge and when thousands of Nova Scotians who use it might expect it to be properly repaired?

HON. LLOYD HINES: I thank the member opposite for the question. Like all Nova Scotia highways, especially one that is as widely used as that one is, it constantly being scrutinized by our crew and I appreciate the fact that this was brought up earlier.

We do have work scheduled for that section for this construction season.

MR. JOHNS: Thank you, Mr. Minister. People are questioning the integrity of the bridge itself, particularly whenever there is inclement weather, ice build-up, snow, rain, the issues on the bridge just seem to be emphasized to the commuters.

It's almost a year, and last week I noticed that the asphalt was actually being removed from the bridge, too, so maybe they are doing something. But it does appear that the bridge is still subsiding and sinking a little bit. Traffic in the area is really heavy and it continues to grow, and I'm just worried that more cars, compromised bridge – it seems to be a bit of a recipe for disaster.

My question to the minister is: Could the minister suggest to me, if he doesn't know when the bridge is going to be fixed, are there any updates on the progress of the Highway No. 107 bypass, which would certainly help to alleviate the pressure on this busy section of road?

MR. HINES: I thank the member opposite for the question. I want to assure him and all Nova Scotians that we have a very rigorous bridge analysis program.

A crew is dedicated to the integrity of our bridges across the province. This one is under way and there will be work done to the bridge. As the member mentioned, there is evidence of work being done in this season.

With regard to the Highway No. 107 bypass, we are involved with working through the process.

I am happy to report that the EA has been approved by the Department of Environment and we are currently engaged with an ordinance study with the Department of Defence to make sure that the area is cleared of any unexploded ordinances. When we get that we will have further updates.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

COM. SERV.: IA REAPPLICATION - STEPS

MR. TIM HALMAN: My question is for the Minister of Community Services. A constituent of mine recently attempted to apply for income assistance through the Department of Community Services. This constituent was flagged for reapplication by the department but, unfortunately, they never got that message. Instead, they assumed they had simply been denied.

This series of events has resulted in a great deal of stress and confusion for the constituent. My question to the minister is this: In cases where income assistance applicants are required to reapply, could the minister walk us through the steps the department takes to get that message to applicants?

HON. KELLY REGAN: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I do want to let him know that there was an inconsistency in some of our offices. We have been able to work with our staff to make sure they understand that, in cases where they need to reach out to an applicant, that they should try twice to call and then a letter follows up.

MR. HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for her response. I'm saddened to think of the difference it could have made to my constituent if the information was received earlier. It's important to the people who use government services that the process be timely and transparent. As I'm sure the minister would agree, seemingly minor errors on department files can have very serious impacts upon the lives of Nova Scotians.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister satisfied that her department's communication protocol with clients meets the highest standards of timeliness and transparency?

MS. REGAN: I want to thank the honourable member. This does give me the opportunity to talk about the great work that people in the Department of Community Services do every day to make a difference in the lives of Nova Scotians they serve. We've been engaged in a transformation process and I must say that folks have really engaged in this and I do so appreciate the work that they have been doing.

As I indicated to the honourable member, there was an inconsistency that was identified. If the honourable member would like to pass on the name of the person to me we can have the department look into it further.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

HOUSING: RENT SUPPLEMENTS - DETAILS

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing. Our province needs more affordable housing. The 2018 Canadian Housing Index reported that Nova Scotia has the fourth unhealthiest rental market in the country and the government has chosen to address this through rent supplements. That's a short-term solution and one that doesn't work in tight rental markets.

Over 200 of the rent supplements that the minister announced last year were supposed to be in place this year but we're hearing that landlords are not accepting them.

My question for the minister is: Precisely how many of the new rent supplements have resulted in someone being housed?

HON. KELLY REGAN: I want to thank the honourable member. As the honourable member would know, that was just announced earlier this year so I don't actually have those statistics at my fingertips. But I would be more than happy to get them for her. I believe it was just before the summer when they were announced.

MS. LEBLANC: The fundamental fact is that Nova Scotia needs more non-market housing, that means more public housing, not-for-profit housing, land trusts, and co-ops. When this government came into power there was a framework in place to take real action on affordable housing, but instead this government is pouring public money into an ineffective market solution through rent supplements.

My question for the minister is: When can we expect to see the province invest in new, affordable housing units?

MS. REGAN: I want to thank the honourable member for her question. I do remember when that framework came in and it was very thin gruel, there was nothing there. There was no there there, Mr. Speaker.

What we have done is we have reduced the housing wait-list for 10 per cent every year for the last three years and we will continue to reduce that housing wait-list.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

H&W: STUDENTS ABROAD - RETURN PLAN

MR. TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. There are several students from this area who have gone abroad to study to become doctors in this province. Can the Minister of Health and Wellness please explain how we're going to get those people back? Also, would he please retract his earlier remarks?

