



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Second Session

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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. We'll begin the daily routine.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): I first of all want to thank both Leaders, and the interim Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party for an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, as this House draws to an end - I think it's going to end, I hope the House Leaders have all come to an agreement.

As this House draws to an end, Mr. Speaker, all members of this House know the challenges related to being an elected official and the support they receive from those who care about us and the impact it has on our families.

I also know what it's like to lead a political Party and I know what it's like to be the Leader of the Official Opposition. In the last two sessions, the member for Pictou West has led her Party in this House and I think it's important that we recognize her leadership and the commitment she has made to her Party, to see them through as they go through this leadership contest to ensure that the Official Opposition has a strong voice in the House of Assembly to keep the governing Party to account.

Even though we may not always agree, and the debates sometimes get heated, I think all of us recognize the roles that we all play and how important each role is to ensuring that Nova Scotians get the most open and transparent and kind government that they deserve.

I want to add our voice to congratulating her as her Party goes through choosing its successor in the coming weeks. I want to give her a bit of advice, if I can, Mr. Speaker. It's not normal for me to give anyone advice, but she is the second woman to lead the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia and I encourage her to follow the fine example of her predecessor who not only led that Party in a great way, but she has continued to be a leader in our province by showing good judgment.

As the member for Pictou West continues in her political career, I would ask her to take pause and reflect on her predecessor, and maybe that good judgment will be bestowed upon her as she goes forward and continues to have an illustrious career, as her predecessor did.

To you and your family, I wish you all the best. (Standing Ovation)

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

MR. GARY BURRILL: I would certainly like to add the voice of our caucus in the New Democratic Party to the congratulations that are being offered today to the interim Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party as she concludes - she may be hoping - this period of her responsibilities to her Party, at least as concerns here in the House.

This matter of the position of an interim Leader is a difficult and demanding post. It's something that requires the gift of a general kind of personableness, and it's also something that you can only call on someone who has the broad respect and regard of all the different dimensions of their own Party. So, the Progressive Conservative Party, in my judgment, has been very fortunate at this critical juncture in the Party's story to be able to call on someone who has these necessary gifts for this responsibility.

We wish her all the best as she counts out, by my calculation, the 16 sleeps between now and when she can resume her super-focus as the MLA for Pictou West.

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

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Thank you so much for your kind words, Premier, and thank you as well. I do want to extend my greatest gratitude to the PC caucus and to the PC staff and to the 11,000 PC members right now who entrusted me to lead the Party during this difficult time. We certainly have had some adversities and some challenges, but we definitely are stronger and more united than ever.

I'm just so grateful that I've had this opportunity. One of the words that stood out that the Premier said is that I always say to my kids, I don't care what you do, as long as you're happy but, more importantly, as long as you are kind. At the end of the day, I think that's exactly what we are here: we come in, we know we have a job to do, and it's not always easy. It's probably very, very difficult for some, like myself.

I want to thank everyone in this Chamber for allowing me to do this, for being kind to me, giving me this opportunity. I think we should all celebrate and not have Question Period today. (Applause) We can put that to a motion. It's been a great pleasure. I look forward to the new Leader stepping in and certainly supporting that person and continuing to hold the government to account - but with respect, integrity.

Again, thanks so much. Have a great Fall.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, may I do an introduction before we start?

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

THE PREMIER: I'd like to draw the attention of the House to the Speaker's Gallery, where we have some guests with us today. We have Mr. Will Brewer with us. He is the official town crier for the peninsula of Halifax.

I've had the good fortune of knowing Will at different occasions - I've been at the wrong end of his camera or the right end of his camera, depending on how you look at it. Will has been an active member on several volunteer organizations and he has been an advocate for people with disabilities.

Joining Will today is his mother, Allison. I would ask Allison to stand as well. Allison also knows what it's like to lead a political Party. She was the Leader of the New Democratic Party of New Brunswick in 2005-06. I would ask the House to give Will and Allison a warm welcome. (Standing Ovation)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 634

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

Whereas this past summer, Will Brewer was appointed by the Halifax Regional Municipal Council as the official Olde Town Crier for the Halifax Peninsula; and

Whereas Will has long been an advocate for persons with disabilities and has spent his life pursuing opportunities that inspire others, and plans to use his new position to raise awareness and give voice to those with disabilities; and

Whereas Will is the first person in Canada with Down Syndrome to be appointed as a Town Crier, demonstrating not only the strength of his character, but leading us to challenge our own assumptions of a person's ability and to recognize the value in us all;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Will Brewer on his outstanding achievement as being named Town Crier, and to thank him for all his hard work in raising awareness for persons with disabilities and for being an inspiration to us all.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Lands and Forestry.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for bringing the following individual to my attention for this notice of motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 635

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

Whereas Tom Reeves of Forties, New Ross, Nova Scotia passed away peacefully on October 5, 2018, 35 years after becoming a ventilator-dependent spinal cord-injured quadriplegic; and

Whereas despite his significant disability, Tom, together with his wife Debbie, owned and operated T&D Nursery which over the past 30 years of operation has grown several million seedlings for the Nova Scotia forestry sector; and

Whereas Tom was an active member in all aspects of his community, especially the forestry and agriculture exhibitions and associations; and

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in recognizing the passion and commitment that Tom Reeves brought to the Nova Scotia forestry industry, and extend our condolences to his family on his recent passing.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

RESOLUTION NO. 636

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

Whereas Wayne Walters was Captain of *Bluenose II* from April 1995 to October 1998 and also served as *Bluenose II* Director of Operations for 11 years; and

Whereas Captain Walters continued the legacy of his grandfather Angus Walters, who was the first captain of the original *Bluenose* and through his service with the ship made her a Canadian icon; and

Whereas *Bluenose II* is Nova Scotia's sailing ambassador and a symbol of Canadian achievement recognized around the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House join me in recognizing and thanking Captain Walters for his service to *Bluenose II* and to Nova Scotians, for representing our province's marine heritage with honour, and for carrying on the proud *Bluenose* tradition of his grandfather in making *Bluenose II* a beloved national and international icon.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Internal Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 637

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: On behalf of the Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act, Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that on a future day I shall move the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas October 11th is International Day of the Girl Child; and

Whereas we acknowledge the important role girls have in our communities and recognize that gender equality is essential for shaping healthy and prosperous communities; and

Whereas the Province of Nova Scotia promotes equal opportunities for all girls to create conditions where they can thrive in every aspect of their lives such as Techsploration, an initiative in 21 schools that invites young women from Grades 9 through 12 to explore science, skilled trades, and technology occupations and creates fun ways to explore career paths that are often considered non-traditional for girls;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the important and lasting impacts that girls are making in Nova Scotia and that they have a vital role in our communities and influence our future.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

RESOLUTION NO. 638

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

Whereas four faculty members from Dalhousie Medical School's Department of Psychiatry were recently honoured by the Canadian Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry; and

Whereas these members were recognized for their commitment to the psychiatry profession and outstanding work in the mental health field; and

Whereas Dr. Lukas Propper, Dr. Stan Kutcher, Dr. Sabina Abidi, and Dr. Herbert Orlik are helping improve mental health care for children and youth nationally and internationally;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House join me in thanking these professionals for the important contributions they've made to improve the lives of many.

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. 639

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

Whereas sweat lodges are part of the Indigenous tradition and are commonly used within the Indigenous community as sacred purification ceremonies for spiritual cleansing; and

Whereas the Nova Scotia RCMP continues to take a leadership role in promoting and respecting Indigenous tradition in the justice system by opening Canada's first permanent sweat lodge in an RCMP detachment at the RCMP headquarters in Dartmouth yesterday so employees will be able to attend sweat ceremonies for self reflection and prayer in the lodge, as well as to better understand and support the teachings of our Native communities; and

Whereas the RCMP further embraces its relationship with Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia with another first in Canada by introducing the eagle feather for the swearing of oaths for victims, witnesses, and police officers;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House join me in congratulating the Nova Scotia RCMP and all its members for their ongoing work to improve and enhance its relationship with the Indigenous people of Mi'kma'ki.

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 Immigration.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MS. DIAB: With us today in the East Gallery, I'm pleased to introduce three members of CDÉNÉ which is the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-

Écosse. We have Julie Oliver who is the directrice générale since 2004 who has been leading strategic planning for the economic development regions of Nova Scotia; also Gerardo Vallejo originally from Mexico, a business consultant for francophone immigrant entrepreneurs for the last five years, and Bruno Pelletier, the finance and human resources officer for six years. I would ask all members of the House of Assembly to please give them the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

RESOLUTION NO. 640

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

Attendu que d'augmenter notre population par l'immigration est une priorité de notre gouvernement et que d'accueillir plus d'immigrants francophones est un de nos champs d'intérêt; et

Attendu que le Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse est un de nos partenaires à l'établissement et qu'à ce titre il joue un rôle essentiel pour veiller à ce que les nouveaux arrivants francophones soient les bienvenus et qu'ils aient accès aux programmes et aux services d'aide à l'établissement en français; et

Attendu que le Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse est le seul organisme francophone de développement économique ayant un mandat provincial en Nouvelle-Écosse;

Par conséquent, il est résolu que tous les membres de cette Assemblée se joignent à moi pour féliciter et remercier le CDÉNÉ pour le travail qu'il a fait dans le but d'attirer et d'établir des immigrants francophones ce qui en retour contribue à renforcer notre économie, les collectivités acadiennes et francophones, et la langue française dans notre province.

Monsieur le président, je demande l'adoption de cette résolution sans préavis et sans débat.

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

Whereas growing our population through immigration is a priority for our government and bringing more francophone immigrants to the province is one of our areas of focus; and

Whereas the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse is one of our settlement partners, and as such plays a key role in helping to ensure francophone newcomers to the province are welcomed and have access to settlement programs and services in French; and

Whereas le CDÉNE is the only francophone economic development organization with a provincial mandate in Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House join me in recognizing and thanking the Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse for their work in helping us to attract and settle francophone immigrants which, in turn, is helping to strengthen our economy, Acadian and francophone communities, and the French language in our province.

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

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

RESOLUTION NO. 641

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

Whereas October 7th to 13th is Fire Prevention Week; and

Whereas throughout our province, hundreds of volunteer and career firefighters will selflessly help to protect residents of their communities from fires; and

Whereas this year Fire Prevention Week seeks to educate people about basic essential steps to both reduce the risk of fire and to stay safe in the event of fire.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank all firefighters in our province and encourage Nova Scotians to look, listen, learn, and be aware that fire can happen anywhere.

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. 83 - An Act to Amend Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes, 1989. The Labour Standards Code, Respecting Tips and Gratuities. (Ms. Tammy Martin)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

MEMBER, PICTOU W.: INSPIRING LDRSHIP. - THANKS

MS. KIM MASLAND: I rise today to salute the member for Pictou West.

Early this year, at a difficult time for our Party, the member for Pictou West became our Leader. I have always had great respect for the member, but watching her take on the added responsibilities and challenges of her new role was nothing short of inspiring.

She is a strong woman who has faced obstacles head on with determination, common sense, and fairness. She rose to every occasion with good humour and she sacrificed time with her family in order to fulfill her obligations as Leader.

I think all members will agree that the member for Pictou West has been a formidable opponent in the Legislature, and a role model for all women aspiring to enter politics.

Today I ask all members to join me in thanking the member for Pictou West for her service to the Progressive Conservative Party and to this Legislature in her time as Leader. (Standing Ovation)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

MEMBER, PICTOU W.: STRONG PARTY GUIDANCE - COMMEND

MS. CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the congratulations that have been given and to offer my thanks and congratulations to the interim Leader of the Official Opposition.

Through a time of great change in her Party in the Legislature and in the province, she has steered her Party with clarity, grace, strength and, most of all, kindness.

Although we don't always agree on things, the member for Pictou West will always have my respect and admiration.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a time when the leadership of a strong, competent woman in this Assembly is the norm rather than the exception. In the meantime, in addition to a handful of others, we'll now have the member for Pictou West as a great example to remind us that it's possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the East Gallery today. We're joined by a group of highland dancers. I'll ask each of them to rise as I call their names. This is a remarkable group of young women who I've seen grow from a very young age into quite literally some of the best highland dancers in the world: Zoe Mosher, who is a member of Team Nova Scotia, Abbie Smeltzer, who is also a member for Team Nova Scotia, Rachel Fougere, and Megan VanderWal.

They are joined today by some very supportive parents. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the role that the parents play in the success of each of these wonderful young women: Suzanne Wheelock Mosher, Heidi Smeltzer, and Cheryl Fougere, please rise as my colleagues bring you a warm greeting to the Legislature. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

MCKINNON DANCERS: INTL. EXCELLENCE - CONGRATS.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Zoe Mosher of Conquerall Bank, Abbie Smeltzer of Lower Branch, Lily Matheson-Wood of Kentville, and Megan VanderWal and Rachel Fougere of Bridgewater. These five talented highland

dancers are members of McKinnon Dance. Last August they took a trip of a lifetime to Scotland with their teacher and mentor, Angela McKinnon.

