



House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy**

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### Second Session

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019**

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House of Assembly  
*Nova Scotia*

**HALIFAX, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019**

**Sixty-third General Assembly**

**Second Session**

**1:00 P.M.**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Kevin Murphy

**DEPUTY SPEAKERS**

Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Brendan Maguire

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. We'll now begin the daily routine.

**PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Environment.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1325**

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

Whereas the Canadian Nature Museum presents the Nature Inspiration Awards each year and recognizes people and organizations who encourage us to take an interest in natural history, create links with nature, and help preserve it; and

Whereas this year the Clean Foundation has been nominated for its work for EnviroEd and Clean Leadership Programs; and

Whereas EnviroEd is a puppet who, along with his other handler, engages school children in learning to care for the environment while the Clean Leadership Program is now growing our green economy by matching a wide variety of employers, including the Department of Environment, with summer students who focus on environmental work;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate the Clean Foundation on this well-deserved nomination and recognize its tireless efforts to protect our environment.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RANDY DELOREY: I'd like to draw the members' attention to the East Gallery where we have some special guests I'd like to introduce. I'd like to ask each of the guests to please stand and remain standing as I introduce everybody here today: Michele Lowe, the Managing Director for the Nursing Homes of Nova Scotia Association; Lisa Carr, a registered nurse; Beauty Mweemba, a registered nurse; Faisal Mooppantakath, a continuing care assistant; Lisa Colley, a continuing care assistant; Julie Fraser, Home Support Supervisor at Northwood; Dana Power, Regional Director of Enhanced Care Operations at Shannex; Lisa Horne, a continuing care assistant; and Lois Parsons-Young, a continuing care assistant as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would please ask my colleagues to give all these guests a warm welcome of the Legislature. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1326**

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

Whereas Nova Scotians deserve to be comfortable and well taken care of in their home or in long-term care homes; and

Whereas continuing care assistants are valued care providers who enrich the lives of many Nova Scotians and go above and beyond each day to make a difference in the homes and hearts of people in care; and

Whereas this week is Continuing Care Assistants Week, an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the compassionate individuals working as continuing care assistants;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House recognize the remarkable difference continuing care assistants make each day for Nova Scotians.

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

THE 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. 1327**

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



Whereas each year thousands of families across Canada are faced with the loss of a pregnancy or an infant; and

Whereas feelings of devastation, isolation, and grief are common and stigma, sadly, still exists; and

Whereas October 15<sup>th</sup> is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day, a time to support families who have lost their children too soon;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House honour and remember precious lives lost and support families and loved ones in Nova Scotia who have experienced a tragedy like this.

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

THE 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 METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

LENA METLEGE DIAB: Joining us today in the East Gallery is staff from the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration. I'm going to ask each one of them to rise and be recognized while I call their names: Gabriela Quintanilla, Nominee Officer; Alexander Hernandez, Nominee Officer; Ben Creaser, Nominee Officer; Natasha Wagg, Program Coordinator; Kimberly Jardine, Director of International Attraction and Stakeholder Engagement; David Sévette, Bilingual Stakeholder Liaison Officer; John MacDonnell, Senior Business Analyst; and Elizabeth McCulloch, Program Integrity Officer.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Assembly to please give them the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Immigration.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1328**

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

Whereas Nova Scotia has increased immigration numbers every year since 2012, when we had a federal allocation of 500 nominees, and in 2019, we have 2,723 nominations and endorsements, outpacing and exceeding our targets; and

Whereas Nova Scotia's population is at an all-time high of 971,395 people as a result of the increasing number of immigrants coming to live in Nova Scotia, which reached 5,970 in 2018 and is breaking records for the number of landings again this year; and

Whereas staff at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration have worked tirelessly to grow immigration to its current levels, roll out the new programs and immigration streams that are making it easier for immigrants to live and work and stay in Nova Scotia, and to support immigrants who want to live permanently here;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature recognize the hard work by staff at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration and the positive difference it is making in the Province of Nova Scotia.

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

THE 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. 197 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 81 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Companies Act, Chapter 98 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Co-operative Associations Act, and Chapter 101 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Corporations Registration Act. (Hon. Patricia Arab)**

**Bill No. 198 - Entitled an Act to Support the Creative Economy. (Susan Leblanc)**

**Bill No. 199 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 1 (1992 Supplement) of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The House of Assembly Act, Respecting By-elections. (Tim Houston)**

**Bill No. 200 - Entitled an Act to Amend Schedule A of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2018. The Education Act. (Claudia Chender)**

[1:15 p.m.]

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

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

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

### **CONTINUING CARE MO.: OCEANVIEW C.C. CENTRE - RECOG.**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge that during the month of October, Nova Scotia is recognizing Continuing Care Month. This is a special time to recognize all of those who have chosen careers or volunteer work within the long-term care and home care field.

Without each of these workers providing care and compassion for those who need it the most, our long-term care facilities and home care would be non-existent. Ocean View Continuing Care Centre is located in Eastern Passage and it is no exception. There are many residents, workers, and volunteers making this facility more like a loving home community. Family members of residents here are also making sure that their gratitude is known by reaching out and thanking all of the staff and volunteers.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing October as Continuing Care Month here in our province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: We have with us in the East Gallery Sudesh Bhalla, a neighbour, a community leader, and a great businesswoman, as well. I have a member statement to read for her. Please welcome her to the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

**BHALLA, SUDESH: TOP 25 IMMIGRANTS OF N.S. - COMMEND**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a neighbour and a community leader who has given back so much to Clayton Park West through volunteerism.

Sudesh Bhalla is a retired elementary school teacher and a businesswoman. She was a member of the Women's Auxiliary of India for almost three decades, an organization founded in the 1970s, whose mission was to raise money for underdeveloped countries. Funds raised by the group were locally donated to hospitals and to Hope Cottage.

Sudesh was a lead organizer for the Halifax IndiaFest and president of the ICCS, heading several cultural events that raised over \$400,000. This allowed her to buy a community centre for the society. It is no surprise that she recently received the Top 25 Immigrants of Nova Scotia award.

Mr. Speaker would this House of Assembly join me in applauding Sudesh on all her marvellous achievements.

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

**ESKASONI BAND COUNCIL: JUST PADDLE IT FEST. - CONGRATS.**

KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to pass along my congratulations to the Eskasoni Band Council and its Director of Sport and Recreation, Levi Denny, on a successful paddling festival entitled "Just Paddle It" that took place recently in Eskasoni First Nation.

More than 100 people participated in exhibition races, lessons, and sunset paddling. The event not only introduced community members to stand-up paddle boarding, but also exposed the paddling community to what Eskasoni has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank the CBRM, Sport Nova Scotia, and the Eskasoni Band Council on creating this event. I look forward to an Eskasoni canoe and kayak club hopefully beginning soon.

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

**MACDONALD, CHRISTIE - TEACHER:  
EDUCATION WK. AWARD - THANKS**

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a phenomenal and dedicated teacher, Christie MacDonald, at Fanning Education Centre/Canso Academy, in Canso.

During Education Week this year, the Strait Regional Centre for Education recognized nine staff and partners who made outstanding contributions to their work under the theme of Inclusive Education: Helping our Students and Children Succeed.

Christie is known for being attentive to the needs of her students, developing individual programming and implementing culturally sensitive practices. She is committed to ensuring her students are heard and feel included, including helping to establish a Gay-Straight Alliance Committee at the school and revamping the student council.

Christie is always willing to go above and beyond for students, regardless of the situation. Whenever she is asked, she is ready to help out.

I'd like to congratulate Christie on her Education Week Award, and I'd like to thank her for all she does for her students and for being such a wonderful educator. We love our teachers.

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

**SHEPARD, PERCY: 92<sup>nd</sup> BIRTHDAY - BEST WISHES**

BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send best wishes to Percy Shepard of Louisbourg who recently turned 92.

Percy was born and raised in the Town of Louisbourg and is the last surviving veteran of their Legion Branch 62. He worked for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for several years and was active in and throughout the community for over 50 years, where he volunteered with the Sea Cadets, coached hockey, and acted as umpire in baseball games.

He and his wife were blessed with six children, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren - all who have deep connections with the community.

I stand here today to wish Percy and his family all the best in the years to come and thank him for all he has done for his community and family.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**MANUEL, WAYNE: HONOURED IN NAMING OF BALLPARK - THANKS**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne Manuel, a resident of Terence Bay.

Wayne has been instrumental in encouraging the community's love of fastball. He has generously given years of his life to teaching young people the rules and finer points of the game.

He has coached hundreds of kids, some of whom have gone on to win games at the national level, putting Terence Bay on the map for fastball. Several players Wayne coached from Little League through to men's league have been scouted by professional ball teams, and each of them owes a debt of gratitude to Wayne for getting them to that point.

Wayne is a very special person who has a great impact on countless children growing up in Terence Bay. In honour of Wayne's contribution to the community, Halifax Regional Council approved a motion on July 16<sup>th</sup> to rename the Demers Road Park ball diamond in Terence Bay to the Wayne Manuel Ball Diamond.

I ask the members of the House to join me in thanking Wayne Manuel for his generous time, commitment, and many contributions to the Terence Bay community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

**MOTION DANCE CTR.: EXPANDED LOCATION - CONGRATS.**

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Corkum, owner of Motion Dance Centre in Lower Sackville.

Ms. Corkum opened Motion Dance Centre in 2015 and it has grown from a staff of one to a staff of ten in just four years. Their previous location was no longer able to meet their space requirements, so they relocated to Knox United Church in Lower Sackville.

Anyone with a desire and a passion to dance is most welcome. Dancers can learn at their own pace and at a level where they are most comfortable, with the emphasis being on the dancer and not the dance.

I would like to ask all members of this Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me and take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Corkum and her staff on their grand opening which took place on August 10, 2019 and wish them continued success.

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

**MITCHELL, KEVIN: CLARY MACDONALD MEM. AWARD - CONGRATS.**

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, over the years I've talked about the numerous achievements of my local hockey team, the Halifax Hawks. The success of this team is in large part due to the incredible community volunteers who support them.

One such volunteer, Kevin Mitchell, recently won the Hockey Nova Scotia Clary MacDonald Memorial Award for his outstanding service to amateur hockey.

A quick look at Kevin's Twitter tells me that he has a great relationship with current and former players and is dedicated to their success and growth. It is evident that this award is well-deserved.

I ask the members of this House of Assembly to join me in thanking Kevin for his volunteer service and wishing him and his team luck in the upcoming hockey season.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

**BECK, HOWARD - UMPIRE: RETIREMENT- CONGRATS.**

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, Howard Beck is retiring after calling softball games for approximately 40 years. For the past several decades Howie would put on his chest protector, pull a mask over his face, and stand behind home plate, ready to call balls and strikes.

Beck would umpire 200-250 games each summer. He has acted as umpire in literally thousands of games in Pictou County. Howie began as an umpire in 1979, working men's fastball games in the county league.