HON. RANDY DELOREY; The work that is ongoing with recruitment initiatives, I'd like to acknowledge the great work that the member, my colleague, the Minister of Immigration, has done introducing a new stream for family physicians. It has been very successful. We'd had over 10 people come to Nova Scotia as part of that.

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

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, with respect to my second last response, I would offer my sincere apology to the member for Northside-Westmount and retract that portion of the response. What I would like to note there in place of that is that I have heard from young doctors who would prefer to work in a new facility instead of an old one.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, in this House at times, there are times – it is one thing when we are in here. I want to make, on behalf of this government, an apology. At no time should any of our children's names be brought up in this House, no matter what they are doing. So on behalf of this government, I want to extend my apologies to the member for Northside-Westmount.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

[2:51 p.m. The House recessed.]

[2:59 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Ms. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[3:18 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened. Mr. Speaker, Hon. Kevin Murphy, resumed the Chair.]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on Bills reports:

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole House on Bills has met and considered the following bills:

Bill No. 27 - Animal Protection Act.

Bill No. 32 - Body Armour Control Act.

Bill No. 42 - Vital Statistics Act.

Bill No. 44 - Change of Name Act.

Bill No. 45 - Senior Citizens' Property Tax Rebate Act.

Bill No. 48 - An Act to Amend Various Statutes Administered by Service Nova Scotia.

without amendments; and

Bill No. 38 - Residential Tenancies Act.

which was reported with certain amendments by the Law Amendments Committee to the Committee of the Whole House on Bills without further amendments, and the chairman has been instructed to recommend these bills to the favourable consideration of the House.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: 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. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 55.

Bill No. 55 - Region of Windsor and West Hants Municipality Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 55, Region of Windsor and West Hants Municipality Act be read for a second time. This legislation will allow the Town of Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants to take the next step toward consolidation.

This past July, the Town of Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants passed motions agreeing to enter into negotiations to consolidate the two municipalities through legislation. It was their shared wish that the process be completed by December 31, 2020. Both Windsor and West Hants have long and rich histories. Councils for these communities realize the benefits of coming together and using their collective resources to respond to opportunities that are in the best interest of their residents. Indeed, with this consolidation, citizens of the area will benefit from more effective decision making in many areas including land use, infrastructure, and economic development.

The situation is unique because the regional government will consist of only Windsor and West Hants. Typically, under the Municipal Government Act, the regional government would be formed from all of the municipalities in a particular county. In this case, only Windsor and West Hants wish to consolidate, which requires a separate piece of legislation to allow this process to proceed. This legislation will address transitional matters and will offer the voluntary consolidation of these two municipalities. It outlines the appointment of a transition coordinator and the establishment of a transition coordinating committee and the responsibilities of the coordinator and the coordinating committee.

The transition coordinator will lead the committee and will also be responsible for applying to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to determine the number of councillors within the regional municipality and the location of polling districts.

The committee itself will consist of a mayor and deputy mayor of Windsor and a warden and deputy warden of West Hants. Once the committee is formed, members will begin the complex work of bringing these two municipalities together. Matters which require research will need to be identified and studies will be completed in various areas.

It is anticipated that this consolidation will be complete by April 2020, in time for the beginning of a new fiscal year. Upon incorporation of the new regional municipality, the provisions of the Municipal Government Act will apply.

I should add, Mr. Speaker, that Windsor and West Hants are committed to communicating regularly with the community and ensuring that citizens are engaged throughout the process.

I am pleased to support efforts that result in more collaboration among Nova Scotia's municipalities. I am hopeful that this consolidation might inspire other municipalities to do the same. I want to commend the leadership shown by the councils of Windsor and West Hants. Bringing about change has its challenges. These councils want the best for their citizens; they see the future opportunities that could exist for their area and have shown tremendous resolve as they embark on the consolidation process.

I believe that the people of the area will be very well served under regional government and that there is a strong and optimistic future ahead for a united Windsor and West Hants.

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

MR. BRAD JOHNS: I won't speak long on this one; I think that we do support. It's obvious these two councils are coming forward. It's something they've debated and they are supporting and it's probably in the best interests of both of them, so we're not really going to oppose much of this.

What I would like to point out, though, is I do find that I'm confused as to why the province is bringing this legislation forward at this particular time. I note there is currently an application before the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board actually to have this heard. This was debated by these councils back in July. There was an application that's been brought forward by an independent community group to the URB, which is to be heard next month. I guess my concern is I'm not quite sure why the government is bringing this legislation forward now because it will take that process - basically, we're a month away - but, whatever, that becomes moot, they won't even hear it through the URB.