Mr. Speaker, they performed at Stirling Castle and competed at the Stirling Highland Games, Crieff Highland Games, and at the prestigious Cowal Highland Gathering and World Highland Dance Championships, where Abbie and Zoe placed sixth in the world in the Scottish open championship against dancers from all over the world.

Cheryl Fougere, a parent chaperone, said this trip was beyond the girls' expectations, and the sightseeing cultural experiences, new friendships, and a chance to perform in Scotland is every dancer's dream.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the McKinnon dancers for their success in competition and for serving as great ambassadors for our community and our province.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

ORRELL, EDDIE: NORTHSIDE SPORTS HALL OF FAME - CONGRATS.

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame is an honour. To be inducted on two teams in the same evening is a feat. My colleague, Eddie Orrell, celebrated this event with his former teammates as they were recognized and inducted into the Northside Sports Hall of Fame.

The event not only honours local athletes but recognizes the importance of sport in their lives and communities. Orrell is a valuable member of the 1982 Memorial Riders Nova Scotia Midget A champions. He was also a member of the 1983 Memorial Marauders that won the Nova Scotia Juvenile A hockey championship and proceeded to advance to the Atlantic Juvenile A championship where they captured gold.

The sports environment has always been part of Orrell's life, a positive experience he feels every child should be able to experience. I would like to send along my congratulations on behalf of our caucus members on Orrell's recent induction into the Northside Sports Hall of Fame.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to congratulate the honourable member for Northside-Westmount. I won't call him by his proper name in the House, but congratulations.

The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

**INTL. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD:
COURAGEOUS INNOVATORS - PERSEVERE**

MS. CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Day of the Girl Child. As I stand here in 2018, we know that a girl born today anywhere in the world has fewer opportunities and faces many more obstacles than her male counterparts. According to the UN, women across the world face adversities that hinder their education, training, and entry into the workforce. They have less access to information, communication technology, and resources.

The UN women's site goes on to say that despite these barriers, girls are innovating technology to solve global challenges, standing up for their environment, raising their voices against violence, and preparing to run for office.

Here in Nova Scotia, where women are less likely to ascend to the boardroom or the Legislature, or even to have equal earnings of their male counterparts, and where we know that they're more likely to experience violence, discrimination, and mistreatment, the fight continues. It's a big part of the reason I'm here, Mr. Speaker, for myself, for my friends, for my sisters, and especially for my bright, tenacious, and spirited seven-year-old daughters. When I tell them they can do anything, I want them to believe it. And I want to believe it too.

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

MR. HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MR. MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I call members' attention to the East Gallery, where Mr. Matt Fay from Chester has joined us, accompanied by his mother Carol-Ann Fay. Matt was a gold medallist at the Canadian Special Olympics held in Antigonish this summer. I ask him to stand, as he has, and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

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

FAY, MATT: MEDALLIST, SPECIAL OLYMPICS - CONGRATS.

MR. HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Matt Fay, a 2018 gold medal winner at the Special Olympics.

Matt was the only athlete from Chester to be named to the Special Olympics team this year, and to prepare he spent many weeks with his coach going to practice and training at the YMCA. Matt competed in the 1,500-metre, the 400-metre, and the 800-metre races. Nova Scotia had the great honour for the first time since 1994 of hosting the Special

Olympics Summer Games in Antigonish this summer. In Antigonish, Matt and his fellows stayed at St. Francis Xavier University, where they competed.

Matt's goal is to attend another national event, so we may see him at the winter games at some point. He is an experienced snowshoe athlete and is looking forward to a winter season of training and practising in what he hopes will be a snow-filled outdoor experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Matt Fay on his gold medal win and to wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

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

PETERS, KENNY: TEN HOLES-IN-ONE - CONGRATS.

HON. ALFIE MACLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenny Peters from Mira Road, who now has a total of ten holes-in-one in his lifetime.

Kenny Peters is a retired firefighter who has achieved the feat an astounding ten times, including twice this year, in May and in September. Kenny claims that practice and playing a lot are the keys to his success. Kenny also commemorates each new hole-in-one by mounting the ball on a plaque, which he keeps in the rec room of his home, which he shares with his wife, Brenda, who also hit a hole in one in 2010.

I ask that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Kenny on his amazing golf skills and wish him many more successful days on the course.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MS. METLEGE DIAB: I'm pleased to welcome in the East Gallery my talented constituent Dr. Martine Durier-Copp, originally from Montreal, who proudly identifies as a francophone. Dr. Durier-Copp holds two master's degrees in musicology and political science, and a Ph.D. She is currently the director for Dalhousie University's Centre for Executive and Graduate Education. I ask her to please rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**DURIER-COPP, MARTINE – Ph.D.:
WIDE-RANGING ACCOMP. - CONGRATS.**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the accomplishments of Dr. Martine Durier-Copp.

Martine began her career in international development in Montreal, relocating to Nova Scotia to take on challenging roles in the health care domain, serving as executive director of the Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Health Care and as the founding executive director of the Nova Scotia Provincial Health Council. Over the years, she has managed a number of international health projects and has, for over 20 years, served as a professor of the Dalhousie School of Public Administration.

Not only has Dr. Durier-Copp led the Social Science and Humanities Research Council-funded research into virtual teams, e-learning, and e-leadership, she is a skilled dancer and choreographer, bringing authentic flamenco to Atlantic Canada through Halifax's Flamenco en Rouge group. I ask all members to join me in applauding Dr. Durier-Copp and thank her for helping shape the leaders of tomorrow, body and mind.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

MABOU VOL. FD: 50 YRS. OF COM. SERV. - THANKS

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Mabou Volunteer Fire Department on their 50th anniversary. They evolved from humble beginnings. I am told that their first truck had a homemade wooden back and that there were buckets hung from it.

It all started in 1968, after the Canadian Centennial celebration in 1967 in Mabou had the Mabou Development Commission providing donations to community projects. In 1968, they started a fire department with community leaders Raymond Debont, Earl Hunt, F.X. Rankin, and the first fire chief, Pat MacDonald. He was followed by chiefs Archie Cummings, Donald Cosman, Stanley Beaton, Mike MacDougall, Francis MacEachern, Donnie MacDonald, and Lloyd Campbell.

Over the years, the department has been responsible for hosting the Mabou Ceilidh. They had a new hall constructed in 1991-92, and in the mid-1990s they started a first responders organization.

Let us all thank them for their service, and may we here in the Legislature share our applause.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

HON. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, may I make an introduction?

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MS. MILLER: We're joined in the East Gallery today by a friend of mine, Jennie Bignell. I met Jennie quite a few years ago. We were both involved with MADD Canada. She was the chapter president in the Annapolis Valley.

At the end of my term as national president, I talked Jennie into going on a road trip with me one day. We had ten hours to talk. She spent nine of them trying to convince me to get into politics. When I told her which Party I supported, she told me I needed to meet her friend Stephen. The rest is history.

I want to welcome Jennie to the House. She's a visitor here quite often, and I want to thank her for all her support. Sometimes she's my sounding board. There are days that I bless her, and days that I don't. Welcome to the House. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

INTL. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD: WOMEN OF VISION - GROW

MS. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, on this International Day of the Girl, I wish to recognize all the strong and resilient women who guided me from a young girl to the woman I am today. To the remarkable women who have had the privilege of sitting in this House, and to those who are now sitting in this Legislature: we were all, at one time, little girls with dreams who became women of vision.

To my two wonderful granddaughters, Veronica and Rosalea, I offer this mantra: I am, I can, I will.

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

WALK IN OUR SHOES: COM. SERV. - THANKS

MS. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to a volunteer organization called Walk in Our Shoes. This group is comprised of health professionals, medical students, nursing students, and other volunteers. The team is led by registered nurse Marcienne Mason of Toe to Sole Foot Care. Many of the volunteers have gone on to get into medical school.

Marcienne offers a free foot-care clinic and medical screening program to seniors and others in my constituency of Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage once a month. Our Lions Club is always packed on this day, and they often show up an hour early. The seniors enjoy conversation, socialization, and light refreshments as they wait their turn.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in thanking all of these wonderful volunteers for bringing a very needed volunteer medical process to our community.

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

CHOPRA, RANJEEV: COM. SERV. - COMMEND

MS. RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a man who has been a devoted member of Clayton Park West for over 20 years. Ranjeev Chopra helps newcomers from near and far find homes, careers, and friends. He has helped many immigrant families who come with children to find schooling information and prepare them for university.

Ranjeev also lends a hand at Hope Cottage and various women's shelters, where he gathers basic necessities if they are low on supplies.

Ranjeev feels that the community has given him so much. He takes pride in giving back to a place that has afforded him many opportunities. I ask that the members of this House of Assembly join me in commending Ranjeev for his tremendous contributions to our community. Thank you, Ranjeev.

[1:45 p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

INTL. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD: TENACITY - REALIZING POTENTIAL

MR. TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, today, on the International Day of the Girl, I want to celebrate all the amazing girls in my community who are making our province a better place. I have no doubt that these girls will grow into phenomenal women, who will take this world by storm and will improve the lives of all of those around them.

Mr. Speaker, in a world where systems are set up to work against young women and to create barriers, I celebrate the tenacity of girls breaking down those walls and making names for themselves.

On this International Day of the Girl, I want to pay special tribute to three special girls in Dartmouth East: Emma Myatt, Sophie Halman, and Ella Halman. There is no limit to the greatness they will achieve.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

SWEENEY, GERT: DIVERT N.S. HALL OF FAME - CONGRATS.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Divert NS recently announced the recipients of the 2018 Mobius Awards of Environmental Excellence. These awards recognize the achievements of innovative and dedicated Nova Scotians who help make our province a leader in recycling and waste diversion.

Gert Sweeney of Cape Forchu, Yarmouth County, was selected to Divert NS's Hall of Fame. I'd like to congratulate Gert Sweeney on this prestigious honour and thank her for her many years of hard work and dedication to our community and our environment.

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

WINDS OF CHANGE DRAMA SOC.: *ROCK OF AGES* - CONGRATS.

MS. KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, for almost 45 years, the Winds of Change Dramatic Society has been entertaining audiences in Queens County and beyond. This November, a cast of almost thirty will take to the historical Astor Theatre stage for six performances of the hit musical, *Rock of Ages*.

The production team has been working hard behind the scenes and rehearsals have been ongoing since last Spring. Now, in the final weeks of preparation, this show promises to please with its well-known '80s hits and entertaining choreography.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating everyone involved in the Winds of Change production of *Rock of Ages*. The plaster will be rocking at the Astor.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

KOHLER, PETER: PRODUCT INNOVATOR - CONGRATS.

HON. KAREN CASEY: Born in Germany, Peter Kohler moved to Canada at the age of 23 to study mechanical engineering. His business career began in 1977 in Debert and he and his family settled in Valley, Colchester North. Peter introduced vinyl windows in residential construction and renovations into a market dominated by wood.

Despite the resistance from the market, he persisted and, over the next 15 years, Kohltech transformed the window market in Atlantic Canada to be dominated by vinyl. The company has grown from four employees to over 400 and has two manufacturing locations, one in Debert and one in Edmonton, Alberta. Peter Kohler is committed to the highest standards of quality and unrelenting pursuit of product innovation and has made Kohltech windows and entrance systems the industry leader for over 35 years.

Kohltech and the Lebanese development community have enjoyed a lasting and productive relationship. The Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in Nova Scotia presented its 2018 Canadian Business of the Year Award to Peter Kohler.

On behalf of the members of the House of Assembly, I want to express our congratulations to Peter Kohler. His story of success is an inspiration to fellow Canadians and to immigrants alike who choose to embark on their own business ventures here in Nova Scotia.

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

CADET DAY: COM. CONTRIB. - RECOG.

MS. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the province-wide Cadet Day in Nova Scotia. Although cadets have been serving in our communities across this country for many years, since 2010 Nova Scotia has recognized Cadet Day on the first Saturday in October. Communities throughout Nova Scotia will see cadet corps and squadrons hosting open houses, flag raisings, parades, and much more.

Cadet Day recognizes the contributions of the cadet program and what it has to offer each community. There is no cost for anyone to be a part of the Royal Canadian Sea, Army, or Air Cadet programs. What you take away from these programs is invaluable and lasts a lifetime.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me today in recognizing Cadet Day in Nova Scotia and the over 4,000 cadets, volunteers, and the parents who support them all.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

HOMESTEAD LAVENDER FARMS: SHUBIE CLAY MASK - CONGRATS.

HON. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, there is a new breed of young entrepreneur emerging these days. In East Hants, it's obvious in the agricultural sector.