Although Beck feels it is time for him to retire, he will miss the game itself, especially the kids learning the sport. Former and present ballplayers wish to thank Howard Beck for his dedication and commitment and the courage to control the games, making it a positive experience for everyone. Beck always maintained professionalism and created an environment of respect that included coaches, parents, and players.

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

**MIHAI, MARIE: MATH EXCELLENCE AWARD - CONGRATS.**

BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Maria Mihai from Holland Road Elementary School. Maria was recently listed as an honourable mention at the University of Waterloo for her extraordinary math ability. Maria, who is in Grade 6, impressed everyone when she entered a contest to write a Grade 11 math exam.

Along with the honourable mention, Maria also received \$200 for placing first in Nova Scotia.

At school, Maria is very happy to help her classmates when they are facing math problems. Maria is pleased that she has made the list and feels that numbers are the best part of math.

Congratulations to Maria and to her future in mathematics.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**ROYAL CDN. LEGION BR. 160: COM. SERV. - COMMEND**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160. They have embodied a true, positive community spirit. Within the Legion, a wonderful volunteer crew prepare a Friday night dinner for the enjoyment of anyone and everyone while surrounded by friends and laughter.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160 also engages various community groups from Dartmouth. This can include the Kids Fishing Derby with the Boys and Girls Club or the Poppy Campaign with Better Together.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Royal Canadian Legion Branch 160 for going above and beyond by engaging the Dartmouth East community to be involved with our veterans. I ask all members of the House to commend Branch 160 for their outstanding community service.

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

**HAMMONDS PLAINS FIRE DEPT.: ANN. FUN DAY - RECOG.**

BEN JESSOME: Mr. Speaker, today I'll recognize the Hammonds Plains Volunteer Fire Department, and further acknowledge their additional contribution at their Fun Day, which took place Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The fire department consists of 27 volunteer members and five paid staff, all of whom work together to provide emergency services to our community.

The annual Fun Day takes place in celebration of these workers and the network of community residents who benefit from their work to support them. The day consisted of children's games and a silent auction, amongst many other fun opportunities. The event was initially scheduled to take place September 7<sup>th</sup>, but it gained even more meaning after being rescheduled to the week following Hurricane Dorian, as the volunteers instead were staffed at the station throughout the weekend to ensure the quickest response to possible locals' concerns.



Mr. Speaker, I'd ask you and all the members of this House to help me recognize the volunteer fire department in Hammonds Plains.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

**DAVIS, RUPERT - POLICE CHIEF: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of Chief Rupert Davis. Chief Davis was chief of Kentville Police from 1894 to 1931, when he retired. Six years later, he was struck by a vehicle while riding his bicycle and later succumbed to his injuries. There was speculation that the hit-and-run vehicle was local bootleggers who had targeted him, but nothing was ever proven.

A dedication ceremony for Chief Rupert Davis was held on September 27, 2019. Chief Davis's great-grandson Jeff Davis and great-granddaughter Jessica Lynch attended the event and were very pleased to see their great-grandfather's life accomplishments honoured.

Thanks to the Kentville police, the White Family Funeral Home, the Kings Historical Society, and the Kentville Historical Society, his unmarked grave at Oak Grove Cemetery in Kentville now has both a headstone and a memorial plaque.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

**PELLERINE, MARY: 50 YRS. COM. SERV. - THANKS**

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a long-time resident of Spryfield, Mary Pellerine. Mary moved to Tartan Avenue in 1964 with her husband Eldon, where they raised their family. Sadly, Eldon passed away, but Mary continues to live in the community where she spent her married life and raised her family.

Mary has been volunteering in the community for over 50 years. When her boys were growing up, she was heavily involved in sports. She served on the Catholic Women's League at St. Michael's Church for many years. Mary has also organized a St. Michael's Parish roast beef dinner every year, and has also taken charge of the flea market room at the church's annual Fall fair.

In addition to her involvement with the church, Mary also volunteers for Toonies for Change and the Urban Farm Museum Society of Spryfield.

It is committed community-minded citizens like Mary that are the backbone of our communities. I would like to thank Mary for over 50 years of dedication and commitment to Spryfield and wish her good luck on her continued work in the community.

[1:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**NSCC PIPE TRADES CLASS: SKILLS OUTREACH - CONGRATS.**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the students in the pipe trades class at the NSCC Shelburne Campus for their community outreach.

In the Spring of 2019, under the direction of instructors Nolan Young and Curt Goudey, the students completed two projects. They converted leftover pipe into two hockey nets at the Parr Street Park, and for the second project they converted a full-size soccer net at the Albert Acker Memorial Field into two child-size nets.

Mr. Speaker, it is encouraging to see these young people putting their practical skills to use in a way that benefits the community and encourages outdoor physical activities. I congratulate the class and their teachers for their vision and stewardship and for their sustainable use of materials for the overall benefit of their community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

**GIFFIN, JOHN: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

HON. KELLY REGAN: I would like to thank Bedford resident John Giffin for his volunteer activities over the years. John is known for his humility, his compassion for others, and his infinite patience.

John has been volunteering at Ivany Place, the Northwood facility in Bedford, for over six years as a spiritual care volunteer. He has been instrumental to the success of the program at that location. John has also been heavily involved at Bedford Baptist Church, where he lends his talents to the music committee and choir.

John is also the kind of guy who goes out of his way to help his neighbours and other members of his community. He can be found tilling their gardens in Summer and plowing their driveways in Winter. He's the guy you want checking your house while you're away.

I would like to thank John Giffin for his thoughtful contributions to Ivany Place, Bedford Baptist Church, and his neighbourhood. This is what community is all about.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

**STONE, MATS/STONE, NATE: LIFE-SAVING RESCUE - COMMEND**

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate 18-year-old twin brothers Mats and Nate Stone of Springhill, who rescued a man from a burning home.

The boys were running late so their mother Melissa was driving them to the NSCC in Springhill. On the way up the street, just a few houses from their home, Mats spotted the burning home. Both boys jumped out of the car and spotted a man in an open second story bathroom window with smoke coming out around him. The boys ran to the backyard, found a ladder and brought it to the bathroom window so the owner could climb down.

I ask that you join me in congratulating and thanking these brave young brothers, Mats and Nate Stone, in their quick actions that got this man out of the burning house safely.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**BORDEN, JANICE/GROSSE, CONRAD:  
COM. THANKSGIVING DINNER - THANKS**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, this past Thanksgiving weekend, Dartmouth North residents were once again treated to a beautiful Thanksgiving meal coordinated and cooked by Janice Borden and Conrad Grosse.

This was the fifth time Janice has made this wonderful meal a reality for our community. Janice, who works at the front desk of the Dartmouth North Community Centre, recognized a need for such a meal and set to work to raise funds or use her own, prepare food, and organize volunteers to offer about 200 people a turkey and ham dinner with all the fixings. There was a palpable feeling of warmth and friendship in the room this year as folks gathered to eat and share in conversation. More than a few conversations I was a part of included accolades for Janice's famous turkey gravy.

In a community where many people experience food insecurity and social isolation as a regular occurrence, it is wonderful to have opportunities like a community Thanksgiving dinner to keep both at bay for a few hours. I am deeply grateful to Janice and Conrad and all their volunteers who contribute so generously to Dartmouth North.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**ITALY CROSS FIRE DEPT.: 55<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, the Italy Cross, Middlewood & District Fire Department is celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary this September.

This amazing department built a new fire station and community hall in 2013. It took the hard work and dedication of our firefighters, ladies auxiliary, and the community to raise the \$1.7 million needed for the facility. According to Ron Whynot, who has served as chief for 21 years, it is already paid for, and they are now fundraising for a new tanker truck.

The department's 33 volunteer firefighters and 22 auxiliaries have a lot going on. They serve a monthly breakfast and run crib, a music jam and card party weekly, in addition to penny auctions, a fishing tournament, a canteen at the Big Ex, suppers, and more throughout the year.

The fire station is going almost seven days a week with activities, events, and rentals. On top of that, the department answers 35 to 40 calls annually for fires, medical and mutual aid, and serves as a comfort station.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Italy Cross, Middlewood & District Fire Department and their auxiliary for their dedicated service and for making their community a safe and pleasant place to live.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **EAT LOCAL CUMBERLAND: POSITIVE FOOD CHANGES - THANKS**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to recognize the Cumberland Food Action Network and their starting of a website called [eatlocalcumberland.ca](http://eatlocalcumberland.ca).

This group has recently created the website that will connect residents with local farms so they can be connected to fresh, local and healthy food options for their families. This program will help encourage positive food changes throughout the county. This will also help bring more awareness to local farms and vendors and it could help boost the local food community. This program is an excellent resource for residents and farmers.

Today I would like to thank all members of the Cumberland Food Action Network on [eatlocalcumberland.ca](http://eatlocalcumberland.ca) and thank them for helping bring good food to all residents.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

### **SUTHERLAND, MAGGIE: MODELLING FOCUS - CONGRATS.**

HON. KAREN CASEY: About three and a half years ago Maggie Sutherland, now 21, from Central Onslow, Colchester North, and her mother Darlene, participated in a mother-daughter shoot. The photographer invited Maggie back for a "fun" shoot and, shortly after, she signed on with City Models Talent Agency in Halifax. Since then, she

has been involved with modelling on a part-time basis and has also been working on her degree in social work.

In the Spring, Maggie attended a modelling convention in Toronto. On awards night, her two best print photos were judged by modelling agents from around the world and they gave them second highest points in her division of 20 years and over. She was then awarded first place for cover photo and finally she was named an all-division winner, indicating she had received the highest points in a runway, swimsuit, and photography set.

Maggie also received 14 callbacks from agents in Paris, New York, and Japan, as well as Montreal and Toronto. With so much feedback from the experts, Maggie has decided to put her studies on hold and to make modelling her main focus for now. A director at her Halifax agency said Maggie also has a great personality and attitude, and they are certain that her name will soon be a well-known one. Congratulations Maggie.

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

**MYERS, MICHELLE: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to constituent Michelle Myers for her dedication through volunteer work in her community. Michelle is a team manager for the U12 Whitecaps team of United DFC. Michelle is thrilled that her son is on the team and proud of their sportsmanship in Quebec, participating in an extensive national tournament. The U12 Whitecaps are the only Atlantic Canadian team to be accepted into the tournament. The team learned so much about their country and were so proud to share Nova Scotia pins and flags.

Michelle also sponsors the Eastern Passage Trunk and Treat event and the Island View High School Silent Auction and Pool Tournament, which is coming up on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and she served with me on the Island View High Enhancement Committee.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in thanking Michelle Myers for all her hard work; thank you also to the 15 youths, two coaches and Michelle, for representing our province throughout the tournament.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

**RAVENS HOCKEY: ATOM B CHAMPS - CONGRATS.**

HON GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Clare-Digby Ravens Atom B team for winning the Nova Scotia Atom B Championship. The team, which trained hard since the start of hockey from the previous season, had been growing stronger all along the hockey season. Despite this, they would have to work for this title. This championship would be decided by the always nerve-wracking shootout.