I'm concerned why the government is pulling this now and not letting that process go through. I do recognize that the proposal that's before us right now, although it does identify that there will be some public consultation and public meetings in regard to it, it also notes there will be no plebiscite and that residents have no opportunity to vote.

Whenever we take away the opportunity of our constituents to be able to be heard I do have some concerns. I also would note that when this was discussed between these two councils I would feel much more comfortable with this process and this piece of legislation that's before us if it had been a unanimous vote of those councils. Unfortunately, it was not unanimous; in fact, one of the councillors, Debbie Francis, actually said: "For me, we've had more information as an individual council for chickens and livestock than we had about this to let our residents know, and I think they should be informed." I have that here and I'll table it, Mr. Speaker.

It doesn't seem like there's unanimous support of councils and I'm a little concerned about why we're doing it this way at this current time. I do want to note there is \$500,000 allocated to help the two municipal units in amalgamating. I think that's a good thing, and I do support that as well.

I also note that Ms. Francis, in the same article that I'll be tabling in a minute, also pointed out that in April 2018 the province did not support amalgamation. That further leads me to question why, at this point in time now, when there is currently a process already with the URB, the government is bringing this forward now? Is that so that there

doesn't have to be a plebiscite? I'm curious to see about that. That's my only concern, to make sure that the public is heard. Hopefully it will be a very good engagement process.

Just before I sit down, I do want to note, I understand this takes place as of April 1st, the reason being that that's the start of a new fiscal year. I always thought it was funny when I was on HRM council, and amalgamation occurred there April 1st as well. I used to joke that that was April Fool's Day. I hope that this isn't a fool's case here as well.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: I appreciate the comments of the member opposite, specifically those around the timeframe. What he may not realize is that it takes a fair bit of time to implement a transition and set up the rules around all of that. We would be looking at a new governance structure. Mr. Speaker, they have to go to the URB, as I think I stated in my opening comments, to help set that process up. That all takes a bit of time.

He also mentioned the current process that is under way. This is Thursday. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that on Tuesday evening the Town of Windsor, which was part of that initial application to the URB around amalgamation, withdrew those motions at council. I don't know whether the ARC group has done that yet or not, but it's my understanding that that could happen. Either way, this is able to go forward along with that at the same time.

The main reason that these two municipal units chose this path was so they could have a say in how this would all end up. That's important to those councils and those communities, not letting an independent body decide how all things may look. The best interests of them and their citizens and their communities and those councils is to have good input on where this may all end up and where it will all end up.

The fiscal year certainly was important, around April 1, 2020. That again is part of all of that timing, Mr. Speaker.

I do want to thank the honourable member for his comments, and I'm sure he'll understand, being a former councillor as he once was, how this process does work. Those two councils have been working hard together, along with our team. Our transition team will soon come into place. That is an extensive piece of work, Mr. Speaker, which we hope will be extremely successful as they go forward.

With those few comments, I want to thank the members again, and I move to close second reading of Bill No. 55.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 55. 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. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 58.

Bill 58 - Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: I move that Bill No. 58, an Act to Amend Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1998, the Municipal Government Act, and Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2008, the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to provide comments today on proposed amendments to the Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter that will require municipalities to plan for efficient use of all land within their boundaries. Municipal planning helps to protect the public interest, including public health and safety; ensures that the public has input into the development of their community; reduces conflicts; protects the environment; considers the efficient use of land and infrastructure, thereby reducing service and cost and provides more regulatory certainty for investors.

Mr. Speaker, under the new amendments municipalities will be required to create land-use plans to meet specific requirements. These requirements will reflect the minimum thresholds set out in regulations. The municipalities can do more, if they so choose.

The amendments will also require municipalities to consult with their neighbouring communities when adopting or amending their plan, recognizing that one size does not fit all, municipalities will be required to develop their own policies on how this consultation will take place. Ultimately the goal of this consultation is to enable municipalities to work with their neighbours and better coordinate development opportunities.

In addition, these amendments will ensure all land-use plans adhere to the existing statements of provincial interest. Statements of provincial interest are adopted as regulations under the Municipal Government Act and outline the province's vision for protecting Nova Scotia's land and water resources. They also address issues related to the growth of our communities, and they are intended to help provincial government

departments and municipalities make land-use decisions that support the principles of sustainable development.