Jessica Tibbo is a perfect example of this. Instead of seeking traditional employment, she decided to pursue an opportunity to create her own career. She and her husband Rob purchased an 18-acre farm in Urbania and began to grow lavender. Hundreds of products can be created from this herb. Jessica wanted her own distinctive product, one that incorporated something local.

In a brilliantly creative move, she started gathering salt-soaked mud from the banks of the Shubenacadie River. She collects, dries and infuses this tidal mud with green tea and

lavender. Her Shubenacadie clay mask offers to detoxify, rejuvenate, smooth and repair the skin. It is sold at her farm shop and at farmers' markets.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this House to join me in celebrating the initiative of Jessica and Rob Tibbo and congratulate them on their enterprising venture, Homestead Lavender Farms. The future is in good and soft and supple hands.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

BRISON, SCOTT - MP: CONVERSATION - WELCOME

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the topic of the proposed expansion of the Port of Halifax. Yesterday the President of the Treasury Board defended the federal government's decision to fund expansions in Quebec City, Montreal and Vancouver over the work requested by the Port Authority of Halifax.

It is always nice when the MP from Kings-Hants comes back to the province to share wisdom from Ottawa and remind us that the 11 federal MPs from Nova Scotia struggle to be heard. Minister Brison is concerned about the increased traffic that comes with increased activity, and says that he and his colleagues in Ottawa will decide what is best for Nova Scotia.

I ask all members of the House to join me in welcoming Minister Brison back to the conversation about Nova Scotia, and we look forward to hearing more from him and the rest of the silent 11 in the future.

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

VILLA ACADIENNE: TWIST & SHOUT PROM - THANKS

MR. GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the group Bamtone and the BeBops and the many volunteers who helped organize the Twist and Shout Prom Night at the Villa Acadienne. Bamtone and the BeBops, a group based out of the Toronto area, hosted these evenings to bring a little joy to the lives of the nursing home residents. Two of the members, Briand Melanson and Danielle LeBlanc, grew up in Clare and in the last years would visit relatives at the Villa when they returned home.

Through these visits they came up with the idea of the Prom Night and hosted a couple in Toronto before organizing one at the Villa. That July night, the Villa's common room was transformed into a 1950s theme prom and everyone was dressed for the part, thanks to the many hours spent by volunteers at the local Frenchy's.

The group began with songs by Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and the Everly Brothers, the top hits of the 1950s. For some of the residents this would have been their first prom

while for others it brought back memories of long-ago proms. For everyone involved it was a joyous evening desired.

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

MACARTHUR, LEONA: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge Ms. Leona MacArthur for committed service to local initiatives in the community of Goldboro. For the past 15 years, Leona has been a volunteer board member for the Goldboro Interpretive Centre where she presents Goldboro's rich history in shipbuilding and gold mining to the many tourists and locals.

Leona is also a member of the Goldboro quilters group, an altruistic bunch of ladies who have donated thousands of dollars over the years to local charitable associations while creating many stunning quilts for the happy patrons along the way.

Mr. Speaker, the backbone of this great province is comprised of warm hospitality and strong community spirit. Leona MacArthur is the embodiment of this proud Nova Scotia ethos. Recently the Goldboro Interpretive Centre board of directors presented Leona with a certificate in recognition of her contributions to the community. I would like to join them in extending deep appreciation for her efforts.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

INTL. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD: DAUGHTER - PLEDGE

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, on this International Day of the Girl Child, I would like to take a moment to honour my favourite girl, my daughter Françoise. She is a funny, mischievous, intelligent and fiery six-year-old. She is bilingual in French and English, she loves math, she's a brilliant artist and a ballet dancer. At this point, she plans to be a farmer and a teacher. She plans to marry her best friend and let her carry their babies because she is not interested in the pain of childbirth.

Françoise is a loving older sister but demanding of her brother. She hates loud noises, she is hard to reason with when she's hungry, she gets upset when she does not get a chance to plead her case or tell her side of a story, and she demands respect for her personal space bubble.

While I reflect on her life so far, I am at once overcome with love and gratitude that she is in my life, and fear and worry over her safety, well-being and health. I daily wonder how best to prepare her for what seems to me a terrifying, complex world waiting for her.

In a world that seems to be moving at an alarming rate and yet in some ways moving too slowly, I pledge to work as hard as I can to give voice to issues affecting girls in our world and to continue to call for policy that creates true equity and safety for girls everywhere.

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

YANG, RYAN - PIANO EXCELLENCE - CONGRATS.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize another level of high accomplishment in music on the part of Ryan Yang, a resident of Beechville. I previously recognized Ryan for earning the highest marks in the province for his remarkable piano playing at every grade level from Grade 1 through Grade 8.

Ryan has, once again, become this year's medal winner for Grade 9 piano in Nova Scotia. This is the eighth time he has received this award for his grade level. These honours are awarded to students who obtain a minimum mark of 85 per cent and who receive the highest provincial mark for each instrument in each of the musical grades of 1 through 10. Ryan thanked his piano teacher, Barb Myers of Hubley, for her energetic and encouraging teaching style and the extra time she spends helping him refine his piano skills.

I would like the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Ryan on his outstanding achievements to date and in wishing him well in the future.

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

LEGION, BR. 128: 70th ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 128 in Whitney Pier on its 70th anniversary as a building and an important facility in the community. For the last 70 years, it has supported veterans, community members that needed help the most. It has been a place to celebrate and a place to remember. It has played host to many of the great politicians of Cape Breton over the years for many events.

I rise in my place to congratulate Madam President Bonnitta Corbett and the leadership at Branch 128 in Whitney Pier and wish them 70 more years of success for that important facility in one of our most diverse communities in the country.

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

**BRADY, JENNIFER – Ph.D./BERWICK, SANDRA:
DIETICIANS AWARD - RECOG.**

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Mount Saint Vincent University faculty members, Dr. Jennifer Brady and Sandra Berwick, who were recently recognized at the National Dietitians of Canada conference in Vancouver. The Member Recognition Awards are presented to members who have used their education and skills to advance the profession in four different areas: leadership, innovation, education, and association catalyst.

Sandra Berwick is a graduate of the Family Studies and Gerontology graduate program at the Mount. With her extensive education, Sandra was able to advocate for the ethical care of clients among dietitians from across the province and country.

Dr. Jennifer Brady was recognized for her outstanding work in advocating for community security to promote and improve population health. Dr. Brady is a member of the Dietitians of Canada Sustainable Food Systems, which has given her a platform to advocate for these issues of importance.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize both Dr. Jennifer Brady and Sandra Berwick for being celebrated amongst their colleagues for their dedication to promoting health across our country.

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

COLCHESTER CO.: JORDAN MUN. SUPPORT PROJ. - CONGRATS.

MS. LENORE ZANN: Mr. Speaker, Colchester County was chosen along with Yorkton, Saskatchewan, to represent Canada on the Jordan Municipal Support Project. This federation of municipalities implemented the project with funding provided by Global Affairs Canada. The project will mobilize expertise from across Canadian municipal sectors to assist rural and small-town municipalities in Jordan through a peer-to-peer approach with elected representatives and staff meetings with their counterparts in Jordan.

I would like to congratulate Colchester County who was selected for their achievement in solid waste management, including diversion, recycling, and public education initiatives. I'd like to say how proud I am of the people of Colchester County and their council and I certainly wish that the government was listening to them when it comes to their recycling efforts. Perhaps we would not have agreed to burn tires in Brookfield.

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

FALL RIVER LIONS CLUB - COM. SERV. - RECOG.

MR. BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fall River and District Lions Club as an important group of volunteers. The Fall River Lions are an important social community group involved in the fabric of our community. This group is involved with organizing the Lions Christmas Express, along with other important community volunteers, which provides food, clothing, and footwear for over 100 families a year and financial support to all at Christmas time.

The Lions provide year-round support in such things as assisting a person who required \$8,000 for dental surgery, and for a number of individuals who required assistance through a fundraiser for cancer patients and organ transplants in Alberta. More recently, they helped a family in Fall River whose home burned down earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House to join me in recognizing the Fall River Lions Club and to keep up their

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time allotted for Statements by Members has expired.

[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. - PBO FISCAL UPDATE (2018): ACKNOWLEDGE - FAILURE

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Looking back on this session, the Premier used the words “credit rating” to answer multiple questions, mostly about his government’s privacy failures. Meanwhile, he quietly ignored another measure of fiscal health, though.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer’s 2018 Fiscal Sustainability Report indicated that this province is not on a fiscally sustainable path. This government has the province on track to more than triple its net debt relative to the GDP over the next 50 years. I will table that.

My question to the Premier is: Why did the Premier fail to highlight the PBO’s dismal update on Nova Scotia’s fiscal sustainability?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. It gives me the opportunity to continue to talk about the great work the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board and this entire government has been doing to dig our province out of the fiscal mess it has been in.

Credit rating is at an all-time high and the debt-to-GDP ratio is actually climbing. Under successive governments it was going in the wrong direction. We are on track by 2024 to hit near our 30 per cent, which was the goal in the Ivany report.

When we came in it was at 38 per cent. It required tough decisions and it required political courage and leadership, something this province had been lacking for a very long time. I am very proud to say that when I look across the federation, under successive governments of all political stripes, they can take a lesson from this government.

MS. MACFARLANE: Well, Mr. Speaker, that might be a little rich, but this government took every opportunity to discuss last year's PBO report. One minister used it as proof that the Liberals were not burdening our children with more debt and interest payments. I will table that. Another used it to justify investments that will be affordable tomorrow. I will table that. This government congratulated itself - living within our means. Now, just a year later, the PBO states that Nova Scotia has fiscal policies that are not sustainable over the long term. That was just tabled, as well.

My question to the Premier is: If last year's PBO report indicated we are living within our means, does this year's report confirm that this government is spending beyond its means?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, it clearly indicates that we've delivered our third consecutive balanced budget. We continue to look over the horizon and we see continued balanced budgets in the future of this province, continuing to ensure that we make investments in important infrastructure.

As you will know, the announcement we made around the \$2 billion investment to the QEII is an important piece of physical infrastructure. We continue to make those investments and at the same time are continuing to drive down our debt-to-GDP ratio to come out with one of the lowest in the country when it comes to that.

We are continuing to make good fiscal policy. We are seeing young people choosing to live in this province, bucking a trend, not only in this province but in other provinces where the youth were leaving. This province has seen an in-migration of young people over the last two years; we've seen our population hit an all-time high. On every indication this province is moving in the right direction.

Let me be very clear that as long as we get the privilege to be in these seats, we will operate with the political courage required to continue to move this economy forward.

MS. MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, hundreds of millions of dollars appear from an offshore settlement, but details are scarce; government hires consultants to write reports on hospital infrastructure, but the Premier can't release it without completely redacting the document, and I can actually table that quote; the Premier repeatedly ignores his own campaign promise to empower the Privacy Commissioner; and now an independent fiscal sustainability report directly contradicts this government's own press releases about fiscal management.

My question to the Premier is: Can the Premier tell us please, did the PBO get it all wrong, or is this government obsessed with only telling Nova Scotians the truth when it suits their narrative?

THE PREMIER: I appreciate the opportunity to stand. I want to give the honourable member a bit of political history.

This Party across the aisle, that is the Official Opposition . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable Premier has the floor.

THE PREMIER: . . . continues to talk about balanced budgets when they were in power. Let's be very clear about something. The Ottawa Government in those days of Prime Minister Chrétien and Paul Martin provided an extra \$5 billion to this province to deal with wait times and physical infrastructure, and what happened? They continued to blow it in operating - what happened in our leadership, we made difficult decisions. We challenged the status quo at every step and they bucked it. Under their leadership, this province would be in a fiscal mess. Under our leadership, we continue to see a bright future behind the horizon, and so do many Nova Scotians.

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

PREM.: LOW INCOME NOS. - ACKNOWLEDGE

MR. GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, the Premier's response to my colleague reminds me of the preacher whose sermon had the note on the side: this part's weak, holler loud. (Laughter)

The end of a session does provide us with a moment to assess the quality of the work that the government is doing in addressing the needs of the people of the province. I'd like to approach this simply from the point of view of some basic financial, fundamental facts of people's ordinary lives.

Does the Premier acknowledge the fact that Nova Scotia today has the highest level of people of low income of any province in the country and that this number has increased over the five years in which this government has been in office?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for the question. He would know. He voted against the largest tax cut in the history of this province that was directed towards the exact people he's referring to: low-income Nova Scotians. We've seen an important change. We continue to raise the minimum wage following the pattern and program that was set by the New Democratic Party. We have invested in pre-Primary so that every four-year-old, regardless of the socio-economic circumstances they're born into, will be given the same start going forward.

That's something that Party voted against and that will allow our parents across this province to get back into the workforce a year earlier to continue to make sure they provide for their families, give them hope. Unfortunately, that Party continues to vote against everything that is moving this province forward and continues to be stuck in the past.