The Ravens scored three goals in the second period but the Chebucto Green Atlantics tied the game in the third period, forcing a shootout. Our goalie did not allow a puck past him, and two of the Ravens were able to score on the opposing team.

This will be the first provincial title ever determined by a shootout. Also, the Clare-Digby Ravens Atom B team are the youngest team from our Clare-Digby Minor Hockey Association to return home with a provincial title.

Congratulations to the players, their coaches, and good luck in the upcoming season.

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

**ST. ANN'S GAELIC COLLEGE TRAILS:  
BUILDING WORKSHOP - CONGRATS.**

KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, thanks to 30 volunteers from around the province, the Gaelic College in St. Ann's is home to an all-ages walking trail in an historical section of its property.

Ted Scrutton, former provincial coordinator for Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation, has run a program at the college for the past 20 years and noticed that the existing nature trails had become overgrown. He hosted a trail building workshop not only to teach the craft but in the end to create a 600-metre-long trail, taking users past old ruins, including the original house foundation where Norman MacLeod, the founder, lived in the 1800s.

I want to recognize the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, the Gaelic College, and the leaders and volunteers for making this unique outdoor experience in Victoria County.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

**CAMERON, PEARLE: TERRY FOX RUN - DEDICATION**

HON. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honour an outstanding resident and recent Maritimer of the Week, Pearle Cameron. Pearle is a treasure in our community and volunteers to help with almost every organization in the Shubenacadie area. Just last month Pearle participated in her 37<sup>th</sup> Terry Fox Run, a tradition she started when her husband passed away from lung cancer. In that time, she has missed only one run while she was fighting her own cancer battle, but she still managed to complete it at a later date.

For the past several years Pearle has been one of the top fundraisers for the Terry Fox Foundation. The Run is so near and dear to her heart that her only ask of her family

this year, in honour of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, was that they help her set a goal of raising \$9,000, which, with their help, she handily exceeded, raising almost \$10,000.

I ask members of this House to join me in recognizing this amazing woman and her great dedication to the Terry Fox Run. Thank you, Pearle.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

**SACKVILLE COM. HEALTH FAIR:  
EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE - CONGRATS.**

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 28, 2019, the Sackville Heights Community Centre, in partnership with the Sackville Business Association, hosted the first Sackville Community Health Fair in Sackville.

The Sackville Community Health Fair consisted of exhibits, demonstrations, prizes and giveaways from a variety of local health-focused businesses, and organizations that offered free massages, health checks, children's entertainment and much more to the community.

I would like to ask all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the members of the Sackville Community Health Fair for organizing an afternoon for all ages, focused on educating and encouraging the community on how to live healthier lifestyles.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**STEPPING STONE: 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, an important and unique organization was celebrated on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday. Stepping Stone is a non-profit and charitable organization that provides services and support to current and former sex workers. It uses a harm reduction approach.

Stepping Stone was created in response to the murders of three sex workers in Halifax in 1985. For 30 years it has provided invaluable services, support and political advocacy. While activism has accomplished much, sex workers still face violence, criminalization and social exclusion. Stepping Stone will continue to advocate for the human rights of sex workers and for equal and dignified access to health services.

Thanks to staff, clients, volunteer board members and donors, Stepping Stone will continue its important work.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**CHRISTEAS, JIMMY: QUINPOOL SHOE REPAIR - CONGRATS.**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the incredible work ethic of a small business owner, second-generation immigrant and constituent, Dimitri “Jimmy” Christeas. Members of our community know Jimmy as the hardest working cobbler in Halifax, working tirelessly at Quinpool Shoe Repair, the business he’s managed for over 10 years and one of the last independent shoe repair stores in Halifax.

As the son of Greek immigrants to Nova Scotia, Jimmy from the age of 12 learned his craft from his father, working at the family’s shoe repair shop on Bayers Road, then at the West End Mall. Today Jimmy works with a confidence, skill and pride that is hard to match. Jimmy puts his heart and soul into his business and it shows.

I ask all members of this House of Assembly to join me in congratulating him on his years of serving the community and wishing him great success at his business.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

**TRENHOLM, BARRY: RETIREMENT, HALL OF FAME - CONGRATS.**

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, the Pictou County Sports Heritage Hall of Fame was created in 1989. This accomplishment was due to the organizational work of Trenton resident Billy Dee. The hall opened up on the Power Plant Road in 1989 and their first induction ceremony occurred in September 1990. It quickly outgrew this facility and relocated to the Service Canada building in New Glasgow. Mr. Dee kept a watchful eye over the sports hall for two decades prior to his passing away in 2008.

Prior to this, former Trenton Mayor Barry Trenholm joined ranks with his friend to oversee the daily operation of this unique facility. Mr. Trenholm has been curator of the sports hall since 2008 and will be stepping down from that position. I would like all members of this Legislature to join me in thanking Barry Trenholm for volunteering his personal time for so many years.

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

**CELTIC COLOURS: WORLD-CLASS EVENT - CONGRATS.**

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, the Celtic Colours International Festival kicked off its 23<sup>rd</sup> season at Centre 200 in Sydney on Friday, October 11, 2019, with featured artists Ashley MacIsaac and the Chieftains.

As part of the festival this weekend, I was fortunate to have been in attendance at LeNoir Landing where local storytellers Claire Doyle and Leonard Gerrior relayed yarns about growing up on Isle Madame. The festival brought hundreds of visitors to us during



the Thanksgiving dinner on the Island and yesterday I met visitors from Tennessee, Ottawa, Maine, Scotland, Alaska, Seattle, and Ireland to name a few while helping to serve guests hundreds of homemade turkey dinners and all the trimmings at the OLA Parish Hall in Arichat.

[1:45 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, the Celtic Colours is truly a wonderful signature event for Cape Breton Island. Our communities come together to display our hospitality and our island becomes a world stage as it did last night at the Civic Improvement Hall in D'Escousse.

I ask members of this House to join me in congratulating the organizers, volunteers, and the musicians for continuing to make Celtic Colours a world-class event.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**SLAUNWHITE, ANGELA/BURKE, SARA:  
PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING - THANKS**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two more residents of Terence Bay, Angela Slaunwhite and Sara Burke.

Angela and Sara have worked hard over the past year to help refresh the community spirit in Terence Bay. They have played a key role in helping a number of successful events taking place throughout the year to raise \$10,500 towards a new playground at the newly refurbished school.

Through meticulous planning, Angela and Sara have recruited an extensive number of volunteers to assist them in a variety of fundraising events to support the playground. They have organized a barbecue and horseshoe tournament, sold tickets on a Mother's Day basket, collected bottles to recycle, hosted a Halloween fun day and raffled 50 pounds of lobster.

They also helped to direct and guide a performance by children in Terence Bay at the first annual Tree Lighting Ceremony last year; planned an Easter extravaganza event in April; and most recently organized the annual Thanksgiving dinner I attended alongside many community members at the school.

I'd like the members of the house to join me in thanking Angela and Sara and all members of the Terence Bay community for continuing to revive the community and the community spirit and vibrancy that has come along for Terence Bay.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**WIGGINTON, LINDELL: CONTRACT WITH NBA - COMMEND**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dartmouth's Lindell Wigginton. Lindell played a large part in Team Canada's gold medal win for the 2017 FIBA Under-19 World Cup and also played two seasons for Iowa State University where he was honoured with the Big 12 Sixth Man of the Year and was named to the Big 12 All-Tournament Team.

When joining the Toronto Raptors during the Summer League, Lindell clearly demonstrated that he had the talent to join the NBA, which is why he signed a contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Lindell Wigginton will make Dartmouth proud and I know he serves as an inspiration to all aspiring athletes in Nova Scotia.

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

**LOAVES AND FISHES: FOOD DRIVE - THANKS**

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Loaves and Fishes in Sydney, our local food kitchen. Two events happened in the last number of days.

First, hundreds of community volunteers supported Loaves and Fishes by stuffing a city bus full of food for Loaves and Fishes to prepare meals for families in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize in my place those volunteers at Loaves and Fishes delivered and served over 170 meals Thanksgiving Day for families in our community. So, I ask all the members of this House to recognize the hard work and dedication of everybody involved with Loaves and Fishes in Sydney and the support that they provide to so many families in our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**TEEPEE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM:  
RICH EDUC. EXPERIENCE - COMMEND**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, on June 4th of this year, I had the honour of attending the opening of Greenfield Elementary School Teepee Outdoor Classroom. Students played active roles in the beautifully spiritual ceremony, which was filled with song, dance, and drumming. O Canada was sung in Mi'kmaw, and students incorporated explanations of the history and philosophy of the Mi'kmaw people.

Mr. Speaker, this new outdoor classroom brings a culturally rich dimension to learning experiences at Greenfield Elementary School and will be enjoyed for many years

to come. I commend all who played a part in this project for their vision and authentic celebration of the traditions of our community's Mi'kmaw heritage.

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

**GRANT, JONATHAN: ACAD. ACHIEVEMENTS - CONGRATS.**

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a well-seasoned Mount Saint Vincent alumnus who graduated this past Spring with a Bachelor of Education. Jonathan Grant received his new degree in addition to his previous Bachelor of Arts and was his class valedictorian at convocation.

Jonathan's success was not only limited to the classroom as he was also actively involved in the Mount community. Among his many titles, Jonathan volunteered with the Mount's student union during Shinerama and as an orientation leader. He also served as VP advocacy and treasurer for the Canadian Federation of Students - Nova Scotia and was president of the ASCD-MSVU Chapter.

I am always excited to learn about the achievements of new Mount grads, and I am sure that Jonathan will have a great impact on the many minds he will teach in his new career.

I ask the members of this House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Jonathan on his academic achievements and wishing him the best of luck in the future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

**PARRSBORO BAND ASSOC.: SOLAR INSTALLATION - RECOG.**

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the board of Parrsboro Band Association.

The board has announced the installation of solar array by Doctor Solar on the south-facing roof of the Hall, which will commence this week.

As one of only 18 communities selected to participate, the association has now embarked on a 21-year project which will provide 30 kilowatts per annum of green energy to the Nova Scotia Power grid. This array will produce sufficient energy to provide the needs of the Hall and a dozen or so Nova Scotia residents, completely free of fossil fuels.

It has taken two years and tremendous efforts on behalf of the Association by Bruce McCulloch and Johannes Heisberger to coordinate the financing of over \$107,000 which was supported totally by local investors and locally fundraised money by the association.

Please join me in saluting the Parrsboro Band Association and its community for the outstanding achievement for the Hall.

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

**CHUTE, OLIVIA - MULTI-MEDALLIST:  
NTL. WATER-SKIING COMP. - CONGRATS.**

BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate 15-year-old Olivia Chute of Windsor Junction. At the 2019 Canadian National Waterskiing Championships, Olivia won two gold medals in the U17 division.

Olivia is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Canada for Best Trick Female Skier. Olivia achieved four personal bests in her competitions this year, and her goal is to return to the Junior World Championships next Summer. Olivia is very thankful to her family and the community for supporting her.