The five statements reflect the public interest, preserving high-quality farmland, preventing development on known flood plains, protecting municipal drinking water supply areas, providing for affordable housing, and making the best use of our investments in the existing infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, currently the Municipal Government Act and the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter do not require municipalities to plan. Although all municipalities do engage in some degree of planning, however, in 12 of the 50 municipalities in Nova Scotia this planning is limited in scope or in geography. Furthermore, municipalities that do not plan for all land within their boundaries are not addressing the statements of provincial interest. The current land-use planning regime in Nova Scotia, including the municipal land-use planning powers and the statements of provincial interest, have been in place for the last 20 years.

These amendments are about recognizing that inconsistent implementation of land use planning creates regulatory uncertainty, whereas efficient land planning can help enable communities to grow. Mr. Speaker, I see good land use plans to supporting economic development by having land available for further enabling municipalities to be more business-ready.

In addition, Nova Scotia's land and water resources are fundamental to our physical, social, and economic well-being, and it is important to make land-use decisions carefully and respect the needs of future generations. This work is, in part, driven by the requests we have received over the last six years from our stakeholders, including the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and the town's task force. Information has been gathered from these organizations and research has been undertaken by the Department of Municipal Affairs, culminating in a series of regional sessions hosted throughout the province earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, this Act creates the framework for the development of minimum contents, requirements for land-use planning documents, which will be defined in regulation. We recognize that different municipalities have different natural, social and, economic environments.

The regulations will set out topics for which municipalities will have to develop policy. We'll continue to work closely with our municipal partners to determine the minimum standard for regulation. We will also ensure that we support municipalities that do not conduct comprehensive plans by providing guidance and sample planning documents to support their efforts.

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

MR. BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, once again I rise. Our caucus is relatively supportive of this particular piece of legislation as well. I know myself, individually, I'm very supportive of land-use planning. I've seen the many benefits of having a comprehensive plan and direction are to a municipality to ensure they develop well and that local interests are met, but yet not duplicated.

In this particular case, I do not that most of the issues being here are of provincial interest more so than municipal, being those of flood plains, housing, agriculture, potable water, and things like that. During my time on Halifax Regional Council, having gone through both a regional plan process, an RP5 review process, as well as numerous local community visioning processes, I certainly do stand by the need for planning, so we are relatively supportive of this right now.

I'm glad to hear the minister is talking in regard to the consultation that will take place. I know that, as the minister did suggest, that there are currently 38 of the 50 municipalities that do have some kind of comprehensive planning and land use by-laws in place. However, I am kind of somewhat curious and concerned about the 12 that do not. I know that most municipalities across the province have some form of limited planning but just not the comprehensive planning we're discussing here today.

I would assume that there's a reason why those 12 do not have that. Maybe it's because, under their current mandate the responsibilities that they currently have have them stretched somewhat thin. Although I do see that there is some support that the department is offering guidance and support to the municipalities, unfortunately what I don't see is some funding that may be available for those municipalities that may not be able to afford to go through this process. Not because they don't identify it as an important process, but because they have other responsibilities that have higher priorities in planning. Given the fact that this is an initiative of government, and it is being done in addition to the municipal benefits that will be gained, it's also being done to protect provincial interests. It would be nice to see some finances set aside for that, as well.

I would note that I did read in there that although it is a request of the municipalities, it's not a requirement, so I'm kind of wondering - maybe the minister at some point in time can talk on that as well. I'd also like to note that I know that it is supported by both HRM as well as the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. I would be very remiss, particularly given my comments in the House yesterday in regard to cannabis, not to point this out.

Here we are once again coming forward, and I believe the minister was quoted in the *Chronicle Herald* on Tuesday saying that, "Mandatory planning supports a consistent approach to land use and development across the province." I do support that and I support this for that, but I do find it somewhat ironic that yesterday here I stood saying that these are the types of things we should be doing. We did this with smoking. We did this with pesticides. Now here we are doing it with this, but we didn't do this with cannabis.

I certainly look forward to what's said at Law Amendments Committee.

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

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, it's important to have legislation like this that requires all municipalities to have municipal planning strategies. Those planning strategies, when this piece of legislation passes, will need to meet a minimum standard and they'll need to include the process to consult with neighbouring municipalities.

Strong land-use planning is vital to many aspects of Nova Scotia's future from economic development to food security and climate change mitigation. I represent an area that's definitely seen that better strategic planning with development would have been welcome many, many years ago. Some 40 or almost 50 years ago, Sackville was a development where the government recognized the need for housing options for Nova Scotians. But, unfortunately, what happened was they just went and cut a bunch of trees down and put roads in everywhere they could.

Some 40 or 50 years later we're still dealing with issues of not planning properly around environmental impacts, flooding and building on flood plains, the increase in development and its impact on services like water and sewer. We still continue today to have many houses flood after a rainstorm because of the capacity and the inability of the municipal services to meet that capacity.