MR. BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, this matter is far too important to allow it to be swept aside with this kind of vituperation and evasion. The fact of the matter is that, here in Nova Scotia, Feed Nova Scotia is regularly speaking about how we have the highest percentage of people anywhere in the country who report themselves as not being able to get enough to eat because they can't afford it.

I want to ask the Premier if he acknowledges simply that this, in fact, is a fact, or does he think that the New Democratic Party and Feed Nova Scotia are making these numbers up?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, again, I want to remind the honourable member he voted against the largest single tax cut that provided more money in the pockets of the very people he's talking about. He voted against taking 60,000 people off the tax roll. That's the record of the New Democratic Party. When they were in power, what did they do for low-income Nova Scotians or transformation when it comes to income assistance? We're going to continue to make sure that when we have the fiscal capacity in this province, we are directing it towards those who need our help the most.

Unfortunately, when they were in power, they continued to give a 7.5 per cent pay raise to those Nova Scotians who are doing the best off and ignored low-income Nova Scotians. We struck a balance, one that gives all Nova Scotians a hope.

MR. BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, this is far too important a matter for me to take the time of the House to debate about a matter of history - something that happened six, seven, eight years ago. I want to begin with the day the Premier was elected because, on that day, the most poorly-paid people in Nova Scotia received the fourth highest minimum wage in Canada, but today, the most poorly-paid people in our province receive the lowest minimum wage in the country.

Everybody who looks at this subject understands that when the minimum wage goes up, food bank use goes down. We've seen this most recently in Ontario and here, in our province, at this moment, we've got the fastest-rising food bank use in the country.

I want to ask the Premier: Is it any wonder that we have got today the second-worst projected GDP growth in the country when there are so many people of our province who can't even buy their food?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the honourable member going back to October 2013 when we were elected. We had a \$0.5 billion hole that the honourable member's Party put us in. Where did they spend that money? The very people he is talking about weren't mentioned. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Premier has the floor.

THE PREMIER: The people he is talking about weren't mentioned in any of their budgets. The largest increase in income assistance happened under this government, at the same time we were trying to control the costs of delivering services to Nova Scotians. What they did, Mr. Speaker, is saddle up to the union leaders and fight on their behalf, and continued to drive escalating labour costs through the roof when they were leaving behind so many Nova Scotians.

I want to remind the honourable member that we took 60,000 people off the tax roll, low-income Nova Scotians. We gave the largest single tax cut to low-income Nova Scotians. At the same time, young people see a future for themselves. (Applause)

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

NSLC - REC. CANNABIS: ONLINE SALES - READINESS

MS. KARLA MACFARLANE: Thank you for the standing ovation. (Laughter)

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation. This week we learned that Nova Scotians will need a special access code if they want to purchase recreational cannabis online. The sudden announcement eight days before legalization caused many to wonder about this government's readiness for cannabis. Indeed, the NSLC has been quietly modifying its website in recent months and days. References to online sales have been removed from the Frequently Asked Questions page, along with references to direct delivery and ID verification at the door. I can table those facts.

It appears that this government is hiding details for cannabis retail until the very last minute. It certainly feels that way. My question for the Minister responsible for the

NSLC is: What other surprises are in store for Nova Scotians attempting to purchase legal cannabis online?

HON. KAREN CASEY: Thank you for the question. I think everyone is anxiously watching the October 17th date. We, as a government, made a policy decision that the NSLC would be given the responsibility for the retail of cannabis in Nova Scotia. We know that they have worked diligently. They certainly have their mandate of social responsibility and they will make sure that they protect youth, which is our goal, and the safe distribution through the retail market for cannabis.

Mr. Speaker, we know there are other places across the nation that are relying on an honour system. That's not good enough for us.

MS. MACFARLANE: Nova Scotians are not satisfied that the legalized cannabis will not - they are basically worried that it's going to fall into the hands of children. In the past week, instead of being clear and upfront with Nova Scotians, word of NSLC supply shortages and access codes leaked in the media. The following words were scrubbed from the NSLC website: The delivery agent will require valid identification at the door to confirm the recipient is eligible to purchase the product. Meanwhile, the NSLC asked that customers not transfer access cards for the website. I'll table that.

I'm sure if they asked nicely, access codes and cannabis won't end up in the hands of the unintended. Can the minister explain how the NSLC's vague and uncertain plans for online cannabis delivery are supposed to protect our children?

HON. MARK FUREY: The intent of the age verification process and the bar code that my colleague refers to is quite factual to do just that. It provides protection on the front end so that our youth can't access the website. Nova Scotians will have to go to a Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation retail site to obtain a bar code.

Mr. Speaker, we as government, you and I as individuals, cannot control what they do with that. We hope they understand that the education and awareness around the consumption of cannabis is a decision that we will all make.

Mr. Speaker, the back end of that and the delivery of that product has to be provided, not delivered or left with anyone not of legal age. We believe we have captured and addressed those safety measures on the front end of the online program and we've captured those safety measures on the back end.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

[2:15 p.m.]

EECD - SACs: NEW ROLES - CLARIFY

MS. CLAUDIA CHENDER: My question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. When the minister eliminated democratically elected school boards in March, he offered up an expanded role for school advisory councils as reassurance. Parents, teachers, students, and administrators who make up SACs have been meeting, but they still have no clarity about what this expanded role is. They haven't received an updated handbook. They haven't received guidance on how their new bylaws or terms of reference should align with the new administrative structure for education.

We're now six months into this process, and it still seems like the minister is making it up as he goes along. Mr. Speaker, when will the minister provide SACs with clarity around their new roles?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: We have already provided the regions with the new framework for SAC involvement, which includes an increase in their budgets. They can spend \$5,000, plus \$1 for every student that's in their school on areas related to student well-being and achievement.

We're expanding their involvement from a policy perspective. We're going to be engaging them in the bussing conversation. We're engaging them in extracurricular volunteer conversations as well. Those are the first two policy priorities that we're engaging them with.

My expectation was that this information would have been delivered to SACs. I know a lot of SACs don't meet until the end of September or the beginning of October, so perhaps there are some that just haven't received that information. We'll make sure that they get it as soon as possible.

MS. CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, the minister legislated away school boards in March. School started in September. It's now October, and the Provincial Advisory Council on Education hasn't met, and school advisory councils, whether or not they should, have no idea what they're supposed to be doing. None of this is reassuring for parents, teachers, or students.

This summer, the minister said in a release that SACs would have access to new funds to support their works, and he said it again in this House. Here, too, we have more questions than answers. Parents are wondering if these are actually new funds or just a new name for the student support grants that schools already had access to. Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that the funds being provided to SACs are in fact new money?

MR. CHURCHILL: We did work to expedite the appointment of the Provincial Advisory Council on Education. I'll remind the member that she and the Progressive Conservatives did delay that process by a few days. We are working with them right now to get them together (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has the floor.

MR. CHURCHILL: We're working with them right now to find a date when they can all meet for the first time. The high-quality people that we have in that group are really excited to begin their work, and I will inform the member that the new dollars that are going into the SACs are actually savings we did find in (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River will come to order.

The honourable Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

MR. CHURCHILL: The dollars used are from the savings we did find in re-organizing the government structure of the education system, one that was contributing to low achievement levels and disproportionate levels of achievement from one region to the next. Those are new dollars going to our school communities that are above and beyond the grants the member spoke of.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

LAE - WCB: INJURED WORKERS - COVERAGE

HON. PAT DUNN: My question is for the Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. The minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board said in a previous answer that if there is an individual who can't perform their job duties, and it is the result of a workplace accident, the Workers' Compensation Board is there to support them in their time of need. That's what the WCB is there for. It is to support our injured workers when they can't work in terms of insurance and covering their earnings. I couldn't agree more with the minister's comments.

However, Mr. Speaker, this often doesn't happen. Sadly, the reality of many cases that come to my office is that they have been strong-armed by WCB. My question to the minister: Would he agree that the WCB is not always there for the injured worker?

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: The WCB is there for the injured worker. In cases where an injured worker feels that they are not having their needs met by the WCB, there is an appeal process.

In Pictou County alone, there is actually an advocacy group that works on behalf of workers. That is also funded by our department. If the member has any individuals who feel that they are not getting the proper coverage from the Workers' Compensation Board, I can provide information to the member of the Pictou advocacy group, and they can help the constituents out.

MR. DUNN: Mr. Speaker, time doesn't permit for all the things I would like to say about that answer.

Darrell MacKinnon, a constituent of mine from Pictou County, slipped and fell at his place of employment, injuring himself, on February 13, 2013. Mr. MacKinnon has been examined by several neurologists in this province who have rendered very convincing reports in his favour.

However, it appears to me that it is very obvious that the goal of the WCB is to reject these findings by sending patients for an independent medical examination of WCB's choosing, with a follow-up letter to the worker stating that they have been denied and they need to bring forth new evidence to appeal.

My question to the minister: How can he sit and watch while the WCB continues to deny legitimate claims and force injured workers to face a bureaucratic nightmare that often never gets resolved?

MR. KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, there is a process and if an injured worker feels they are not getting the coverage they deserve from the Workers' Compensation Board there is an appeal process. There are also advocacy groups they can go and engage with and that advocacy group will help them navigate through the appeal process. There actually is one in Pictou and I'm more than happy to share the information with the member.

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

H&W - ROSEWAY HOSP.: LAB SERV. - RESTORATION TIMELINE

MS. KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. I've received calls from a number of constituents regarding the shift of lab services from Roseway Hospital to the Yarmouth Regional Hospital for processing. If the minister had taken me up on my kind invitation to attend last month's health care rally, he would have heard firsthand the implications that decision has had on the care the patients are receiving.

Once again, this government reverts to the same old talking point that staff shortages were the reason for the change in services. Well, Mr. Speaker, forgive me for

being skeptical, but the last time we heard this political spin we soon found out that the hospitals in Northside and New Waterford were on the chopping block.

My question to the minister is: Could he please provide an update on how many technicians have been recruited and when will lab services be completely restored back to the Roseway Hospital?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. With respect to the recruitment of health care professionals across the health care system, Mr. Speaker, those efforts are ongoing throughout the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK.

To the member's specific question about lab technicians at that site, I don't have that information on hand but certainly will follow up with the member with any information update with respect to posted positions and recruitment for that site.

MS. MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I have stood in this Chamber countless times sharing the concerns of my constituents about Roseway Hospital. In classic fashion, the minister has referred to the collaborative care centre over and over as the grand solution to many problems facing the people of Shelburne.

When the minister was asked about lab services at Roseway in the past, he said the doors would open this Fall. Mr. Speaker, the leaves have turned and the pumpkins are out. My constituents want their lab services back and so do I. I'm concerned more than ever that Roseway is on the chopping block after I recently read a flyer sent out by NSHA stating that lab services and diagnostic imaging will be accessible at the new collaborative care centre when it opens. I'll table that document.

My question to the minister is: Does the minister intend to close the Roseway Hospital once this collaborative care centre opens? The people of Shelburne deserve to know.

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, the member suggested that the references to the primary health care clinic in her community that is well under way and near completion has been presented as a grand solution.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what I indicated. In fact, it is one part of work that is ongoing to provide infrastructure that supports the community. Other initiatives the member would be well aware of that we have invested in, include the increase in the compensation for physicians, almost \$40 million that we committed in partnership with Doctors Nova Scotia, based upon their requests and feedback.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to expand access in residency programs, in nurse practitioner training programs. We've changed our incentive programs, immigration

stream, a number of steps that we're taking for improving health care recruitment across the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

H&W - PICTOU CO.: DIALYSIS PATIENTS - TRAVEL

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, dialysis patients in Pictou County continue to suffer from a lack of chairs in the area. The last budget included new dialysis units for Bridgewater, Kentville, Digby, Glace Bay, but not for Pictou. My colleagues for Pictou West and Pictou Centre have raised this issue numerous times.

There's a resident in Pictou East who needs dialysis, but needs to travel to Antigonish or Truro for the treatment. The individual cannot afford the travel, plain and simple. We've managed to find another dialysis patient on the same schedule who can drive her, but that is not a sustainable solution.

My question for the minister: What does the minister say to people who can't afford to travel but need to get to treatment?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, the member has referenced a number of the sites that the last review of our program for renal dialysis identified. That review looked in large part at demands and travel times. He'll note that a number of sites that he indicated are new sites. That reduces the travel time significantly in those parts of the province. I believe it's over 40 additional seats that we're adding to our provincial system for dialysis treatment. This is improving for all Nova Scotians.

With respect to individuals, one of the first things I encourage individuals to consider, whether they have a treatment centre and seats available nearby, is to look at the opportunities for home dialysis. It's a great opportunity for many Nova Scotians, although I do recognize that it doesn't work for everybody.

MR. HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, the minister's right. Home dialysis is a great option for those who can do it, but it's not for everyone, and if the minister thinks that home care should be administered by carpool, we have big problems.