I ask that all members of the Legislature congratulate Olivia on her gold medal winnings and best wishes on her continued success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**KOOL-AID KIDS: COM. FUNDRAISING TRADITION - CONGRATS.**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the “Kool-Aid Kids” from the Amherst Shore and Lorneville areas of Cumberland North. They are children of local cottagers who have been supporting their community for over 50 years.

Money is raised by doing work around local cottages. Led by Leslie Brown, this Summer they decided to raise money for the Four Fathers Memorial Library and Northport Elementary School and they were able to donate \$1,000 to the two institutions.

These children are very generous to help raise money for their community, and it’s wonderful to see this torch being passed on each year to a different group of children.

Today, join me in thanking these fine children for their generosity and work in the community.

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

**HAUNTED HOLLOW: COM. FUN AND FUNDRAISING - RECOG.**

BEN JESSOME: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Haunted Hollow for its annual contribution to recreation in Hammonds Plains-Lucasville and for its charitable contributions.

The Haunted Hollow is a small, local establishment on Hammonds Plains Road that gears up as a haunted walk around October each year, just in time for Halloween. Visitors get to take a trek in the woods behind a couple of houses filled with volunteers dressed up to play the part of ghosts and ghouls who scare and entertain their guests.

The Haunted Hollow takes on many students from local schools as volunteers, giving them valuable experience working in teams to create an engaging experience for guests, and each volunteer is offered a letter of recommendation following their service.

The Haunted Hollow regularly uses the funds made from the cost of admission to donate to local charities and this year, Mr. Speaker, their contributions will go to the Halifax Volunteer Search and Rescue among a couple of other charities.

Now I will ask all members of the House of Assembly to join me in wishing the Haunted Hollow all the best this coming Halloween season.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**SHARING MEALS: COM. FEASTS - THANKS**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give thanks for five days of meals shared over the past weekend.

On Thursday, Phoenix Youth and Community Centre hosted a community Thanksgiving meal. I arrived shortly after it had begun. People were already tucking into dessert, and I had the chance to have many good conversations with community members.

The next day on Friday, Ward 5 hosted a lunch where many community members, including Halifax Regional Police members, served a meal.

On Friday night, I joined members of St. Margaret of Scotland parish to help prepare 10 shepherd's pies for a meal that was served on Saturday at Saint George's.

On Sunday, my parents - currently hale and hearty, for which I am very thankful - hosted me and my family. My partner Andrew Leitao cooked the turkey, which was raised by Vance Morse of Windy View Farm in Tremont in the Annapolis Valley, and my sister brought the apples and pears from Wolfville - that's Sarah Roberts - all of which made me very thankful.

Finally, Monday, the Harbourside Rotary Club hosted 100 residents of Halifax Needham for a community meal - first come, first served.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

**EASTWOOD, ETHAN: DAL. SCHULICH LDRSHIP. AWARD - CONGRATS.**

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an amazing young man from Williamswood. Ethan Eastwood, at only 16 years old, not only graduated high school but he is also this year's recipient of the Dalhousie University Schulich Leadership Award. The Schulich Leadership Award is a scholarship offered to the most promising incoming science, technology, engineering and math students at top universities across Canada.

Ethan was home schooled until he reached Grade 11. He spent Grades 11 and 12 at J.L. Ilesley High School, where he skipped two grades when he was enrolled.

Mr. Speaker, Ethan entered the Dalhousie University Integrated Science Program this year. He is not sure what he wants to do yet, but the Integrated Science Program lets him explore many options.

I wish him all the best at university and his continued success with his academic career.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**HIRTLE, CONNOR: LIVING HIS BEST LIFE - CONGRATS.**

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, in the summer of 2015, Connor Hirtle, at the age of 21, was involved in a life-altering swimming pool accident that resulted in a C6-C7 spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed from the collarbone down. Despite physical limitations, Connor has moved forward with grit, determination and willpower. In his own words, he has chosen to live his best life. Indeed, Connor has a positive spirit and determination that shines through.

His mom and dad, LeAnne and Bertram, say he is a fighter and he is strong and doesn't give up. Connor recently graduated this past May with a Bachelor of Business Administration with distinction from Mount Saint Vincent University and has been accepted into the University of Florida's Master of Science in Sport Management program, which he will start in the Fall. Connor says: I've loved sports my entire life, especially hockey. I am no longer able to play sports, so this is an opportunity that I think fits my needs perfectly. His dream job is to be a GM for an NHL team.

Congratulations to Connor Hirtle of Dublin Shore on his recent graduation and best wishes as he pursues his master's and follows his dreams.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**VALLEY HARVEST MARATHON: GREAT EVENT - THANKS**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I know it will come as a surprise to many in this House but last week I turned 46 years old and to celebrate, I ran my first 10K race as part of the Valley Harvest Marathon in Wolfville. (Applause) Thank you. Wait, there's more.

I was happy to be joined by my Zuppa Theatre co-artistic director, Ben Stone, at the start line and then happy to high-five him as he was on his way back to the finish line as I got close to the five-kilometre mark.

I was also happy that it was my best 10K time ever because it was my first 10K time ever. I was also happy to see a certain Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, who had just completed the race before me.

While in Wolfville, Ben and I and our families enjoyed excellent Valley hospitality. We ate breakfast, picked apples and pumpkins, and marvelled at the Fall colours. It was also lovely to run past the stage door of what was then the Atlantic Theatre Festival, the theatre where I got my professional start many years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the organizers and many volunteers of the Valley Harvest Marathon for offering a wonderful event for this old girl to have a reason to get in shape and suck in some beautiful Valley air.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

**EISENHAUER, ERIC: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pay tribute to a very special man who has been volunteering for decades. Eric Eisenhauer has been a member of Meals on Wheels since it started serving meals to local residents in Bedford and Sackville. He shows little sign of slowing down, even though he is just about to turn 98.

Eric delivered meals for years and has been instrumental in selling 50-50 tickets to help fundraise for the organization. He first started volunteering when he was only 11 years old; he was part of a bucket brigade that helped put out a house fire. The experience may have inspired him to become a volunteer firefighter when he grew up.

Eric also ran a local cribbage club, which he organized until he turned 90. He's also a member of the men's breakfast group and often helps prepare the meals.

I'd like to thank Eric Eisenhower for giving back for so many decades and I'd like to wish him a very happy 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.

[2:00 p.m.]

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

#### **PREM. - BAY FERRIES: CONTRACT. OBLIGATIONS - BREACH**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, today, October 15<sup>th</sup>, marks the end of the Nova Scotia to Maine ferry season according to Tourism Nova Scotia. I'll table that. We learned from Bay Ferries on Friday that the 2019 sailing season is officially a total loss. I'll table that as well. My question for the Premier is: Did Bay Ferries breach their contractual obligations to the province by not operating a ferry service this year?

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): Mr. Speaker, as he would know, there has been an ongoing issue related to the ferry. We were hoping as Bay Ferries that the issue was related to U.S. Customs, not related to Bay Ferries. We continue to work with U.S. Customs, and we'll continue to do so.

It's my hope, as I've said to the media and outside this House, that we'll get an opportunity to sail the vessel into Bar Harbor to ensure the issues related to ramping and all those things are dealt with so that we can look forward to a tourism season next year which continues to grow with a record numbers of tourists and value that we've had in this province.

THE SPEAKER: I'd like to remind the honourable Leader of the Official Opposition that the line of questioning should not be seeking legal opinion or otherwise about contractual obligations.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition has the floor.

TIM HOUSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question around the performance under the contract the province has entered into is one that I'd like the Premier's opinion on. The terms of the operating agreement between Bay Ferries and the province requires that a ferry service be provided under subclause 2.01 of the contract. It says that Bay Ferries will establish a ferry service that provides daily return crossings for passengers between Yarmouth and Maine during the operating season, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.



We know that the ferry service didn't operate this year, and I'll table that clause from the contract. I would like to ask the Premier again: Did the Premier agree in writing with the operator that they did not need to provide a daily ferry service this year?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, the issue is not with Bay Ferries, the issue is U.S. Customs. As the honourable member would know, the issue is to make sure we have access through the U.S. border. As I've said many times in this House, there were a number of issues, and one related to the southern border was well documented in the global community. The same rules that were applying to that were put on the northern border, which became issues of making sure that we were able to get through customs. We appreciate the work that we've been doing with U.S. Customs to ensure that Bar Harbor will be ready for next Spring. We look forward to continuing to work with them.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, if the government's intention was to enter an agreement to bring tourists to the province, they would have signed a contract that aligned the interests of the operator and Nova Scotia. The fact of the matter is, the ferry service didn't operate at all this year, and Nova Scotians continued to pay - they paid over \$11 million. I don't even know where that money could possibly go because the boat never left the wharf. Even when you have a terrible contract as we do here, negotiated by this government, it's incumbent on the government to at least enforce the terms of that terrible contract.

I'd like to ask the Premier: In his view, have the terms of the contract been fulfilled or have they been breached?

THE SPEAKER: I've been advised by the Clerk that the line of questioning continues to seek an opinion as to whether a contract has been breached, so I'm going to disallow that final question.

The honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

### **PREM. - ENERGY POVERTY: POWER RATES - UNACCEPTABLE**

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, we're coming into the time of year when the furnace is cutting in more and the lights are on by supper, and that's a serious time of year for a lot of people in our province. In our part of Canada, we have higher rates of energy poverty than anywhere else in the country. The National Energy Board says that 13 per cent of our people face unsustainable energy burdens, and it's on average about \$500 a year that our people pay over the Canadian average in utilities.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier agree with me that it's unacceptable and wrong that there are thousands of people in our province who aren't going to be able to pay their energy bills this Winter?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable member for the question, one that I know is all important to all members of this House. I want to commend him for continuing to make sure that we remain focused on Nova Scotians who require the support of all members of this House.

He's highlighting a very important issue. It's not just energy poverty. Those who are living in poverty, whether it's related to rents - we continue as a government to make investments in programs like the Keep the Heat program. We've raised the personal allowance for those on income assistance, issued for those who are working with low incomes. We wanted to make sure - that's why we raised the basic personal exemption to allow them to keep more of their money to pay the bills related to their living circumstances.

It's why we continue to make sure that we do rent supps to help support families in communities, and it's why we'll continue to look for other opportunities that we can continue to make sure that we made life more affordable for those Nova Scotians who require our support.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, today the URB begins its public hearings on Nova Scotia Power's plan to jump rates by 4.5 per cent over the next three years. In 2017, the salary for the president of Nova Scotia Power was just under \$700,000, and just over one-third of that was paid by people's power bills. The salary for the CEO of Emera is around \$6 million.

Does the Premier agree with me that there's something wrong with this picture in a province with the lowest provincial income in the country?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, this is why we continue to make sure that we remain in support of controlling power rates. We're proud of the stability we have been able to create. As the honourable member would know, we ran an election campaign where rate stability was an important part of that conversation. People had gone through two consecutive governments with a 30 per cent increase and then almost 40 per cent.

We know all too well the importance of this issue to Nova Scotians. It's why we will continue to monitor and continue to work with communities across this province and green up the energy market to ensure that the energy we are producing is respectful of the environment, and at the same time ensuring that we can turn the lights on.