Also, just to note, for example, for many years airline pilots would know they were getting close to the airport when they would see this red mud lake known as First Lake because all the run-off from all the streets would just flow right into First Lake. Over the years, many organizations like Friends of First Lake and Sackville Rivers Association have worked to mitigate the impact on the environment at First Lake due to run-off.

Pilots don't use the lake, as that red mud lake, as an indicator that they are close to the airport, but it just shows the importance of making sure that we have municipal planning strategies in place, especially as we develop and as we look at new development around our province.

We look forward to hearing what anybody has to say at Law Amendments, but we will make sure that we do our due diligence and ensure that this bill is as good as it can be, and that it addresses some of the needs and concerns that we see around the province when dealing with municipal planning.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: I want to thank both of my colleagues for their comments on this bill. One of the statements was around provincial interest. Remember, the provincial interest is, indeed, the public's interest. This is about a consistent approach.

There was mention around the 12 that don't have significant planning, however, they do have some minimal planning. Some of them share and we certainly encourage them to share planners, if need be, across borders and will continue to do that. We will be here to offer them some assistance as we make our way through this by way of models.

I guess, with those few comments here in second reading, I would move to close second reading of Bill No. 58.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 58. 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. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 63.

Bill No. 63 - Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support Bill No. 63, an Act to Repeal the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission Act.

The government's repealing of this legislation is a step towards sustaining the current Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition site in Bible Hill. The current legislation has been in effect since 2015, and since then the Commission continued to accumulate debt and face financial challenges for operations. We expect repeal of the Act will be proclaimed when the wind-up activities at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition are completed.

Today's action is intended to enhance the profitability and the accountability for the organization and contribute to long-term stability. The wind-up of the current operations, together with a plan to revitalize the property, will put it on the right path as a strong economic driver in the community.

Under new management, the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition excelled on August 13, 2018 with the most successful one we've had in years - very profitable.

With those few words, I would move second reading of Bill No. 63.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

MR. TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I do want to recognize the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition. It's a steadfast for that area - not only that area, but all of the central of the Maritime Provinces, as the representative from that area would know.

We went to a bill briefing and we didn't get a bill, we got pictures. When we received the bill yesterday, it was two lines. We've learned more now from the minister today than what's actually titled in that bill.

I feel we really can't support this bill until we see the meat and potatoes. What is the structure going to look like in the future? Is there going to be a Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition in the future? Where is the accountability and where is the transparency? I'm pretty sure that the member from that area has a few words to say, therefore I'll take my seat. I can't wait to look into this matter further and see the Law Amendments Committee.

[3:45 p.m.]

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

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak to Bill No. 63, an Act to Repeal Chapter No. 7 of the Acts of 2015, the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission Act.

I have to say that I'm a little concerned because there is no mention in this bill at all of the Truro Raceway. It's basically just a repeal of the existing bill. I know that the bill was originally put in, by I believe the Progressive Conservatives, to create a structure that would help to conduct business for the Provincial Exhibition Commission - it created a commission - but also for the Truro Raceway.

Over the years, I've been a little bit concerned. When I first became an MLA in 2009, people came to me and said there's an old boys' club that exists right now with the board, the commission of the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, whereby a lot of people are in there who keep staying in there and the way the bill was structured, they could just appoint other people to take their places.

This meant that a lot of other community members were not able even to have any say or get on the board and it became a very political thing because a lot of Progressive Conservatives said that the Liberals had taken over and they were concerned because they couldn't get on. Of course, being NDP, there was no chance of anybody getting on anything

at that point. I was just lucky enough to be voted in for the first time ever in the history of that riding as an NDP.

I have to say that when I was in government in 2013, I introduced an amendment to the bill to make it easier for anybody in the community to be able to get on the board, to be able to get on the commission. You didn't have to be already on the commission to then appoint or anoint somebody to replace you. Anybody could be there because I thought it should be a community board, a community commission so that the community had a say in what was happening to that very valuable piece of land and community place for people to come to have both the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition but also the Truro Raceway, which is one of the oldest raceways in Canada. There's a lot of passion around both in our community.

After the 2013 election when the Liberals came in, the minister ended up changing and amending that bill yet again and putting in a commission that was chosen by him. That particular group of people, for whatever reason, we were told did not work out. So, they were then eliminated and, for the last year, it has been basically operating - I would say I don't know if it would be illegal. I did ask the minister during Budget Estimates what is the situation now that he had dismissed the board, yet they had chosen a couple of people to run the place, including somebody who is called the manager. But I was able to find out, luckily, from the minister that in fact she wasn't really the manager; she was really a caretaker because the bill was still on the books and had not been changed. I was told that the bill was going to be amended and I expected that to happen earlier in the Spring, which it didn't.