I don't need to tell the minister what can happen when a dialysis patient misses a treatment. An ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure, and we've seen time and time again how this government makes decisions that result in costly hospital stays because the system isn't nimble enough to make more cost-effective, common-sense choices.

My question for the minister is: Will he commit to the people of Pictou County that he'll open up some additional chairs in the area - if not now, at least in the Spring budget?

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, as I've explained to my colleagues here in the Legislature - indeed, the member's own colleague, the member for Argyle-Barrington raised this question for his community - as I've noted in the past, we've made significant investments based upon a review of the renal dialysis program. It has resulted in recommendations, and I believe over 40 additional seats being added to our provincial system of renal dialysis.

We need to get those across the board, get the designs and those renovations completed, get them up and running, and then re-evaluate how those changes impact the availability of treatment for all Nova Scotians, and consider again at that time, as we continue to work toward improving our renal dialysis access for all Nova Scotians.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

BUS. - FILM IND.: INCENTIVE PROG. BASE RATE - INCREASE

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Business. We now know that in 2017, Canada became the top filming location in the world, but Nova Scotia hasn't benefited from that. In fact, we've had the opposite story. That's a direct result of this government's decision to replace the employment-based Film Tax Credit with an equally expensive but much less effective incentive program.

The minister has indicated that he is willing to try to help dig the industry out of the hole his government has put us in. There is one important change that the industry says can help make our incentive program competitive again, and that is increasing the base incentive rate.

My question for the minister is: When can we expect to see the base rate for our incentive program increased?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. Based on our conversations with many members of the industry, I haven't heard that what's happening now is much less effective, and I haven't heard that the industry is falling apart the way the member would suggest it is. Obviously we are making those investments.

It seems to be that Screen Nova Scotia and those in the film and production industries are working hard to ensure that Nova Scotia is very much relevant in the Canadian film and screen market. I think they're doing a great job. We are working on a number of options to put on the table, and as we get into the budget season, I'll certainly talk to Mike Volpe and Screen Nova Scotia to see what comes next for the screen.

MS. LEBLANC: With respect, I hope the minister does consult with people other than Screen Nova Scotia. There are a lot of people who have moved out of this province because they cannot work in the film industry here any longer.

While Nova Scotia's film job numbers have dropped in the last three years, Northern Ontario is experiencing a film job boom. It's not because that region can offer more beautiful scenery than Nova Scotia or has a more established talent or infrastructure. It's because they have an incentive program that works and Nova Scotia doesn't anymore. Film and TV networks are making permanent investments in Ontario. CBS has just announced a new studio that will have six sound stages. Nova Scotia doesn't have one.

[2:30 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, industry has been clear a sound stage is part of what it needs to recover from the damage done by this government. So, will the minister tell us when we can expect to see a sound stage in Nova Scotia?

MR. MACLELLAN: Again, Mr. Speaker, by way of the access, by way of the investment in our fund for film and screen Nova Scotia, we're not seeing that there is some kind of devastation in the industry. To me, it's very much vibrant. Well, obviously, it's an easy talking point to say we've destroyed the industry. The numbers show very much the contrary. We

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

MR. MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, despite what happens in the conversations around screen here in this Chamber, we have a very positive relationship with Screen Nova Scotia and the industry

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River will excuse herself for the balance of Question Period.

The honourable Minister of Business.

Order, please. Order, please.

The honourable Minister of Business.

MR. MACLELLAN: Despite, Mr. Speaker, the antics that we see sometimes with respect to film and screen, we are talking about infrastructure. We are talking about the investments. We are talking about what we can do outside of the incentive fund to build and help grow that industry as they're doing on their own, as their own participants in this industry. They're doing a fantastic job. We're going to be there to help them.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

MUN. AFFS.: INV. CO. WATER/SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE - FUNDS

MR. ALLAN MACMASTER: My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr. Speaker, municipal infrastructure like water and sewer and provincial infrastructure like roads constructed above water and sewer infrastructure are basic critical needs of any community. I think about the community of Inverness. Water and sewer infrastructure is old and constantly breaking and leaking. As a result, the streets of Inverness are a mess. Are there not funds the Municipality of the County of Inverness could apply for to fix these issues?

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. Yes, there certainly are through the Investing in Canada infrastructure fund. We would be happy to sit down with our staff, to sit down with the council up there, and let them know what's available for them to apply for. I know in recent years, Inverness has had a couple of million dollars' worth of gas tax money over the last three years to invest in those kinds of things as well. The Clean Water and Wastewater Fund was about just over \$0.75 million in 2016 as well that came from the province for those kinds of investments, but we would be happy to sit down and talk about the new programs that are coming about and we'll do that as soon as possible.

MR. MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for that positive response. When I campaigned in Inverness, one of the main issues raised was the water. It is rusting out water-heater elements. It's discolouring clothing. Some find the taste is poor. I have asked many who specialize in water systems and one of them indicated that the problems may be due to the new water supply flowing through old pipes that may have chemical deposits from the old water supply, bad water, bad pipes, and streets dug up ruining pavement.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister: Are there officials in the minister's department who can help, and could they reach out to ensure the Municipality of the County of Inverness has the support they need to make these sorely-needed improvements? (Interruption)

MR. PORTER: Yes, says the honourable member across the way. Certainly, we've had advisors and staff visit Inverness as well as other municipalities around the province. We would be happy to once again visit Inverness and offer whatever assistance, as I said, around those kinds of decisions and programs and all they need to do is reach out. Perhaps we'll reach out to them on a positive note. I'll speak to our staff this afternoon and have them contact the new CAO, who I believe now is in Inverness.

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

CCH – C.B. HIGHLAND VILLAGE: TANGIBLE CAP. ASSET PROJ. - DETAILS

MR. KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage. I figured he needed one, he hasn't been asked any this session.

As Fall has arrived and the leaves are changing colour, thousands of tourists will travel to Cape Breton for Celtic Colours and to experience the beauty of our beloved Cabot Trail in central Cape Breton. These are just two of the many tourist attractions that our province can offer to those who travel here from around the globe.

As such, we need to support community groups such as the Nova Scotia Highland Village who come together and produce important projects that add to the wonderful tourist experience Nova Scotia offers those who choose to travel here.

My question for the minister is: How many projects has his department approved through the tangible capital asset process?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: I thank the member for the question. In fact, I am pleased to get any question. He asks a very, very important question. I visited the Highland Village during the summer and it is an exceptional site to continue to cultivate the Scottish heritage in our province.

In terms of how many projects, I don't have the exact number, but I can get that for him, but what I can tell the member today is that we are certainly prepared and committed to support this project as soon as the tangible capital asset process is complete.

MR. BAIN: I thank the minister for that answer. For the past two years Nova Scotia Highland Village Society has submitted their proposal for funding to address important infrastructure upgrades and improvements to the Highland Village. As a living history museum and culture centre that celebrates the stories and experiences of our province's Gaels, the Highland Village plays a valuable role in the Nova Scotia museum system.

I've written to the minister's office and I will table that letter. I rise today to highlight that this group has been approved by ACOA and other funding partners, but to date has not received approval from the province for this very worthwhile project. Back in May this group was told they would get an answer by the end of the summer after a tangible capital asset process was complete. The group still has not received an answer.

My question to the minister is: Will he please commit to when this worthwhile project will be approved so work can begin to start on the Highland Village?

MR. GLAVINE: What I can convey to the member today is that our department has been working with senior staff and the board at Highland Village and I know that work is getting very close to completion. It is ongoing and, as I said, we are committed to

supporting this project because it does need visitor services upgrade and it needs a better area for storage of artifacts, administrative work. It has a great learning centre within the facility there, but again, it does need an upgrade.

I am sure we will have something very shortly that is very tangible for the member.

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

TIR - SHAG HBR. INCIDENT: HWY. NO. 103 - SIGNAGE

HON. CHRISTOPHER D'ENTREMONT: My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Whether you believe in aliens or not, something crashed off Shag Harbour 51 years ago. There are still many eye-witnesses and the whole area watched as our navy and air force scoured the area for days trying to recover whatever crashed in the ocean.

The report that was filed was the first government document that refers to an unidentified flying object, and quite honestly, this incident, according to experts, is bigger than Roswell, New Mexico and receives millions of tourists per year. But as you drive down Highway No. 103 there are no signs pointing you to Shag Harbour. It's a great community with a unique story to tell.

My question to the minister is: Why are there no highway signs on the Highway No. 103 to identify this important community?

HON. LLOYD HINES: I thank the member opposite for the excellent question. I am very familiar with the question on Shag Harbour, being a UFO buff myself, which is a handy occupation to have in this Chamber, sir. It's a very good question and we would be happy to work with the local municipality to see if we can come up with a solution to that and help that tourism opportunity.

MR. D'ENTREMONT: So, Mr. Speaker, if you drive around the province you will notice something on all our highway signs, they list three communities. In fact, the policy is that signs can have up to three communities on them, but as you drive along Highway No. 103, where you need to turn off for Shag Harbour, there are only two community signs, and I can tell you that Shag Harbour is not one of them. Coincidence? Maybe.

The department says that it is because the community population isn't large enough. Mr. Speaker, that's only counting earthlings.

The community is only trying to promote itself and draw a few tourists. Will the minister tell the people what this government is hiding in Shag Harbour?

MR. HINES: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. On a serious note, though - two serious notes - first all with the hopeful passage of the Traffic Safety Act shortly, the whole signage issue enters a new realm in Nova Scotia and we do intend to spend some time looking at our past practices and so on with regard to that particular area.

The thing I do want to take the opportunity to do is to ask all the members of the House in the next while to become safety ambassadors with all the folks in my department and to remind all their constituents that we are entering snow tire season, and to make sure you get your car winterized and to put your snow tires on.

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

WCB - PTSD COV.: FIRST RESPONDERS - UPDATE

HON. DAVID WILSON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Act.

After several years of advocating for change, I was glad last year to rise in the House in support of a bill that would provide presumptive coverage of WC benefits for first responders, paramedics, correctional officers, emergency response dispatchers, firefighters, nurses, police officers, and others who are diagnosed with work-related post-traumatic stress disorder here in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that these changes will come into effect by the end of October 2018, as promised, when the bill passed third reading a year ago?

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to confirm that on October 26th of this year the changes for presumptive coverage will take effect for the Workers' Compensation Board.

MR. DAVID WILSON: Thank you for that answer. My next question will be to the Premier.

I don't think it's possible in these lines of work to mentally prepare yourself for the things you may have to see, Mr. Speaker, and it may take years to fully understand the toll it takes or recognize the symptoms and seek treatment or diagnosis. Many first responders continue to suffer the effects of PTSD; some have decided the suffering was too much. I don't want to attend another funeral of a first responder, like I did this Spring.

I'd like to ask the Premier: Will the Premier provide assurances that for those who are currently in limbo, waiting for the WCB decision, and the many others who have been denied coverage in the past, the ability to have their case reviewed under the new policy for presumptive coverage of WC benefits for first responders?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. I know he and the member for Hants West and other members of this House who have volunteered in their communities, volunteer firefighters, have seen things that many of us have no capacity to understand the impact it would have because we haven't been there.

His passion and commitment to this has been, I think, a true example of what it is to be a legislator in this House. Through successive governments he continued to ensure in his own humble way that those in our communities who are first responders, who have been suffering with PTSD, finally have been heard.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the honourable member the regulations in and around that bill, as the minister said, will be in place at the end of this month, and I will take the question that he brought to me to that department to ensure that those who are also suffering will not be denied because of a cut-off date or time, that those cases will be looked at in a way that is compassionate and caring for those individuals.

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

H&W – HOSP.: NON-VERBAL PATIENTS – TREATMENT POLICIES

MS. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Everyone's fear in Nova Scotia is that something serious will get missed when it comes to the health care they get in the emergency department.

Recently the sister of a constituent of mine, Beverly Ann Hodder, whose family are here today, fell while walking her dog. She is on the autism spectrum and was unable to communicate with those treating her. She was prescribed pills in the ER for pain and sent home. She went back the next day because she was in pain and was sent home on a stretcher. She came back the third time, had some tests and was told they were normal, but she was admitted to hospital. It was only nine days later, when she lost the ability to walk, that they realized they had missed three levels of a spinal fracture, and she's now paralyzed from the waist down.

[2:45 p.m.]

Speaking broadly to the situation, can the Minister of Health and Wellness tell me the process that hospitals are using to deal with patients who present as non-verbal at emergency departments?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Certainly, the front-line health care professionals that we rely on throughout our health care system, including in emergency departments, have extensive levels of training to assess and provide health care for Nova Scotians.

With respect to language translations, which I believe also includes non-verbal, for sign language anyway, not to get into the specific one, I don't know if the member's question was referring to non-communicative versus strictly non-verbal. Again, there are services that are available to our hospital clinical staff to help with translations in various languages. My understanding is that that does include sign-language services.