The issue he raised around executive compensation - what happens at Emera is outside of the province. It is a traded company that deals with their own - that's a shareholder issue. When he talks about the issues related to the CEO compensation at Nova Scotia Power, that's why we made sure that the entire compensation was not going to be borne by the ratepayers. A portion of that had to go to the shareholders and they would have to deal with that.

GARY BURRILL: Except, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier presented himself to the people of Nova Scotia as the person who was going to fix this problem. He was going to address power rates by - and these are his words - taking on Nova Scotia Power; I will table that. Seven years later, Nova Scotia Power hasn't been taken on and rates are getting set to jump again. Some of the poorest people in Canada are paying for some of the highest salaries in Nova Scotia.

Can the Premier then understand why his record on the power company is the subject of such disappointment?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the honourable member for the question. He answered the question himself when he talks about the fact that rates are going to grow by 4.6 per cent. I want to remind him that they grew by over 30 per cent in the four years the New Democratic Party was in government.

I also want to remind the honourable member that we continue to create Efficiency Nova Scotia, which competes at the Utility and Review Board on the fuel side mechanism. They go in and articulate the fact that they can reduce rates by saving Nova Scotians energy consumption. The utility board looks at that. That is a first of a kind in Canada, and the URB respects that. They've been able to keep rates down based on the fact that there's competition on the fuel side.

Furthermore, we continue to put programs together that allow Nova Scotians to apply for subsidies to make sure that they reduce their carbon footprint by reducing the energy consumption in individual homes.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

**PREM. - YARMOUTH FERRY: PORT RESPONSIBILITY - CLARIFY**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, the Premier referenced the issues with getting the Customs facility up and running in the States. He said that's the root cause.

I'd like to ask the Premier, just for clarity: Whose responsibility was it to make sure that it was a port that could accept the vessel? Was it the operator's responsibility or was it the government's responsibility?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with our partner to the south. As he would know, that government is independent of the Canadian government or the government of Nova Scotia. We continue to work with our partner to ensure that we have port of call for the vessel - as he knows, it was in Portland.

As I've said in this House many times, it was impossible for us to remain in the Portland port so we moved to Bar Harbor. There was an indication that that facility would

be up and going in time for us to be able to maximize parts of this season. The reality is that that didn't happen. We're looking forward to continuing to make sure that we deal with all the issues and looking forward to a positive tourism season next year.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I think it has been proven already that the decision to leave Portland was a mistake - there was no reason to leave Portland this year. That was a mistake that was made by either the operator or the government, or maybe both. I'm not sure. The fact of the matter, the reality, is that over \$11 million of taxpayer money has been paid, and there wasn't a single crossing. Since the contract clearly required crossings and there were none, there was a breach.

I'd like to ask the Premier: Did they waive - did they give notice to the operator not to worry about the terms of the contract, to do whatever they pleased and don't worry about the contract? Did they give that waiver to the operator?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, two things: he's completely wrong when it comes to the issue of Portland; let's be clear about that. No matter how many times you repeat a falsehood, it's still a falsehood.

The reality of it is, the issue with us is toward Customs. It's not a deal with Bay Ferries; it's a deal with U.S. Customs, and we have to respond to U.S. Customs to make sure that we meet all the obligations of the U.S. government when it comes to allowing people to go through a point of entry. Bar Harbor will be a point of entry.

THE SPEAKER: I'd like to remind the honourable Premier that the word "falsehood" is an unparliamentary term.

The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

### **BUS. - FILM INDUSTRY: LACK OF WORKERS - CONFIDENT**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Business.

Lately we have been hearing from film productions that cannot find crew. Many of these productions have been postponed or relocated to other provinces. Many have been smaller independent productions funded through the Department of Business. We hear that skilled film industry workers have left, either permanently or temporarily, to other parts of the country where they can find more reliable work.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister confident that all productions funded through his department can find crew here in Nova Scotia?

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. The answer is yes, I am confident in dealing with Screen Nova Scotia and the many stakeholders with whom we've developed relationships, in the Department of Business.

There seems to be a pretty positive momentum and positive atmosphere within the sector. There's great leadership within the industry. As the member knows, we've been part of many productions over the last number of months in terms of our investment through the incentive fund. We're going to keep building on that momentum and seeing that growth. Again, I'm very confident that the crews will be available.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, since the decision by this government to cancel credits and funding to the film industry, the impact has been monumental. Places like Toronto and Vancouver have taken full advantage of the Netflix boom in production in recent years while we have been left behind. The cancelled equity fund was critical to helping small productions get off the ground and find other sources of funding.

What accounting has the department done to take stock of the impact of these decisions on the film industry and on the Nova Scotia economy at large?

GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the member. We've done extensive analysis around the program. Obviously, this new incentive fund allows for a focus on local labour and local content. There's certainly investment in terms of that, and that's reflected in the numbers.

I think that, again, seeing the amount of investment that's happened by way of the incentive fund, seeing some pretty strong productions taking place in Nova Scotia, I think there's been tremendous success within that program.

I do agree with the member, or at least would like to acknowledge the fact that the online content - the Netflix world - is certainly changing the game. In talking to Screen Nova Scotia and talking to advocates and stakeholders, I don't feel as though we're missing out on that at all. I think our sector, our people, are working toward that. We will be right there to provide that content that the world needs.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **H&W - PRIVACY BREACH: TRAINING GAP - EXPOSE**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, in June the Nova Scotia Health Authority was busy notifying 2,841 people that their personal and private medical information might have been involved in a privacy breach - and I'll table that document.

These are vulnerable patients who expect their medical and private information to be kept confidential. An employee's email account was compromised due to a phishing

attempt on May 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Nova Scotia Health Authority IT department detected it on May 13<sup>th</sup>. It wasn't until weeks later that the Health Authority started informing those patients that their information may have been leaked. We had hoped the government had learned a lesson from the FOIPOP leak of 2018.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: What has his department done to establish the gap that's obviously missing in training that allowed a simple phishing attack to expose the private information of nearly 3,000 people in this province?

[2:15 p.m.]

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Maintaining the privacy of Nova Scotians' health information is of utmost importance. It's important to the health care professionals on the front line and all people who work in this area. They recognize that.

The scenario that was presented by the member, if I recall correctly, was phrased as a simple phishing attack. I believe the whole nature of these types of attacks is that they can trick even very educated and engaged people, and that exposes information. That's what happened in this case, as the member referenced, so efforts are under way to address the risks to the individuals affected, and to avoid it in the future of course.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: The breaking of confidential medical information is very serious - very serious. Everyone working in health care understands the core basic requirements of keeping people's medical information confidential. In fact, in most workplaces, a breach in confidentiality actually results in termination of employment. The Nova Scotia Privacy Commissioner's annual report stated that 865 privacy breaches of medical records between April 2018 and March 2019 have occurred - that is a lot. I will table that document.

My question to the minister is: How many people's jobs have been terminated as a result of 865 privacy breaches of medical records, and what steps is this government taking to ensure there will be no further breaches of people's private medical information in this province?

RANDY DELOREY: As I noted, everybody agrees that maintaining personal health information records is important. It's important to maintain the trust of the public and the health care that's being provided. Unfortunately, the member referenced an example where an individual with no malicious intent fell victim to a phishing attack, and that resulted in a breach.

What I can advise is that when breaches come forward, when we become aware of them, there is a very clear process in place to review and investigate, notify those individuals impacted, and take corrective action to try to strengthen our controls and prevent it from happening again.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

### **H&W - PHISHING ATTACK: OPOR RISKS - CONCERN**

COLTON LEBLANC: A basic phishing attack exposed thousands of Nova Scotians' health records. Meanwhile, the government is lurching towards the implementation of One Person One Record, which will put even more information into the cloud. This government doesn't have a great record of protecting information online, and two years in a row this has been made clear. This time it was a breach of 3,000 records. Last time, it was 7,000. Nova Scotians want some certainty around security as more and more sensitive information is centralized online by government.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Is he worried at all about health information being protected in One Person One Record when a phishing attack managed to expose thousands of records online?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: The work that's ongoing with standardizing and modernizing our hospital information system is something that front-line clinicians have advocated for. They recognize the importance of this, not just for the modern technology that it provides them for the work they do, but also to ensure the accuracy of information and the speed by which information moves from one clinician to another.

It's very important that we have heard from front-line health care workers. As work goes along with technology, so do some other challenges, like managing privacy. But that's part of the work that's done with these new system implementations as well.

COLTON LEBLANC: Nova Scotians know very little about One Person One Record as the project has continued to develop. What they deserve is peace of mind about the safety and security of their personal information.

There's a lot of anxiety about this program, and a lot of that stems from the government's record of flimsy digital security. I'll remind the minister that the FOIPOP leak was accomplished with a procedure even less sophisticated than a phishing email.

How will Nova Scotians be informed of One Person One Record's privacy measures as the project proceeds?

RANDY DELOREY: I think it's inappropriate to compare these two systems - the system that was being utilized for freedom of information and the systems that are developed to meet stringent security standards for health care data and information.

What I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, and all members of the Legislature - indeed all Nova Scotians - is that the fact of the matter is, the clinical information is necessary. These systems that allow that information to be accessible to the health care providers who need

it so they can deliver the care that Nova Scotians need - that's what these systems are designed to do. Protecting the privacy is part of that system implementation and is of the utmost importance.

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

### **H&W - DRUG INFO. SYS.: OVERSIGHT - CREATE**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, in August 2018, when a pharmacist snooped through the private medical records of 46 people, the Department of Health and Wellness conducted an investigation. That investigation was later described as inadequate by the Privacy Commissioner, and I'll table that.

This investigation found that the pharmacist was routinely surfing through prescription information of people she knew who weren't her patients. The Personal Health Information Act dictates that there should be a body to oversee the drug information system, but as of yet that does not seem to exist. What the pharmacist did wasn't a sophisticated hack.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Does the department intend to create a body to oversee the drug information system and other medical databases, as is currently enabled by the Personal Health Information Act? Yes or no?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: The situation the member cited is correct. In fact, what the member highlights in that particular instance is that in unsophisticated systems in health care record management - i.e., traditional paper-based methods - breaches also could occur. The advantage of having a technology platform is that it allows for auditing and tracking of these breaches when they occur so that accountability can be held when going through with these systems.

Through the review, there have been a number of recommendations for the breach and the review that took place, and work is under way on those recommendations.

BARBARA ADAMS: I guess I'm to assume that that answer was no. Unlike the question that the member for Cumberland North asked as to how many people were fired from the Nova Scotia Health Authority, we didn't get an answer to that, although we do know that Sobeys fired the pharmacist, so at least somebody's able to take action.

An inadequate investigation into a serious issue is, to be frank, an inadequate response by this government. Nova Scotians deserve some degree of comfort that their private information will be kept that way. Here we have an instance of a government department not doing enough to get to the bottom of what happened, and they're still dithering about the recommendations.



If only they cared that much about keeping the personal information of Nova Scotians as protected as a year-old 811 report and the management fee for the Nova Scotia ferry.