I'm a little surprised that now it's just a repeal of the bill with nothing else in there which basically means that now the government is going to be running the whole kit and caboodle. It's going to be in charge and running the whole kit and caboodle. I notice that it will mean that the government will own the property, except for the Truro Horsemen's Club, the horse owners' club which they have tried to buy a few times now and have been rebuffed.

I'm pleased to see that there is work being done on the property. I'm pleased that things have gone well this year. We've been very luckily blessed with good weather which makes a big difference for the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition, trust me. I'm glad to see that things seem to be moving in a good, orderly direction.

However, I am worried and concerned that the Truro Raceway is not mentioned anywhere. During Budget Estimates, there wasn't even a line in the budget that described anything for the money that goes to the Truro Raceway. When I asked about that, I was told that it's just a flow-through from the Department of Finance and Treasury Board that helps pay for the three raceways in Nova Scotia. Through newspaper stories, I've also heard that the minister has said on a number of occasions, well, the Truro Raceway isn't doing as well as the other raceways. The other raceways do better, and things like this.

I am concerned that we could be on a slippery slope to elimination of the Truro Raceway, without anything to protect them. I know that both the raceway and the Provincial Exhibition were in difficult financial straits over the last number of years, but I do not want to see the Truro Raceway disappear. I know there are a lot of people in the community who feel the same way.

I reserve my judgment at this point in time. I'd like to hear more about what the minister actually has planned, and I would like to be able to feel secure that the raceway will in fact be protected and will be continuing on into the future.

With those words, I will take my seat. I will reserve judgment, but as the MLA for that district, I'm very concerned and I want to find out a lot more before I can commit to saying that I approve of this bill. That goes for us here in the NDP caucus.

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

The honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Just before I move second reading, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the concerns of my colleague for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River.

We totally intend to maintain the horserace and improve on it over the next few years. We're looking at that very seriously. It's part of Nova Scotia's culture and heritage. That track is the key track in the province - not only in the province but in Atlantic Canada - for preserving and improving horseracing.

I believe that the organization, the horsemen's association, is doing very well this year - probably the best they've done in years and years - because of the good financial planning they put in place when we empowered them to do that. We look forward to that continuing and improving all the time.

As you've said, there have been a lot of improvements on the exhibition. We're going to continue to do that and improve it even further. We've been very happy with the co-operation we've gotten from the Village of Bible Hill. They've worked with us very closely. We're going to form a very strong partnership with them.

The idea is that we not only want to make that a fantastic place for agriculture in Nova Scotia, including harness racing, but we also want to fix the facility so that people who live around the community are proud of the buildings and of the place. When we took it over, that wasn't the case. A lot of buildings had to be taken down. We've taken four buildings down so far. We're evaluating other buildings. We're going to see some more improvements in buildings very shortly.

The only way we can do this - this is by the government owning the facility. We're going to own the facility. That's what's going to happen, and I think it's very positive. I've been an MLA for 25 years now, or in politics for 25 years, and I remember, every year, the presentation of the cheque to bail out the poor management, year after year after year. We're not doing that anymore. We've got a slim team working there. We hire contractors to do the work.

It's a very positive story for Truro and an extremely important story for Nova Scotia as we move our economy forward and really embrace agriculture, and part of that is harness racing. Harness racing will be there, and will be stronger than it ever has been in the past.

With that, I'd like to move second reading of Bill No. 63.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 63. 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. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes government business for today. I move that the House do now rise to meet again tomorrow, Friday, September 28th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Following the daily routine and QP, business will include second reading of Bill No. 67 and third reading of Bill Nos. 27, 32, 38, 42, 44, 45, and 48.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for the House to rise to meet again tomorrow, Friday, September 28th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

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

The motion is carried.

The House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

[The House rose at 3:56 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 282**

By: Ms. Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the impact of women business leaders, politicians, researchers, artists, or activists have helped shape Canada into a thriving, diverse and prosperous country through their achievements and desire to make a difference; and

Whereas this year's Women's History Month theme is #MakeAnImpact, in honour of the women and girls who have made a lasting impact as pioneers in their field; and

Whereas this is the 100th anniversary of women in Canada receiving the right to vote;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the month of October as Women's History Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 283

By: Ms. Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the International Day of the Girl, the UN international observance dedicated to championing girls' rights around the world, is an important part of Women's History Month celebrations; and

Whereas throughout the world girls face higher rates of violence, poverty and discrimination, and in Canada girls have higher rates of depression, sexual harassment, and dating violence; and

Whereas International Day of the Girl promotes equal treatment and opportunities for girls in areas such as law, nutrition, freedom from violence and abuse, health care, education, and training;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize October 11th as International Day of the Girl and recognize that girls' economic empowerment is an important part of equality for girls through improved access to education, increased

political participation and leadership, and better support and training for girls in Canada and countries around the world can help create the conditions for girls to thrive in every aspect of their lives.