If it's further than that, I'm happy to look into it for the member.

MS. ADAMS: I know the family will be happy to have your help with this.

Mr. Speaker, this story should come as a shock to everyone, but it is a sad reality that things get missed. I don't want to make this an issue of the abilities of the medical staff. It is an issue of the trust that Nova Scotians want to have that the staffing levels in the emergency departments are sufficient and that the staff are trained to treat both verbal and non-verbal clients. This particular patient had the tremendous support of all of her family members, who were there to advocate on her behalf.

But when you have an emergency room that is backed up, doctors feel the pressure, because there's always one more patient who needs your attention. My question to the minister is: Does he know how frequently cases of misdiagnosis are made in Nova Scotia? Are parents and families notified? What is his department doing to make sure that these misdiagnoses don't happen in the future?

MR. DELOREY: Again, I thank the member for raising this question. Indeed, one of the important steps with respect to quality improvement and improving care and outcomes is, of course, identifying, recognizing, and acknowledging when mistakes or care doesn't meet the standard that one would expect.

One of the things that gets done is, of course, systems are reviewed. I believe it's on a quarterly basis. Serious incidents do get posted publicly, so they are reviewed. When serious incidents occur, there are also quality reviews that take place. Family members or certainly the patient would be advised. Again, with privacy rules, who that person would be, whether it's the patient themselves or an alternative care provider, who would have that authority. Reviews are conducted. Data is even posted publicly through the serious incident reports, quality reviews are conducted, and information is shared with the patients.

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

H&W - PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE (C.B.): CONCERNS - ADDRESS

MR. EDDIE ORRELL: My question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. My constituency office has received countless calls from concerned Cape Bretoners about access to a family doctor. A new building is not going to address the need for a family

doctor. The *Field of Dreams* theory of “build it and they will come” is not going to work, according to the doctors I have spoken to.

My constituents deserve better than a walk-in clinic where they can be seen by a random doctor for about five minutes. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of working together, my question to the minister is: Will he come to Cape Breton on October 14th, and join me for lunch? I promise that afterwards we’ll throw him a big party in New Waterford.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I appreciate the question from the member opposite. As the member would know, we are working diligently with our partners in the Health Authorities to improve recruitment of all front-line health care professionals. As a government, we’re investing to address concerns around compensation. Those are steps we’re taking to support the member’s constituents.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Before I move into the third readings for the day, I would like to go back on the order paper, within the daily routine, for the purposes of reading a resolution to deposit with the Clerk the congratulatory motions that have been tabled. To do that, I need unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, would you revert to the order of business, Government Notices of Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

RESOLUTION NO. 696

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that the following motion be adopted, without notice, pursuant to Rule 32(5) of the House of Assembly Rules and Forms of Procedure:

Be it resolved that all congratulatory motions deposited with the Clerk, pursuant to Rule 32(3) of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly, from September

6, 2018, to the end of the House business today that have not otherwise been considered by the House of Assembly, be approved.

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

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage on an introduction.

MS. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Permission granted.

MS. ADAMS: I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the West Gallery. In the second row is Patricia Auchnie, who is the candidate of record for the PC Party for the Eastern Shore. I would like us to welcome her. (Applause)

I would also like to introduce the House to the family of Beverly Ann Hodder who I was referring to in my Question Period question. From my right is Pam Turner, who is Beverly's sister; next to her is Margaret Hodder, who is Beverly's mother; and Cheryl Hodder and Gerry Hodder are the sister and brother. These are the people who have been looking after Beverly since May 1st when this happened, and far before that, they were her caregivers. I'd like the House to join us in celebrating their commitment to their sister. (Applause)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 79.

Bill No. 79 - Motor Vehicle Act.

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

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 79, an Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act, be read for a third time and do pass.

As you are aware, I am introducing two amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act to address the pressing issues of drug impaired driving and the use of facial recognition technology as part of driver's licences and photo identification cards issuance.

While both topics will be addressed in the Traffic Safety Act, we are bringing these amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act forward because it will take more than a year before the TSA is proclaimed.

The proposed amendment on drug impaired driving would better align language used in the Criminal Code of Canada to form the grounds to demand tests to apply in provincial driving suspension. A section is also being added to clarify which administrative sanctions can and cannot be combined and applied for the same incident.

The proposed amendment on facial recognition will provide the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and, by extension, the Registry of Motor Vehicles, with explicit authority to use facial recognition technology as part of driver's licence and photo identification card issuance. It would restrict the use of facial recognition technology to only verify identity in the issuance of a driver's licence or photo I.D. It would prohibit its use for anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure Nova Scotians that this facial recognition information is secure.

These two amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act come as we also discuss the new, modern Traffic Safety Act that will help make the province's roads and highways safer. That these Motor Vehicle Act amendments are necessary only reinforces the need for the Traffic Safety Act, which will deal with such changes through regulation.

Thank you for your time today, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues.

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

HON. ALFIE MACLEOD: It's no secret that from the very beginning, we in the PC caucus have been concerned about how this government is getting ready for October 17th with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we're concerned about the enforcement and a little bit worried that here we are, five days away, and we're just looking at a piece of legislation for it now. No one wants people who are impaired with cannabis to be behind the wheel and, of course, this bill amends clauses of Bill No. 108 that have not even yet been proclaimed. But in the wisdom of the government, they seem to think that at the last minute, it's a great idea to move forward.

There's no doubt in our minds that this bill is important to help with the policing of cannabis and what has to be done. There are still a lot of questions out there, like: How much pot is too much pot? When is that going to be clarified? There are so many different areas of the bill, this and the new Traffic Safety Act.

We heard from Law Amendments Committee that people are excited about this, but at the same time, there is no such thing as a perfect piece of legislation, and this would be an example of that. We need to make sure as we're moving forward that we're ready to make the changes that need to be made in a timely manner, and not wait until the last moment, as we are today, when it comes to the cannabis legislation.

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

The honourable Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

HON. LLOYD HINES: I thank my colleague for his comments. We'll certainly take that under advisement. I move to close debate on Bill No. 79, the Motor Vehicle Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 79. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 80.

Bill No. 80 - Traffic Safety Act.

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

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 80, the Traffic Safety Act, be read for a third time and do pass.

I am pleased to rise in the House to speak for the final time about the new Traffic Safety Act being proposed to replace the outdated Motor Vehicle Act. The new, modern Traffic Safety Act will help make the province's roads and highways safer. Before I begin my remarks, I would like to recognize the work of Paul Arsenault, TIR's Director of Special Projects; Kevin Mitchell, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles; and their team for the fine work and diligent efforts on drafting this bill.

I would like to thank all the stakeholders who worked with my department staff to bring this Act to fruition. My officials met with 31 groups and 23 partners including Bicycle Nova Scotia, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Road Safety Advisory Committee, Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association, and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities to consult and create this Act. We will continue to reach out to stakeholders and partners as we work to develop the regulations that will accompany the Act.

We also reached out to Nova Scotians and received comments from 865 people who offered 2,292 various recommendations. Finally, I would sincerely like to thank the Opposition Party's critics for meeting with the departmental staff over the summer to discuss the new Traffic Safety Act and for their excellent input. The proposed Act will ensure the government can quickly respond to changing technology and future road-safety needs.

As you know, our Motor Vehicle Act has not been rewritten since the early 1920s and has been amended numerous times, resulting in an Act that is unclear and inconsistent. The TSA is designed as a framework Act, which sets broad policy and regulatory authority to address the more technical day-to-day issues that arise in the administration of road safety in this province and in the changing environment we find ourselves in.

The TSA will be much leaner than the current MVA; that reflects moving technical detail to regulation, which will allow more flexibility and responsiveness to emerging issues. The new Act will govern and regulate the registration and identification of motor vehicles and the use of provincial highways and roads. This includes driver's licences, the registration and inspection of vehicles, traffic laws, and equipment standards.

Significant initiatives in the new bill include defining "vulnerable road users" and imposing stiffer fines for drivers who injure them; clarifying the term "distracted driving"; managing the advancement of autonomous vehicles; and enabling municipalities to make bylaws regarding noise, including mufflers. The new Act will enable the municipalities to pass their own bylaws regarding noise. Through motor vehicle inspections, the province will still require proper working mufflers, but this change will enable the municipalities to take instantaneous action instead of waiting for an inspection.

We anticipate the new Act and its regulations will be implemented about two years after the passage of the Act. Thank you very much for your time today, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues.

[3:00 p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

MS. SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to once again speak to Bill No. 80, the Traffic Safety Act. I want to echo what the minister has said about how this is a mammoth bill and is the result of a lot of work and a lot of years of work by many people in the department. I want to thank them for that dedicated work, and also the stakeholders who took lots of time to provide input and make sure that this bill is mostly right.

I want to say a couple of words about the name of the Act - I think it's significant. The old Act is the Motor Vehicle Act, the new Act will be the Traffic Safety Act. This is an acknowledgement that cars don't own the road and that we have to make space on the roads for all kinds of types of users, and that it's safe and accessible for pedestrians and individuals with mobility aids and cyclists and Segwayists and rollerbladers and all of the people. I also want to echo my comments from the other day about appreciating the definition of the term "vulnerable road user" and that there will be significant fines and impacts on drivers who break laws and harm vulnerable road users.

I was at Law Amendments Committee the other day when this bill was brought forward. I want to bring forward some of the comments again that I heard - in particular, from Kelsey Lane from the Ecology Action Centre and Ben Buckwold from Bicycle Nova Scotia. I was happy to hear that many of their concerns and issues that they want brought forward with this bill will be addressed in regulation and that they're satisfied that that will happen.

Again, I want to talk about the issue of the speed limit. We know there is lot of good information from the World Health Organization and from lots of different organizations. We know that speed kills, and we know that a reduction in speed, even a small reduction in speed, can result in huge lifesaving efforts and numbers. We know that the process for municipalities currently to go to the province to get speed limits changed is onerous and difficult in some ways. So I want to again be on the record and say that I wish that this bill did allow for municipalities to change speed limits to as low as 30 kilometres per hour in certain areas.

One of the most compelling arguments I heard was from Mr. Buckwold the other day, when he talked about living on Clifton Street, which is a very narrow, tiny little residential street in the North End of Halifax. I've walked that street many times, and I honestly don't even understand how a car could go 50 kilometres an hour down that street, given that there's only parking on one side and it's very narrow and tight. I certainly wouldn't want my children to be playing on that road when cars are going 50 kilometres an hour.

I live around the corner from Slayter Street, and it's the same thing. Cars go jetting down that street and it fills me with terror for the children and vulnerable people in our neighbourhood. It's a quiet residential street, and yet the traffic is very fast on that street. I wish that municipalities would have the ability to change the limits to 30 or 40. It's not going to hurt anyone to drive a little slower, and it's going to save a lot of lives and a lot of serious injury.

I think I'll leave it there. I know I'm not going to change any minds here today and I do want to thank the minister for bringing this bill forward. I think it's going to make some really positive change in Nova Scotia and I just hope we can continue to look at these issues and make the roads as safe as possible for everyone.

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

HON. ALFIE MACLEOD: I'd like to start first by thanking the minister and his department and staff for bringing forward this very important piece of legislation. I know there has been a lot of work done by the staff and as they told us in our briefings, it has been a work in progress for about 10 years. I would have to say that I would label this a good start, but there are many changes and things going on and I think we need to be conscious of that, and this bill actually allows for that to take place a little quicker than the old Motor Vehicle Act did.

The one thing I would like to impress, as my colleague has already done, is I would love to see the department sit down with the Federation of Municipalities here in Nova Scotia and have some discussions about their concerns and their thoughts on traffic limits and speed limits so that indeed we can be working with our partners. I'm sure that is something the department would consider and look at.

We are still concerned, Mr. Speaker, about pot - how much pot is legal under this kind of a situation. We heard yesterday that some of the proposed equipment that was going to monitor pot may not be that accurate and good, so there are still a lot of concerns that we need to address as a province. It's not just the onus of the government - it's the onus of everybody in this House to do that.

I know we've heard many things from many people about promoting this. I hope that, as I said, it is a good start. It's going to take two years to implement, that will give you an idea about how hard it is to get a piece of legislation right. I know there will be some changes as we move forward, but I think it's a good start. We're heading in the right direction and I look forward to it being implemented and hopefully making a difference in the lives of Nova Scotians.

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

The honourable Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I sincerely want to thank my colleagues for their comments here today and more particularly, for their collegial participation in forming this important piece of legislation which will affect the driving lives of all Nova Scotians.

The points are well taken with regard to speed considerations in the province. I would remark that in the past five years, the department has received only one formal request to adjust speed limits from one municipality, that being the HRM and that request was received on September 26th, so it is being considered at the present time. The Act will give us more flexibility to be able to deal with that in a more nimble manner.