My question to the minister is: Can the minister explain why the department is often in a reactive position when it comes to safeguarding private information, and will he commit to implementing the oversight of the drug information system as was recommended?

RANDY DELOREY: I disagree with the premise that the member opposite began with. The fact is, the health systems are not in a reactive system. There are audit programs that monitor information throughout our health system to flag when instances of breaches may occur, or inappropriate access is taking place. We have systems in place to assist us with that.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about being reactive. In fact, the department and the Health Authority are actually being very proactive in many of their systems. As I had responded in the first part of the question, the recommendations that came forward are part of the learning. As the member would know, just like in accounting and audit processes, controls evolve and develop over time, and when an error occurs, you learn from those experiences and strengthen it going forward.

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

#### **H&W - PRIVACY BREACHES: INFO. - DISCLOSE**

BRIAN COMER: Many departments that have had privacy breaches have expressed that they are a result of human error: sending an email to the wrong person, putting the wrong letter in the wrong envelope, faxing to the wrong office. This kind of human error happens to everyone. Our health system continues to rely very heavily on faxes as a means of communication. Other departments have declared how many human error privacy breaches they have experienced, but the information is less clear from the Department of Health and Wellness.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Can you disclose the number of instances of medical records being faxed to the wrong medical professional, individual, or other third party in the last five years?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: As noted, the privacy rules in place make it very clear that when a breach is identified it is something that needs to be reported and we investigate, through the investigative process, the source of the breach and what steps may be taken to avoid such a breach in the future. We take steps to strengthen our controls and our processes in place to avoid the same type of incident taking place going forward.

BRIAN COMER: There are specialists who are faxing documents, sometimes once a week, to offices that are literally across the street. Faxing documents takes additional time, is relatively insecure and is, quite frankly, old-fashioned. Health care technology is advancing at a breakneck pace, but for some reason fax machines still act as one of the primary communication methods in our system.

We don't even need some leading-edge technology to solve this problem, since secure and efficient alternatives to the fax machine were introduced years ago. Does the minister acknowledge that there are technological advancements that would make the transmission of medical information more secure and efficient today and we don't have to wait for One Person One Record?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work that has gone on to improve access to and the flow of information, including, with our hospital systems, the One Person One Record. Ongoing upgrades have taken place over the past year in physician offices, from one end of the province to the other, with electronic medical records or EMRs.

There's work being done on the national scope to look at the opportunity for prescribing, to have further integration into pharmacies directly from physician health care systems. There's a lot of work ongoing to improve the flow of information and reduce the risks to patients.

I find it interesting that the first question was about the use of technology and how that exposes privacy weaknesses, and now we're talking about old technology that exposes privacy breaches. The fact of the matter is that there are always going to be challenges. Our effort is to improve moving forward.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

### **EECD - FED. ELECTION: TEACHER DIRECTIVES - CONFIRM**

CLAUDIA CHENDER: My question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. During this election and many elections, high schools and junior highs across the province organize candidate forums to engage young people in learning about the democratic process. Regrettably, in this election some politicians are spreading racist messages regarding immigrants, refugees, and other diverse members of our communities.

In Nova Scotia, the People's Party of Canada and the National Citizens Alliance are running candidates in several ridings. Some teachers have received a directive that candidates in a riding must be invited - all must be invited if one is invited.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister confirm that his department issued a directive that teachers could face discipline for not inviting PPC and NCA candidates into their classrooms?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: We did leave the decision here with the department staff and also the union to come up with a strategy for this. We did not think it was appropriate to have the political wing of government involved with that.

The rationale behind allowing all candidates to participate is simply one of fairness. This is the democratic process. We do want our students to be able to hear the various thoughts and opinions that are out there and understand the debate. However, we do have some protections in place when it comes to language around hate or discrimination. That is found in our code of conduct and any visitor, including a candidate of a particular Party, would need to follow that code of conduct to enter into one of our schools. If they do not follow that code of conduct, they will be asked to leave.

[2:30 p.m.]

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I thought that the buck passing stopped with the elimination of school boards, but apparently not. I would be shocked to hear our colleagues in the education centres and the unions agree with this decision.

Mr. Speaker, the Education Act defines unacceptable behaviour as behaviour that endangers the well-being of others or significantly disrupts the learning of others and includes discriminatory behaviour or racist behaviour. I think we're all sophisticated enough in this Chamber to understand what a dog whistle is, and that's something that can fall on the ears of a 16- or 17-year-old the same way it can fall on ours.

Records obtained by media show that the former leader of the U.S. neo-Nazi group and a former Soldiers of Odin member were among those whose signatures were submitted to Elections Canada last year to register the People's Party, with no review from her Party. The candidate for Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook has tweeted that Islam is pure evil; Islam has no place in Canadian society.

Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree that inviting these Parties into schools violate the standards of behaviour set out in the Education Act?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, if a candidate or any visitor into any of our schools on any given day - even during a federal election - exhibits behaviour or voices opinions that are not in line with the Education Act or the code of conduct, they are not welcomed into the school or, if they're in the school, they will be asked to leave.

We do have policies in place to protect our students from this sort of language and behaviour.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

### **H&W - TOWN OF BARRINGTON: DIALYSIS UNIT - NEED**

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the minister's attention an issue that my predecessor raised quite often here in this House. As the minister would know, residents of Barrington have been asking for a satellite dialysis unit for years. To date, these pleas have gone unanswered. The minister instead makes comments about investments, looking into it or working through it, and I'll table that.

Last year he confirmed that Barrington was not among the communities set to receive a satellite dialysis unit, although six others have received new or expanded services in recent years and more investments were just announced today at Dartmouth General Hospital.

I will underline to the minister that years are passing by and a serious need in Barrington is going unmet. My question for the minister is: Can he please tell Barrington residents specifically when they can expect a lifesaving satellite dialysis clinic in their area?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, indeed, as the member noted, the importance of dialysis and the impact to patients and their caregivers or loved ones is significant: the investment of time that it takes - up to three to four times a week between three and five hours per day - to have your blood cleaned as part of the dialysis process.

I was pleased to announce that the funding to continue the construction at Dartmouth General Hospital was made earlier today. That's part of the broader dialysis commitments that we had made earlier, a couple of years ago. As I've noted to the member's predecessor, that was work that was done with several years of planning in place. We need to get those dialysis programs up and running before we consider further expansion beyond that point.

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately my constituents in Barrington didn't get an answer. One of my constituents, Artie Smith, is one of those Barrington residents in desperate need of improved dialysis services. He lives in Woods Harbour and for the last seven years he has spent several hours, three days a week, driving back and forth to Yarmouth Regional Hospital for dialysis treatment. It's 60 kilometres one way, so that's 1,400 kilometers a month, to access dialysis services.

He became acutely ill last month and was admitted to Yarmouth Regional Hospital. He urgently required dialysis on a Sunday. He and his wife were shocked to discover the hospital has no dialysis, or even an on-call nurse, for dialysis on Sundays. The option available was to send a dialysis nurse from Halifax at great expense to the hospital and to risk endangering Artie's life if the nurse did not arrive on time.

Does the minister think that an emergency on-call dialysis nurse should be required at Yarmouth Regional Hospital on Sunday and will he work with NSHA to establish this position?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated in my first response, as the member referenced in the specifics of his follow-up question, this is the impact of dialysis on those who are receiving it and on their loved ones. Again, for those of us who may never have experienced it, it's hard for us to really truly comprehend and appreciate what that type of time commitment and the interruptions that it takes - again, three to four days a week, upwards of four to five hours per day - to receive this life saving treatment.

That is why we've invested to expand the access to dialysis across the province at six different sites. That work is ongoing to get those sites up and running.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **H&W - IMPROVE VACCINATION RATES: COMMENT**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, we want to protect our own children whenever possible and certainly my colleagues and I here in the Progressive Conservative caucus want to make sure we're protecting the children of this province. We learned recently, in the Spring, that Nova Scotia has some of the lowest vaccination rates for measles in the country; in fact, only Nunavut has a lower vaccination rate. Our rate is 71.7 per cent and the national average is 85.7 per cent - and I'll table that document.

Over the long-term, Mr. Speaker, insufficient vaccination rates pose a serious public health threat to our population. My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness: Can he let us know what his department is doing to protect the children of this province and ensure we improve vaccination rates for all children?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for this important question. Indeed, it's true that receiving vaccinations including the flu shot will be coming on stream for all Nova Scotians, not just our youth. For our vaccination programs, there have been expansions into the schools for certain vaccines that are taking place.

From a clinical perspective, I certainly take the lead from our public health officials. Indeed, part of that work is to remind all Nova Scotians of the importance of obtaining the vaccinations, keeping their vaccinations up to date, not just for youths but indeed for our entire population.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, the World Health Organization cites vaccinations hesitancy is one of the top 10 global threats in 2019 - and I'll table that document - but vaccination hesitancy is just one reason that we believe vaccinations are dropping. The other is accessibility. The fact of the matter is, Nova Scotians without a

family doctor struggle to receive their vaccinations. There is a direct link, we believe, with the fact that many Nova Scotians do not have access to primary health care, basic health care in this province.

My question to the minister: How can he guarantee that all children in the province of Nova Scotia have access to receive these life-protecting vaccinations that they all deserve?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I believe I can guarantee because for youth who are in need, public health officials can help by providing vaccinations if necessary. So, that's how I can guarantee the access.

To the premise of the member's starting point, suggesting that vaccination rates are somehow lower or impacted by access to primary care, there's a flaw in the logic there. Nova Scotia has one of the best access relative to our national counterparts. We are in the top of the comparative across our provinces with access to primary care. The premise of the question was actually flawed from that point.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

#### **JUSTICE - CANNABIS EDUCATION: BETTER JOB - COMMENT**

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister responsible for NSLC. It's been almost one year since cannabis was legalized. Now the RCMP reports in Nova Scotia that they issued 172 tickets and 47 warnings related to drivers illegally transporting cannabis. I'll table that. That works out to about a ticket every couple of days. Drivers are purchasing the product and leaving it in their front seat.

Does the government need to do a better job of educating cannabis buyers to keep them on the right side of the law?

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. We recognize that there is high incidence of this particular offense that my colleague has identified, so much so that we worked with Communications Nova Scotia to develop a short video that's been on the TV for some time now. It identifies this very apparent offense and the solution to that offense. The descriptors in this video are very good and it meets the intended purpose of my colleague's question.

ALLAN MACMASTER: I can appreciate the Minister of Justice answering this question. My line of questioning was directed more so towards NSLC policy and how the NSLC is dealing with this, but I am certainly happy to hear an answer from whomever, Mr. Speaker.

When cannabis retail began at the NSLC, the product was provided to customers in a small paper bag. There was even a sticker affixed to the bag to keep it closed and it said “Keep Sealed While in Store.” There are even pictures of it in the newspaper for those of us who haven’t actually gone in and purchased any.

So, Mr. Speaker, there may be a good reason for this, but since last October we have heard reports that the product is no longer being provided to customers in sealed bags. I would like to ask the minister: Can he explain why the change in this policy?