RESOLUTION NO. 284

By: Ms. Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a real, complex, multi-faceted, often lifelong neurological disorder that affects people of both genders and all ages; and

Whereas ADHD is one of the most common neurological disorders in Canada and is estimated to affect over one million Canadians; and

Whereas during ADHD Awareness Month, the Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada is launching an ADHD in Education Awareness/Advocacy Campaign to draw greater attention to the inequities students with ADHD face when accessing education across Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the month of October as ADHD Awareness Month.

RESOLUTION NO. 285

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas Lois Hetherington coordinated the senior Bingo program at the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre for more than 20 years; and

Whereas she has been a dedicated member of the Centre's board of directors, a welcoming presence at reception, and a campaigner on the membership committee; and

Whereas Lois has taught everyone she meets the meaning of rising to a challenge;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to Lois Hetherington for her service to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre and her dedication to enhancing the lives of seniors in this community.

RESOLUTION NO. 286

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas Patrice Hope is a long-time painting class coordinator and instructor at the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre; and

Whereas she has generously shared her knowledge with members of the Centre and the community of Dartmouth; and

Whereas she has been a constant contributor to the culture and success of the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to Patrice Hope for her service to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre and her dedication to the artistic lives of seniors in this community.

RESOLUTION NO. 287

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas Betty Robertson is a long-time member of the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre; and

Whereas she has supported the day-to-day operations of the Centre by ensuring what breaks either gets fixed or replaced; and

Whereas she has been a faithful and reliable source of compassion and ambitious energy to the Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to Betty Robertson for her service to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre and the Dartmouth community.

RESOLUTION NO. 288

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas Joe and Maureen Baltzer have been dedicated volunteers with the Meals on Wheels program at the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre; and

Whereas they work as a team to help get over 2,500 hot meals into the hands of Dartmouth seniors every week; and

Whereas over the last eight years, rain or shine, they have rarely missed a Monday delivery;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to Joe and Maureen Baltzer for their service to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre and their dedication to the well-being of seniors in the Dartmouth community.

RESOLUTION NO. 289

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas Russell Walsh has been volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program at the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre for more than eight years; and

Whereas he is always concerned about the welfare of clients and ensures they receive services above and beyond their meal deliveries; and

Whereas he is a reliable and consistent volunteer at the Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to Russell Walsh for his service to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre and his demonstrated dedication to the well-being of seniors in the Dartmouth community.

RESOLUTION NO. 290

By: Ms. Claudia Chender (Dartmouth South)

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

Whereas George Chater is a long-time supporter of the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre; and

Whereas George is always the first to donate to the Centre's events and fundraisers; and

Whereas Chater's Meat Market has been a landmark business, serving and supporting the community of Dartmouth since 1969;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere thanks to George Chater for his community leadership and dedication to the Dartmouth Seniors Service Centre.

RESOLUTION NO. 291

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia native Sarah Milberry and husband, Tom Yun, opened a new location of their Sarah and Tom franchise on Quinpool Road in July; and

Whereas Sarah and Tom provides Halifax shoppers with a variety of K-pop products, toys, stationery, and gifts; and

Whereas they are a very welcome addition to our community, having already opened successful locations in Toronto and Montreal;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Sarah and Tom on the occasion of the opening of their new shop and wishes them many successful years in business to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 292

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas the 16U Girls Baseball Invitational Championships were held in Bedford this August; and

Whereas the Nova Scotia team captured the Silver Medal; and

Whereas Emma Bradbury and Dylan MacLean each had two hits for team Nova Scotia, and Ellie MacAulay, Emily MacFadyen, Allie Norris, and Elizabeth Gravel each contributed one hit;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates the Nova Scotia Under-16 Girls baseball team for their silver medal finish and proudly representing our province.

RESOLUTION NO. 293

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas the Trail Shop has been supplying outdoor activity enthusiasts in Halifax with a large selection of equipment and clothing for many outdoor activities since 1967; and

Whereas the Trail Shop has been a long-time staple of Quinpool Road; and

Whereas the Trail Shop has recently relocated to a new and beautiful expanded location at the recently constructed Keep;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates the Trail Shop team on their new location and wishes them many happy years in business to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 294

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Halifax-based economist Lars Osberg has published a new book titled *The Age of Increasing Inequality*, released earlier this month; and

Whereas this new book explores how, over the past 35 years, the richest Canadians have gotten richer while unions have declined and other incomes stagnated; and

Whereas it makes the case that increasing inequality is bad for our country and for our democracy and proposes innovative measures for a fairer distribution of wealth in Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Lars on his new publication and thanks him for such a thoughtful and useful set of economic policy proposals.