Mr. Speaker, of course as I mentioned earlier in my remarks, this legislation bridges that big gap between the horse and buggy days and the streetcar days in the streets of Halifax, and the era of autonomous vehicles and flying cars, which are being tested in Asia as we speak.

This bill has been a decade in the making and I'm so pleased to rise in my place and move that we close debate on Bill No. 80, the Traffic Safety Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 80. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

PRIVATE AND LOCAL BILLS FOR THIRD READING

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 17.

Bill No. 17 - An Act to Incorporate the "Kenzieville Cemetery Company".

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

MR. TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 17, An Act to Incorporate the "Kenzieville Cemetery Company," be now read a third time and do pass.

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

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes the government business for today.

I move that the House do now recess until 5 p.m. as we wait for the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now recess until 5 p.m.

[3:11 p.m. The House recessed.]

[5:02 p.m. The House reconvened.]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Let His Honour the Lieutenant Governor be admitted.

[The Speaker and the Clerks left the Chamber.]

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

[The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, preceded by his Private Secretary and by Mr. David Fraser, Sergeant-at-Arms, bearing the Mace, entered the House of Assembly Chamber. The Lieutenant Governor then took his seat on the Throne.

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

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

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

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

THE CLERK:

- Bill No. 2 - Develop Nova Scotia Act.**
- Bill No. 4 - Corporations Registration Act.**
- Bill No. 10 - Liquor Control Act.**
- Bill No. 13 - Day Care Act.**
- Bill No. 16 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Protection Act.**
- Bill No. 17 - An Act to Incorporate the "Kenzieville Cemetery Company".**
- Bill No. 23 - Canadian Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.**
- Bill No. 27 - Animal Protection Act.**
- Bill No. 29 - Labour Standards Code.**
- Bill No. 32 - Body Armour Control Act.**
- Bill No. 38 - Residential Tenancies Act.**
- Bill No. 39 - Cemetery and Funeral Services Act and Embalmers and Funeral Directors 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. 47 - Cancer Survivors Day Act.**
- Bill No. 48 - An Act to Amend Various Statutes Administered by Service Nova Scotia.**

Bill No. 49 - Gaming Control Act.

Bill No. 51 - Halifax Convention Centre Act.

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

Bill No. 58 - Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.

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

Bill No. 67 - Securities Act.

Bill No. 79 - Motor Vehicle Act.

Bill No. 80 - Traffic Safety Act.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

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

[The Speaker and the Clerks left the Chamber.]

[The Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.]

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

[The Speaker took the Chair.]

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask the members of this Assembly please rise and join me in the singing of our national anthem.

[The national anthem was sung by the members.]

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

THE PREMIER: As we move to close this session, Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate the interim Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on her two sessions of leading her Party. The people wanting to replace her are in a hurry - they're out of here today. (Laughter)

I also want to recognize the member for Cumberland South on his first session. You handled yourself well and represented your constituents as I'm sure they would want to be represented. Congratulations. (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to thank the two House Leaders who worked with our House Leader in this session to move a productive session forward. Even when there are some challenging times, we do appreciate the collaboration from both the Opposition Parties. Thank you on behalf of our House Leader.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, traditionally in this House, we who get the good fortune of being here for periods of time all recognize that this place doesn't run on its own. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Pages who are here for their work throughout this entire session. We very much appreciate your sunny personalities and the warm reception that we receive, even when the actions on the floor weren't all that sunny. (Applause)

To the people at Leg TV, thank you. To the Clerks, the Hansard team, the Legislative Library, the House Operations staff, both Peter and Mike, thank you for your continued support. The Committees Office - when the House is sitting, it creates more challenges for those who work in our Committee Office, so we thank them for that.

The commissionaires, who continue to somehow manage that parking lot under all that construction this time around - we very much appreciate your work. Halifax Regional Police, the RCMP, the staff at all of our caucus offices who continue to work on behalf of each member of the caucuses. Our constituency assistants, who work on our behalf day in and day out, but when we're sitting in this House, the burden on them increases substantially. To all of them, I thank them for the work that they do. (Applause)

[5:15 p.m.]

During this session, it was one of the first times we were sitting when we were also recognizing Long Service Awards for the Public Service - a couple from this Chamber received Long Service Awards. I want to thank the Public Service - how proud I am to work with them. I've said this to many of them - when Nova Scotians talk about government, "that damn government," they're not referring to those who work on behalf of them each and every day of the year. They're talking about those of us who sit in this Chamber.

Nova Scotians respect and value the work of the Public Service. I am blessed to be the Premier of this province, and I am all the more blessed to have been asked and given this job with the great men and women who represent our communities in the Public Service. I want to thank them for all the work they do. (Applause)

I want to thank all of our own support teams, which are our families at home. I want to thank them for supporting us as we go through this journey, both our partners and our children, who experience this from different vantage points, depending on how old our children are, or if they've aged through this whole process along with their parents. Each session is a bit different.

Also, our partners who are home dealing with issues, oftentimes not only the jobs they have themselves. When the phone is ringing while we're here, I can speak for myself, my house phone rings for work and I'm not there to answer it. I know that's not unique to me - it's for all of us. Our families respond to that. On behalf of everyone, I want to express our appreciation to our families for continuing to allow us to do what we do. It really is a privilege for all of us to be here.

Finally, I move that this General Assembly be adjourned, to meet again at the call of the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that the House now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Speaker.

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

The motion is carried.

The House now stands adjourned.

[The House rose at 5:17 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 642**

By: Hon. Kevin Murphy (The Speaker)

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

Whereas Tom Reeves of Forties, New Ross, Nova Scotia, recently passed away, nearly 35 years after sustaining a life-changing spinal cord injury; and

Whereas, despite his physical disability, Tom owned and operated a successful business for 30 years called T & D Nursery providing millions of seedlings to the Nova Scotia forestry sector; and

Whereas Tom lived each day to the fullest with grace and dignity keeping his love of family, friends, and community as his primary focus;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly join me in thanking Tom Reeves for his inspiration and humble leadership in showing us all that life is what you make it.

RESOLUTION NO. 643

By: Hon. Kevin Murphy (The Speaker)

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

Whereas John Zareski is a long-time resident of East Chezzetcook and has a keen interest in genealogy and local history; and

Whereas John is an active member of the Friends of Barra Society who worked to establish two commemorative markers to remember the tragic loss of life of five young men from Barra, Scotland, in the Merchant Marine who lost their lives in the 1917 Halifax Explosion; and

Whereas one marker is on the grounds of St. Columba Church in Iona, Cape Breton, and the other is in Fairview Cemetery in Halifax;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly join me in thanking John Zareski for his leadership and dedication to keeping this important piece of Nova Scotia history alive.

RESOLUTION NO. 644

By: Ms. Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas, every two years, a group of organizers and volunteers brings the Liverpool International Theatre Festival back to the community; and

Whereas the festival features a different lineup of international theatre troupes who perform one-act plays as part of this four-day event; and

Whereas this year's lineup features theatre groups from Mexico, China, Bangladesh, Egypt, the Central African Republic, Nepal, Iran, Peru, Wales, Argentina, and Canada, including the local Winds of Change Dramatic Society's production, *Oliver's Bench*;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the organizers and volunteers who are working tirelessly to bring the world to Nova Scotia for its inaugural fall timing from October 18 to October 21, 2018, and assure the world that a warm welcome awaits.

RESOLUTION NO. 645

By: Hon. Chuck Porter (Municipal Affairs)

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

Whereas Jewish recruits from across Canada and the United States assembled at the Imperial Recruits Depot at Fort Edward in Windsor in 1918 to begin their training as part of the newly-formed Jewish Legion; and

Whereas among the recruits were David Ben-Gurion who later became the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi who went on to become Israel's second President; and

Whereas, on Sunday, September 23, 2018, the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Legion was commemorated with a very well-attended ceremony at the Fort Edward National Historic Site with special guests and dignitaries;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate the organizers on an extraordinarily-planned event to commemorate this very important piece of Windsor History.

RESOLUTION NO. 646

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Internal Services)

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

Whereas TEAM Work Cooperative and Moores who have been partnering to provide suits for individuals who cannot afford them; and

Whereas TEAM Work Cooperative is a local organization committed to providing accessible resources to aid individuals in finding employment in the HRM, career counselling, job mentoring, and employment workshops and providing countless community members with the skills needed to find a job; and

Whereas, this summer, TEAM Work Cooperative partnered with local clothing store Moores to host the annual Moores Canadian Suit Drive throughout the month of July where people were able to drop in to their office and were welcome to choose from a variety of business clothes to aid them in finding employment;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing TEAM Work Cooperative and Moores for collaborating on this wonderful initiative to help those in need in our communities.

RESOLUTION NO. 647

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Internal Services)

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

Whereas Matt Welsh, a local hockey player, was recently invited to represent Canada at the Sport Chek World Junior Showcase in Kamloops, B.C.; and

Whereas Matt has played as a goalie for the Charlottetown Islanders for the past three seasons, where he excelled phenomenally on the team and has been accredited for his successes several times through various awards, including most recently being recognized as UPEI Scholastic Player of the Year as well as Eastlink Fan Favourite Award; and

Whereas being chosen as one of three goalies to represent Canada at the World Junior Showcase is an honour in itself;

Therefore be it resolved that all the Members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Matt Welsh for being chosen to represent our country at the World Junior Showcase this summer.

RESOLUTION NO. 648

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Internal Services)

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

Whereas Sandra Starratt, a former teacher and Student Government Advisor at Halifax West High School, just retired this year; and

Whereas Sandra Starratt, known as Madame to many, is fondly remembered by every student at Halifax West, was the Department Head of both French and Social Studies, Advisor to the Student Government, and a French and History teacher to many IB students at the school ; and

Whereas I had the pleasure of attending a surprise retirement party for Sandra which was organized by her children along with her former students, with nearly 100 people in attendance at the event, which was full of laughs and tears as Madame was presented with videos and speeches made by many of the students she had impacted throughout her career;

Therefore be it resolved that all the Members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Madame Starratt for all of her work at the Halifax West High School and wish her the best in her retirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 649

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Internal Services)

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

Whereas Ksenia Kholina of Fairview-Clayton Park was the recipient of the Nova Scotian Health Research Foundation's Quest Award; and

Whereas Ksenia Kholina is the first recipient of the award from Mount Saint Vincent University; acknowledged for her research in infant feeding practices and preventing chronic disease under the supervision of Dr. Kyly Whitfield, and moved from

Russia to study at the Mount after discovering her passion for medicine when working in clinical research; and

Whereas this award is not only a great honour for Ksenia, but for the university as a whole;

Therefore be it resolved that all the Members of this House join me in congratulating Ksenia Kholina for winning such a prestigious award and wish her the best of luck in her future.

RESOLUTION NO. 650

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Internal Services)

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

Whereas the WE ACT committee at Clayton Park Junior High for hosting a successful fundraiser for Feed Nova Scotia, collecting \$102.25 as well as 1,173 food items; and

Whereas the committee's project was organized by Ms. Theriault, a Healthy Living and Social Studies teacher at the school; and

Whereas the funds raised by the staff and students at Clayton Park Junior High will help feed many families across the city, motivating them to continue to support such worthy causes in the future;

Therefore be it resolved that all the Members of this House join me in thanking the WE ACT committee at Clayton Park Junior High for hosting a successful fundraiser for Feed Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 651

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Minister of Internal Services)

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

Whereas each year, the parents and staff of Burton Ettinger Elementary School work tirelessly to put on the highly anticipated Spring Frolic, with this year's event making close to \$10,000 which will help in purchasing new playground equipment for the students; and

Whereas the community members generously donated their time and baked goods for the cake walk and bake sale and without the support of the Fairview community, these events would not be possible; and

Whereas the Parent Teacher Association puts on this exceptional annual event for the Burton Ettinger family that is looked forward to by many each year;

Therefore be it resolved that all the Members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Ecole Burton Ettinger PTA for another successful Spring Frolic.