MARK FUREY: As recently as last week the RCMP did a public information session at their headquarters in Dartmouth where they invited media and others, where they actually demonstrated the process in securing these products in the trunk or in areas of other vehicles, either single-use or dual-passenger motorcycles.

My understanding is up until this very last week those very products were being used.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

#### **COM. SERV. - IA RECIPIENTS: MED. MARIJUANA COSTS - RECOGNIZE**

HON. PAT DUNN: My question is for the Minister of Community Services. As we are all aware, recreational marijuana is now legal in Canada. When speaking with a few constituents, they claim the benefits of medical marijuana help them manage chronic conditions. However, if you are a recipient of income assistance in our province and require financial support to provide you the opportunity and ability to see your medical specialist outside your immediate area, the policy does not permit any support due to the fact that the matter involves marijuana.

I would like to ask the minister: Does the minister recognize the unacceptable situation that exists under this current policy?

HON. KELLY REGAN: I’m sorry, I did have some trouble hearing the member’s question. The member was saying that if a community member needs some help getting to see a physician to get medical marijuana prescribed, and if that is outside their area, they aren’t able to access transportation money to get there. Is that what the member was saying?

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that. What I will say is that under Department of Community Services policy for a number of years - it first began under the New Democratic Party and has continued under us - there is no plan that, in fact, covers medical marijuana. I’m not aware of any private plan that does that as well as the Pharmacare Plan.

PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, the constituent I am speaking of is experiencing incredible success in the use of medical marijuana in treating his severe epilepsy. He is experiencing a reduction in seizures with little to no side effects.

We are aware that perhaps changes may be coming within our Department of Community Services. In the meantime, what would the minister have us tell our constituents who are so negatively impacted by this outdated policy when it comes to the eligibility of this medical travel allowance to seek medical care when dealing with marijuana?

KELLY REGAN: Thank you to the member for the question. I would note that members of the community can order marijuana online and have it delivered directly to their home.

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

### **ENERGY & MINES - RATE INCREASES: FIXED INCOMES - ACTION**

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, for the past two meetings the Seniors Take Action Coalition in Cape Breton-Richmond have raised concerns about a request for rate increases by Nova Scotia Power.

On October 5, 2019, the Coalition wrote to the Utility and Review Board citing issues of fixed income, poor line maintenance, and random charges on electricity bills.

Electricity is a basic necessity, and seniors and those on fixed incomes should not have to make a decision whether to pay their inflated electrical bill or have a healthy meal or take needed medication.

I would like to ask the Minister of Energy and Mines: Can the minister shed light on what his department is doing to help mitigate the increased costs of living for those living on fixed incomes, especially with regard to energy costs?

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: I thank the member for the question. I'll start by saying that 16,000 Nova Scotians have been able to access programs through our low-income efficiency programs, so we've seen a big uptake in that.

We have expanded all our efficiency programs from houses that were just heated traditionally with electricity, now other heating sources, so hundreds of families are accessing that program as well. We continue to expand our programs to ensure that as many Nova Scotians as possible can utilize the programs, which will positively impact their electricity rates.



ALANA PAON: I thank the minister for his answer. There are also thousands of Nova Scotians that cannot access that program because they're in that unfortunate in-between stage where they are not low income enough, and don't make enough money to actually do the repairs to their homes.

As a province where 38 per cent of Nova Scotians are struggling to pay their power bills, another rate increase seems totally out of touch with - what the coalition refers to as a morally reprehensible increase - the economic reality of so many Nova Scotians.

[2:45 p.m.]

I would ask the minister once again: Is he concerned about the rate increases that Emera is asking for once again, when basic services in this province, such as clearing trees and new infrastructure being put in, like poles, can't even be done?

DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Nova Scotians have experienced rate stability over the last number of years. That continues to be our focus. Ultimately, the URB will decide what the rates will be but for us as a government, as I have said, we're going to continue to expand programs to ensure as many Nova Scotians as possible can see their rates impacted positively. As I've said, we've expanded all of our efficiency programs; over 16,000 low-income Nova Scotians have utilized programs. In partnership with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, we're going to spend millions to retrofit our public housing stock. Again, Mr. Speaker, in a new program - first in Canada - with our Mi'kmaq partners, we're going to see energy efficiency to 2,400 homes across the province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**H&W - NSCC LUN./SHELB.: CCA BURSARY PROG. - EXCLUSION**

KIM MASLAND: My question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. On July 29, 2019, the Minister of Health and Wellness announced a bursary incentive funded through a federal government grant for enrolment at NSCC continuing care assistant programs. I'll table that. These bursaries were directed to NSCC campuses located in areas deemed to have the greatest CCA need. The four English campuses selected were Port Hawkesbury, Kentville, Middleton, and Amherst. Although Lunenburg and Shelburne campuses are not on the list, I can tell you, in Queens-Shelburne, we have a serious need for CCA graduates.

Does the minister believe it's fair to interested students in my area to leave the Lunenburg and Shelburne campuses off the list?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for highlighting this important program that we invested in this year, Mr. Speaker, a program that resulted from a

recommendation from the expert panel that we struck last year to improve the quality in our long-term care settings. The fact is that we wanted to get this program out, we wanted to get it out efficiently, and we wanted to get it out in a way that would have the greatest impact in the most efficient way possible. That's why we narrowed the initial round of applicants to those sites targeted. As all of the bursaries did not go in that round, we did expand it to other locations throughout the province after the first round was complete.

**KIM MASLAND:** Mr. Speaker, we spoke with the NSCC and were told that the announced CCA bursary funding was only a one-off for 2019-20 and that it would be determined in July or August of 2020 whether the program would be reinstated for upcoming semesters. The school was also unsure which campuses would be eligible in the funding returns. This bursary clearly needs more lead time than a month if those prospective students who are in need are going to take advantage of it. There needs to be clarity around who is going to be eligible.

My question is: Will the minister commit to reinstating the CCA bursary in the 2020-21 school year, publicizing it with more than a month's notice and including the Lunenburg and Shelburne NSCC campuses?

**RANDY DELOREY:** We received the recommendations in January 2019. We took those recommendations, and we took action on them. Just a few weeks ago, we released an update, after nine months of progress, based upon all of those recommendations. There is progress being made on the short- medium- and long-term recommendations that have come forward. We have taken a lot of steps, Mr. Speaker. This bursary program is just one of those recommendations. We did move very quickly. We wanted to get the funding out this year. That's exactly what we did.

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable member for Sackville-Beaver Bank.

**BRAD JOHNS:** Mr. Speaker, on Friday I stood and was about to ask a question to the Minister of Health and Wellness, and it was a follow-up of the previous week, but unfortunately, I ran out of time and wasn't able to ask that question. With that, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Wellness very quickly: Minister, did you have a nice Thanksgiving?

**THE SPEAKER:** Order, please. The time allotted for Oral Questions Put by Members to Ministers has expired. We'll now move on to the order of business, Government Business.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable Government House Leader.

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

### **PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 189.

#### **Bill No. 189 - House of Assembly Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 189, An Act to Amend Chapter 1 (1992 Supplement) of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the House of Assembly Act, be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today about amendments to the House of Assembly Act that will provide clarity to elected officials and protect against potential conflicts of interest. The House of Assembly Act already requires sitting MLAs to resign when they run for federal office. The change today will clarify when MLAs who have decided to run for another level of office must resign their seat in the provincial House of Assembly.

With this amendment, MLAs will need to give notice of their resignation immediately after being selected in a nomination contest or otherwise chosen by a federal political Party or, if running as an Independent candidate, once confirmed as a candidate under the Canada Elections Act. Notice would also be required once an MLA has been officially nominated to run in a municipal election or is selected in a nomination contest or otherwise chosen by a political Party to run in another province's provincial election or, if running as an Independent candidate, once confirmed as a candidate under that province's election legislation.

This change will help ensure that MLAs who decide to run for another level of government are free to focus on that new work and are protected from perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that this amendment pertains to MLAs who are running for office at another level of government. Elected MLAs who are running for re-election are not impacted by these changes, nor should they be. As we all know, when an election is called, the business of government must continue for the benefit of the citizens of Nova Scotia. Cabinet ministers are needed and required to execute the mandate of the departments and government. The continuation of these roles is critical to the

seamless operation and delivery of government programs and services for Nova Scotians. Members of the Legislature still serve their constituents right up until election day.

Service to constituents who elected us is exactly what this bill aims to achieve. The people we serve expect that there will be clear rules in place to determine when MLAs who are pursuing new opportunities should resign. Mr. Speaker, currently there are rules; however, there has been confusion around the timeline. This change is about ending the commitment to one elected office in pursuit of another elected office.

Currently, MLAs can continue to hold their seat for extended periods even after being selected as a candidate for another level of government. This can be as late as 21 days before election day, leaving the potential for months of campaigning for another elected office while still being expected to fulfill their current responsibilities as an MLA. This change supports a more transparent system of democracy with clear expectations and rules that will benefit both MLAs and the people we serve.

With those few comments, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the comments of my colleagues.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to rise and speak to Bill No. 189, the House of Assembly Act. This bill is the right thing to do. This bill makes persons who run for the House of Commons, the legislature of another province or territory, or municipal office in Nova Scotia ineligible to serve as members of the House of Assembly upon the earlier of being chosen by a political Party or confirmed as a candidate.

This bill means that an MLA cannot hold on to their job and its salary while campaigning for another job. Amendments will enshrine in law rules for when an MLA is selected in a nomination contest or otherwise chosen by a political Party registered under the Canada Elections Act or the elections legislation of another province of Canada to be a candidate for that Party for the representation of any electoral district in the House of Commons or the Legislature of another province in Canada, or is confirmed as a candidate under the Canada Elections Act or the elections legislation of another province of Canada for the representation of any electoral district in the House of Commons or Legislature.

These defined changes to the House of Assembly Act will provide clarity when Members of the Legislative Assembly choose to seek office for whatever level of government, and it will protect the member from perceived conflicts of interest, allowing them to focus on the work that they have chosen. Our constituents expect us as MLAs to focus on the job we were elected to do and that is to serve and represent the issues of our constituency.

The jobs we have as MLAs are busy. I cannot imagine how you could effectively continue to give that 200 per cent to your constituents and constituency when you are focusing on a campaign for another level of government. Citizens expect to be represented and citizens deserve to be represented.

These amendments are the right thing to do. This levels the playing field. The PC caucus supports these important amendments and we look forward to hearing from Nova Scotians at the Committee on Law Amendments.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise and say a few words about this bill which I think brings some needed clarity to the process for sitting members who seek office in another order of government.

I think all of us in this Chamber have experienced the sort of leap of faith that it takes to decide to run for office. It should be no different if any of us, or our colleagues in other orders of government - which I think will be dealt with in a complementary bill - decide to run for a different office. I think we hear much derision around so-called career politicians, and I think my own sense of the work we do in this Chamber is it is in fact incredibly important.

It's also incredibly important that the public holds the work that we do, and the people who do the work, in the highest esteem possible and that we earn the public's trust over and over again as we sit here in our seats.