RESOLUTION NO. 295

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Morris East Pizzeria serves the communities of Halifax and Bedford premium-quality pizza with fresh, locally sourced ingredients; and

Whereas Morris East has been successfully operating with two locations, the original spot on Morris Street, since 2007, and their Bedford location, since 2013; and

Whereas Morris East has very recently opened their third location on Vernon St., bringing their delectable pizza to the Quinpool Road business district;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates the Morris East team on their new location and wishes them many happy years in business to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 296

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Dilly Dally Coffee opened in June 2016; and

Whereas the café has been serving the people of Halifax with farm-to-table food and locally-sourced coffee ever since; and

Whereas Dilly Dally's Tiny Kitchen is run by talented Nova Scotia Community College alumni and demonstrates the kinds of skills that our graduates contribute to a vibrant local economy;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates the Dilly Dally team on their two-year anniversary and wishes them many more successful years to come.

RESOLUTION NO. 297

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas King of Donair hosted their first-ever pizza-eating contest at the old Oxford Theatre; and

Whereas the event raised a total of \$1,211 for Shinerama Atlantic, a student-based non-profit organization that funds research into a cure for cystic fibrosis; and

Whereas contestant Joel Hansen was crowned pizza-eating champion after eating 15 slices of pepperoni pizza in 10 minutes;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates King of Donair on their successful event and recognizes Joel Hansen for his incredible pizza-eating ability.

RESOLUTION NO. 298

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas the Good Robot Brewing Co. on Robie Street has made their taproom available on a weekly basis for hosting charitable fundraising events; and

Whereas they have hosted organizations and non-profits including the Chebucto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Sea Turtle Network, Adsum House, the Heartwood Centre, and more;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Good Robot Brewing Co. for their neighbourly support of community organizations in our province.

RESOLUTION NO. 299

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia Provincial Bantam boys lacrosse team travelled to Saskatchewan in August to participate in the National Championships; and

Whereas the team won gold in the B division after defeating the Saskatchewan team in the final round; and

Whereas the team had a good week of lacrosse and enjoyed the opportunity to learn about other parts of Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates the team on representing our province in their sport.

RESOLUTION NO. 300

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Brianna Boddy of Halifax has achieved the Bronze Standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award; and

Whereas Brianna earned this honour through volunteering with various school events, developing her cello skills, her karate practice, and undertaking a survival exploration at Graves Island Provincial Park; and

Whereas Brianna demonstrated great dedication and persistence in achieving her goal as an independent participant;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Brianna on her significant accomplishment and honour.

RESOLUTION NO. 301

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 102 Nova Scotian athletes participated in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics in Antigonish; and

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with disabilities through the transformative power and joy of sport; and

Whereas Zack Morris of Halifax placed first in the 200m sprint and received a bronze medal in the M8 division of the 100m sprint;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Zack on his considerable athletic accomplishments.

RESOLUTION NO. 302

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 102 Nova Scotian athletes participated in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics in Antigonish; and

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with disabilities through the transformative power and joy of sport; and

Whereas Stephanie Piccinin of Halifax received the gold medal for 800m run in the F04 division;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Stephanie on her significant athletic accomplishments.

RESOLUTION NO. 303

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 102 Nova Scotian athletes participated in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics in Antigonish; and

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with disabilities through the transformative power and joy of sport; and

Whereas Joy MacLachlan of Halifax placed second in the 200m sprint, received the silver medal in the 4 x 100m relay, and the bronze medal for 100m sprint in the F1 division;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulates Joy on her significant athletic accomplishments.

RESOLUTION NO. 304

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 102 Nova Scotian athletes participated in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics in Antigonish; and

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with disabilities through the transformative power and joy of sport; and

Whereas Jamie Wood of Halifax placed fourth in the male 500m freestyle swim;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulate Jamie on his significant athletic accomplishments.

RESOLUTION NO. 305

By: Mr. Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 102 Nova Scotian athletes participated in the 2018 Canadian Special Olympics in Antigonish; and

Whereas the Special Olympics is dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadians with disabilities through the transformative power and joy of sport; and

Whereas Team NS-Halifax received the bronze medal in basketball;

Therefore be it resolved that this House congratulate the team and their coaches on this significant athletic accomplishment.