RESOLUTION NO. 652

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 Tyler Laidlaw competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia this year; and

Whereas he won gold in Junior Men C-1 200M, silver in Junior Men C-1 500M, and bronze in Junior Men C-2 200M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join us in offering sincere congratulations to Tyler Laidlaw on his wins and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 653

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 Michelle Russell competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia this year; and

Whereas she won gold in both the Senior Women K-1 500M and Senior Women K-4 500M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join us in offering sincere congratulations to Michelle Russell on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 654

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 Mason Koch competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia this year; and

Whereas he won bronze in Junior Men C-2 200M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join us in offering sincere congratulations to Mason Koch on his win and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 655

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 Marshall Hughes competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia this year; and

Whereas he won gold in the Senior Men K-4 500M and silver in Senior Men K-4 1000M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join us in offering sincere congratulations to Marshall Hughes on his wins and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 656

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 Sloan McKenzie competed at the Canoe Sprint International Olympic Hopes Regatta this year; and

Whereas she won silver in both women's C2 500m and women's C2 200m; and

Whereas the Canoe Sprint International Olympic Hopes Regatta allows a future generation of Olympians to gain high-quality international race experience;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join us in offering sincere congratulations to Sloan McKenzie on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 657

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 Marlee MacIntosh competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in both the junior women C-1 1000m and junior women C-2 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Marlee MacIntosh on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 658

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 Mark De Jonge competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in the senior men K-2 200m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Mark De Jonge on his win and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 659

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 Lily Baert competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in the junior women K-2 1000m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Lily Baert on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 660

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 Kavita Thomas competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won silver in the open women C-4 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Kavita Thomas on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 661

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 Jessica MacKay competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in both the junior women C-2 200m and open women C-4 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Jessica MacKay on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 662

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 Hannah MacIntosh competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won bronze in the senior women C-2 200m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Hannah MacIntosh on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 663

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 Geneva Bond competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won silver in the Open Women C-4 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Geneva Bond on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 664

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 Dave Waters competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won silver in the Men VL3 200m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Dave Waters on his win and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 665

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 Craig Spence competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in the Senior Men C-2 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Craig Spence on his win and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 666

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 Connor Fitzpatrick competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in Senior Men C-2 200m, silver in Open Men C-4 500m, and bronze in Senior Men C-2 1000m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Connor Fitzpatrick on his wins and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 667

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 Cameron Ledrew competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in both the Junior Men K-2 1000m and Junior Men K-4 500m; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Cameron Ledrew on his wins and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 668

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 Ava Carew competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in both Junior Women C-2 200M and Open Women C-4 500M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Ava Carew on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 669

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 Anna O'Brien competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in the Junior Women K-2 1000M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Anna O'Brien on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 670

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 Alexander Scott competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in the Senior Men K-2 200M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Alexander Scott on his win and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 671

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 Alex Canning competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas he won gold in the Junior Men K-2 1000M and Junior Men K-4 500M and silver in the Junior Men K-1 1000M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Alex Canning on his wins and in wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 672

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 Claire Carruthers at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won silver in Junior Women K-2 200M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Claire Carruthers on her win and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 673

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 Julia Lilley Osende competed at the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, this year; and

Whereas she won gold in Women's C2 500M and silver in Women's C1 500M and Women's C2 200M; and

Whereas the Pan American and Para Pan American Championships brought together over 350 athletes from all over the world to compete on Lake Banook;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in offering sincere congratulations to Julia Lilley Osende on her wins and in wishing her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 674

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Chief Philip Porter has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 33 years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief Philip Porter for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 675

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Deputy Chief Jason Stevens has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Deputy Chief Jason Stevens for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 676

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Captain David Newcombe has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for four years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Captain David Newcombe for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 677

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Captain Adam Griffin has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Captain Adam Griffin for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 678

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Lieutenant Angela Dayle Griffin has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for eight years; and

Whereas she is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas she has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Lieutenant Angela Dayle Griffin for her dedication and for giving her time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 679

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Laura Porter-Allen has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 12 years; and

Whereas she is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas she has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Laura Porter-Allen for her dedication and for giving her time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 680

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Matthew Burbidge has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for three years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Matthew Burbidge for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 681

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Nicholas Ells has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Nicholas Ells for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 682

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Dryden Gould has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for four years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Dryden Gould for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 683

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Stuart Griffin has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 60 years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Stuart Griffin for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 684

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Evan Harvey has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Evan Harvey for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 685

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Alex Jacquard has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for four years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Alex Jacquard for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 686

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Hayden Lynk has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Hayden Lynk for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 687

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Tazz Lynk has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for six years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Tazz Lynk for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 688

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Mark Lynk has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for 18 years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Mark Lynk for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 689

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Duncan MacDow has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for four years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Duncan MacDow for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 690

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Rod May has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for one year; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Rod May for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 691

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Chad Merrett has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for four years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chad Merrett for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 692

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Dawson Pinch has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Dawson Pinch for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 693

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Zach Rafuse has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Zach Rafuse for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 694

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Lucas Stevens has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Lucas Stevens for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 695

By: Mr. John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas Colton Tupper has been a member of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department for two years; and

Whereas he is a member in good standing and has participated in many hours of training; and

Whereas he has always been ready to serve the emergency needs of the community, any time of the day or night;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Colton Tupper for his dedication and for giving his time and talents for the safety of the residents of Port Williams.

RESOLUTION NO. 697

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Environment)

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

Whereas the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show took place from September 28 to September 30 in Bridgewater; and

Whereas the 4-H Pro Show provides a venue for competing 4-H members to showcase their skills and learn from their competitors; and

Whereas Emily Cameron is a member of the Shu-Mil 4-H Club;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Emily Cameron on winning the following: Reserve Champion English Equitation, Champion English Dressage, and Champion English Road Hack at the Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show.

RESOLUTION NO. 698

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Environment)

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

Whereas the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show took place from September 28 to September 30 in Bridgewater; and

Whereas the 4-H Pro Show provides a venue for competing 4-H members to showcase their skills and learn from their competitors; and

Whereas Emily Moxsom is a member of the Shu-Mil 4-H Club;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Emily Moxsom on winning the following: 2nd Reserve Champion Judging, 2nd place Royal Dairy Classic, Reserve Champion Dairy Showman, and 2nd place in the Dairy Clipping Competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show.

RESOLUTION NO. 699

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Environment)

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

Whereas the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show took place from September 28 to September 30 in Bridgewater; and

Whereas the 4-H Pro Show provides a venue for competing 4-H members to showcase their skills and learn from their competitors; and

Whereas Emma Munroe is a member of the Shu-Mil 4-H Club;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Emma Munroe on winning the following: Reserve Champion Rabbit Showman and 10th place in Grand Champion Showmanship Competition at the Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show.

RESOLUTION NO. 700

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Environment)

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

Whereas the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show took place from September 28 to September 30 in Bridgewater; and

Whereas the 4-H Pro Show provides a venue for competing 4-H members to showcase their skills and learn from their competitors; and

Whereas Landon Kendall is a member of the Hardwood Lands 4-H Club;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Landon on winning the following: Champion Jr. Welding Project, 1st place in Main Fishing, and 1st place and champion in Utility Trailer at the Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show.

RESOLUTION NO. 701

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Environment)

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

Whereas the annual Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show took place from September 28 to September 30 in Bridgewater; and

Whereas the 4-H Pro Show provides a venue for competing 4-H members to showcase their skills and learn from their competitors; and

Whereas Samantha Kent is a member of the Shu-Mil 4-H Club;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate Samantha on winning the following: Reserve Champion Rabbit Judge at the Nova Scotia 4-H Pro Show.

RESOLUTION NO. 702

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Lands and Forestry)

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

Whereas Carol Anne Smith, a resident of Terence Bay who exemplifies the essence of volunteerism in the vision, values, energy, initiative, and motivation that she brings to the community, is this year's recipient of the Barb Allen Volunteer of the Year Award; and

Whereas Ms. Smith is motivated by the fundamental family values that she finds in Terence Bay; the learning that goes on in its schools; the worship that takes place in its churches; the Thanksgiving dinners put on for seniors; the adult recreational activities that take place on its local waters, ball fields, and community recreational centre; and

Whereas Ms. Smith draws inspiration, motivation and energy from these activities which bring people together to improve school programs, construct playgrounds, and upgrade firehall facilities;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in recognizing Carol Anne Smith and what she means to the Terence Bay community.

RESOLUTION NO. 703

By: Hon. Leo Glavine (Communities, Culture and Heritage)

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

Whereas each year up to four Nova Scotian communities are honoured with the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award for citizen engagement, civic pride, and for a positive outlook on the future; and

Whereas the collective North Mountain communities of Black Rock, Harbourville, Burlington, and Morden are known for their community breakfasts, the North Mountain Newsletter, their combined Canada Day celebrations, their Shore Line Yard Sale, and their fundraisers; and

Whereas the aforementioned North Mountain communities were named as recipients of the 2018 Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award for their collaborative approach to community;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly congratulate the North Mountain communities of Black Rock, Harbourville, Burlington, and Morden for receiving the 2018 Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award and wish the residents of these engaged, vibrant, and close-knit communities all the best in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 704

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Lands and Forestry)

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

Whereas Ryan Munro was very instrumental in leading his U17 basketball team to a national championship gold-medal win in Kamloops, British Columbia; and

Whereas Ryan played 39 minutes for the winners, had 22 points, 4 boards, 4 assists and, although he is especially well-known for his shooting, accepted the challenge of taking a key defensive assignment in this game; and

Whereas Ryan's outstanding drive, talent, and skills have earned him a spot on the All-Star team;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Ryan Munro on his commitment to basketball, as well as his focus and determination to his own success and helping to lead this Nova Scotia team to victory on a national level.

RESOLUTION NO. 705

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Community Services)

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

Whereas Justin Henderson, Will Bartlett, Lucas Waddell, and Matthew Waters of the First Bedford Ventures Company have spent many hours training to be volunteer leaders; and

Whereas these young men have helped with many community activities, including all sections camps, church dinners, preparation for and offer of service during CJ 2017 (which was the Scouts Canada Jamboree held here in Nova Scotia during July 2017), the Vimy Memorial preparation, and holiday parades; and

Whereas these young men have embraced the spirit of Scouting – they are supporting of others and always ready and willing to help whenever they are asked;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate these new volunteer leaders.

RESOLUTION NO. 706

By: Hon. Zach Churchill (Education and Early Childhood Development)

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

Whereas the Yarmouth PetValu U15 B Boys Clippers Soccer team had an excellent 2018 soccer season; and

Whereas the boys finished in first place in the Valley league and won the district title to advance to the Provincials in Cape Breton; and

Whereas they went undefeated 4-0 at Provincials, claiming the provincial championship by defeating Sackville United 3-2 in the gold medal game;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Yarmouth PetValu U15 B Boys Clippers Soccer Club, consisting of players Ben Marais, Blake Goodwin, Charlie Banks, Chase Comeau, Davis Robichaud, Devon Saulnier, Dominic Higby, Dorian Clements, Dustin Lakusta, Ethan Saulnier, Hudson Crowell, Hunter Muise, Jacob Doucette, Jesse Abutu, Ibaad Hemani, Jaleel Horton, Liam d'Entremont, Liam Hubbard, Logan Burgess, Michael Christiansen, Michel Comeau,

Nema Hannah, and Tanner Cormier; coaches Jerry Burgess and John Higby; and team manager, Wendy Robichaud, on an amazing soccer season and bringing home provincial gold.

RESOLUTION NO. 707

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Lands and Forestry)

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

Whereas John Bignell has been volunteering his time, talents, and green thumb as vice-president of the Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea (BLT) Community Garden and as a director of the Sheldrake Lake Residents Association; and

Whereas celebrating its 7th year, the community garden provides residents in the area the opportunity to acquire a raised bed to grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables for their families; and

Whereas the association welcomes residents to become involved in gardening to promote healthy living, as well as recreational and community building experience;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating John Bignell on his community service and for guiding the gardeners and helping them achieve success in reaping a plentiful harvest.

RESOLUTION NO. 708

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Lands and Forestry)

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

Whereas Bob Angus, a dedicated resident of Timberlea and retired from a successful career in real estate, continues to work to improve neighbourhoods and be a strong voice for the community; and

Whereas Bob is a force to be reckoned with, as he is involved with so many great organizations and was instrumental in forming the Glengarry Estates Homeowners Association, he is serving as a warden and ambassador for the BLT Rails to Trails, volunteers with the BLT Residents Association, as well as participating in the BLT Recreation Committee which will be planning, designing, and developing a new recreational facility to replace the aging Lakeside Community Centre; and

Whereas Bob has worked endlessly with all three levels of government to focus attention on a special landmark and provincial park, McNabs Island, to find funding for upgrades to preserve the largest island in Halifax Harbour;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in thanking Bob Angus for his incredible dedication, hard work, and commitment to enhancing the quality of the community in so many unique and wonderful ways.

RESOLUTION NO. 709

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Lands and Forestry)

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

Whereas Danielle Robitaille is an extraordinary young woman who has faced many difficult challenges in her young life and is living with several life-threatening illnesses, becoming the first recipient to be approved by MSI to receive coverage for treatment of her mast cell disease, in Boston; and

Whereas despite the many obstacles her health issues have imposed, Danielle has been able to accomplish academic success by graduating from Sir John A. Macdonald High School with honours, as well as completing a program at the Nova Scotia Community College with a 94 per cent average; and

Whereas in addition to her academic studies, Danielle has been engaged in community activities by co-founding the Atlantic Ehler's Danlos Syndrome Society to offer support to those who face the hurdles of this rare connective tissue disorder;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Danielle Robitaille on her successes, and wish her all the best as she continues to recover from her medical issues and strives to be in the best health she can.