I see this legislation as providing clarity - providing definition - both to elected members, but also to the public in how their elected members conduct themselves in this particular situation and what the clear path is for going forward. I acknowledge the minister's remarks. I think there was some lack of clarity previously, so without casting aspersions on anyone, I think clarity is always welcome in the legislative context.

We are pleased to see these, and I look forward to hearing from anyone who presents at the Committee on Law Amendments.

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

The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments from my colleague in Queens-Shelburne and Dartmouth South. With those comments, I rise to close debate on Bill No. 189.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 189. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

Just before I go back to the Government House Leader, I have a little bit of housekeeping here. The Clerk had brought to my attention a document that was tabled by the honourable member for Cape Breton-Richmond. It is a communication between - I assume - a constituent and the member. The sender's information is redacted, which goes against the policies for tabling documents in this House.

I will return this to the honourable member and, if she wishes to retable without redactions on the identity, we will be happy to accept it.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 191.

**Bill No. 191 - An Act Respecting Candidacy of Municipal Councillors for Other Elected Offices.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move Bill No. 191, an Act to Amend Chapter 300 of the Revised Statutes of 1989, the Municipal Elections Act, be now read for a second time.

These amendments to the Municipal Elections Act will make it easier for Nova Scotians to vote in municipal elections and elections for the French school board. Voter turnout for municipal elections has not been the greatest in recent years. In 2016, only 46.5 per cent of Nova Scotians participated in choosing who would govern their communities, and yet no level of government is closer to the people that it serves than municipal councils.

Mr. Speaker, municipal councils make important decisions that directly affect us in our daily lives. They make sure the streetlights are on, the water is safe to drink, and our garbage is picked up. By making it easier to vote, we hope that more people will exercise their most basic democratic right to choose who makes those decisions about key services in their communities.

I'd like to take a few minutes now to say a few words about each of the five amendments that are being proposed. First, we'll make it possible for people to vote in

advance at central polling stations outside their electoral district, if it's convenient to do so.

[3:00 p.m.]

Second, in the event of an emergency where a substantial number of electors will not be able to vote on election day, returning officers will be able to extend the polling hours until midnight. This will provide more time for electors to vote.

Mr. Speaker, our third amendment relates to the nomination requirements. Currently the Act requires that a candidate meet with the returning officer to file nomination papers five business days before the nomination day. Feedback from returning officers has indicated that was not enough time, particularly in larger municipalities. Through this amendment we propose changing this to seven days, which will allow more time for returning officers to take appointments for nominations during regular scheduled hours.

The fourth amendment we are proposing will increase the maximum number of electors for each polling station, from 700 to 1,000.

Lastly, we are requesting that we amend the Act to provide clarity that citizen or volunteer members appointed to boards and committees by municipal councils are not required to take a leave of absence from the board or committee to be nominated and serve, if eligible, in a municipal election.

All these amendments were developed by a committee of election officials and department staff who reviewed the 2016 election. It's a normal practice. This kind of review is done every four years following the municipal elections.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these amendments for their time and their thoughtful consideration of how we can continuously improve our legislation. Together we are removing barriers so that Nova Scotians can more easily step up to the ballot box and cast their vote for good local governments.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, I'd just ask for clarification if we're speaking to Bill No. 192 or Bill No. 191.

THE SPEAKER: The bill on the table is Bill No. 191.

The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the clarification. My caucus is looking forward to hearing more discussion on Bill No. 191 in Law Amendments Committee. I will make one comment to it.

Our agreement around the table was that we would like to see a more province-wide policy versus a patchwork of policies of 50 different policies. Bill No. 191 is asking that each municipality create their own policy, so you could have one county say that a municipal councillor would have to resign if they are running for another office, and then in the neighbouring municipality they wouldn't have to resign. We're suggesting that the province set the policy, rather than having 50 potentially different policies province-wise.

With that, I'll end discussion on Bill No. 191 and look forward to Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Just a point of order on the clarification around the question from the honourable member. I believe she spoke to what might be the next bill that I am going to address with regard to policies and such. I just wanted to raise that. I think it only fair that she may receive that clarity around which bill we are actually speaking to here. I stand to be corrected, but by way of her remarks, it appeared as though she might be referencing Bill No. 192.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I think I am joining the general confusion because from my notes on these bills it is perhaps - I understood the minister to be speaking to Bill No. 192 in lieu of Bill No. 191. But we are currently debating Bill No. 191, so I will continue with that.

We're glad to see municipalities given the ability to create policies around councillors who are seeking other levels of office, and we look forward to hearing at Law Amendments Committee if there are any particular concerns about that being left to municipalities.

It's interesting - in this province we often seem to leave things to municipalities in some circumstances when they have asked for clarity from the province, and then in other circumstances their requests are left on the minister's desk for many years without action taken on them, when that initiative is actually coming from municipalities.

One thing that this is making me think of is how unfortunate it is that a request made years ago by both the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities and Halifax Regional Municipality was not addressed at this juncture, which was a request that is reflected in a



bill from the NDP caucus that would allow permanent residents to vote in municipal elections.

This seems like a perfect juncture to respond to that request, which I know has had considerable support and I think caused real excitement at the time Halifax raised that. It was shortly before I was elected in a by-election and going door to door and often encountering permanent residents. They were very excited to see that that was going to happen. They had an expectation that it would happen because it had been requested by the Halifax Regional Municipality. Yet here we are, a year out from the next municipal election, and there has been no action on that, and frankly I have not heard an explanation that is adequate.

In this moment of the federal election when I've been volunteering, I've been encountering permanent residents who are volunteering. It's good to get people involved. It's good to create new pathways for people to get involved in our community, and we know that for any number of reasons, people may be permanent residents for a long period of time, but certainly at the level of municipal government decision making, their voices can really contribute. So why not allow them to vote?

But that's not what we're talking about. We're talking about Bill No. 191, apparently, and we look forward to hearing from folks at Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: Just to provide some clarity here, there is some confusion because the bills are similar, and they are sequential. I am going to give the minister the opportunity to stand up and start the discussion over again for Bill No. 191, an Act Respecting the Candidacy of Municipal Councillors for Other Elected Offices.

We will give every member who wants to speak to this bill a chance, or a second chance, whatever the case may be.

I will ask the minister to move Bill No. 191 one more time.

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, it's where I just arrived in this House. After all the years I've been here, I'm still learning, so I beg your indulgence. Two bills with 191 written on them, probably not helpful, but that's my problem.

I do thank the honourable members for their patience here, and correctly I will move Bill No. 191 to be read for a second time.

That does indeed involve the candidacy of municipal councillors for elected offices. I am not going to go through all of what I had read earlier again, although they are different. I can see the honourable member clapping over there. I appreciate that.

I want to say that I appreciate the comments thus far, and by all means, if others wish to speak, I look forward to those comments.

This is about municipal councillors and when they should be required - these are changes to the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Government Act, as well as the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, with regard to that candidacy. It does clarify the steps. It does leave with each of those municipal units the ability to create policy.

We've had some initial conversations with the NSFM, and I think I said earlier in the media and bill briefing that we would certainly like to see one policy across the board.

We will work with our team and municipalities like we do on every other issue. That would certainly be our goal. But this is an enabling piece of legislation. There would be some variables between the different municipalities but, generally speaking, these rules would be consistently applied across and we would expect the consistency to be there. We have a great partner in the NSFM and we look forward to working with them in the consultation period that we would go through to get there.

With those few words, and my apologies to the members of this House, I move that Bill No. 191 now be read a second time.

THE SPEAKER: Does the honourable member for Cumberland North wish to speak to this bill again?

The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: I'm still learning, as well. I have a little bit of recent experience with the intent of this bill. What I'd like to say though is, what perhaps the government is trying to achieve is not going to be achieved here.

This, unlike the bill introduced a moment ago, does not provide that clarity nor that definition. What it talks about is a municipal unit being able to decide what it wants to do. It talks about deciding whether one ought to resign, if one ought to take a leave of absence and also, if you decide not to resign - if you take a leave of absence - here are some of the criteria. Do you do it with pay or without pay? Then it also talks about should you also decide not to resign, then you actually would have to take a look at some other things.

The intent here, I think, is to provide clarity around the process and the things that a municipal unit would consider. The outcome, though - I don't know if it's really achieving what we're looking for here, which is that clarity. The clarity as far as MLAs go is quite clear. That's great.

A councillor, I would suspect, would also look for that clarity. I can tell you that in the recent election, there was great clarity within the municipal unit as to what was

permitted and not permitted, and that was substantiated by the Chief Electoral Officer of Nova Scotia. So that could still happen; that could absolutely still happen.

It also could be, though, that the municipality would take a policy and say that a member would have to resign, a councillor would have to resign. If this is a by-election situation, perhaps - and this does not necessarily distinguish between a general election or a by-election - the member or the councillor would be faced with a decision: Are the constituents to be unrepresented at two orders of government? That is the big question.

There is no evaluation of performance of members of this House of Assembly. There is no measure of performance by a councillor nor a member of Parliament. So, then what are you faced with? Some people will say that I will serve my residents, those who elected me. People holding these positions have already been elected and have a duty to do that until such time as they are not - until such time as they are elected to another position or to another job. That holds true for most.

I believe in the intent of this piece of legislation; I do not believe it goes far enough. If legislation can decide that a member of the Legislative Assembly cannot do certain things, then why not decide that a municipal councillor cannot do certain things? We need clarity there too, in my opinion. I would ask that people look at this again, and I will leave it at that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Minister, for clarifying which bill you were talking on. I appreciate that. It's one of those things where the process is so important. Our democracy is so important. One of the fundamental things that people expect is representation, no matter what order of government. So we have the ability to artificially say you will not be represented at two orders of government in this particular case. We are having that impact.

[3:15 p.m.]

One thing I want to bring up is how we can reduce the amount of time that there is no representation. Perhaps we should be looking at, in the case of a by-election, a period in time that is much shorter than some experienced in six months minus a day to decide on when an election would be held.

Maybe it would be beneficial to reduce that amount of time of non-representation at a couple of orders of government. I would suggest perhaps that is something we need to look at later.

In addition, we have the case of general election, and when somebody would decide that they are going to run for, according to the bill, and be accepted, either by a political Party or be accepted by the Electoral Officer as a candidate. That length of time could quite possibly be 12 months, 24 months in advance.

Should that be the case, then, effectively, citizens are not going to be represented for the length of time it takes them to be reassigned - or, sorry, to have their vacancy, should there be a resignation, filled by the Municipal Elections Act.

Again, I appreciate the intent. It is not as clear as I think people are looking for because you will still have a situation such as what has happened in the last six, twelve months, and that will result in what? That will result in people of an opinion that the rules were not applied and may take action to make that quite well known when they don't know the rules. When you know the rules you have power.

I think what I'm asking for - I know what I'm asking for - is to make clarity here when it comes to municipal elected office, what those rules are, bearing in mind that the fundamental case in my point is that there has to be representation. There has to be representation. So, if there is going to be no representation, let's make that period of non-representation as small as possible, and I think the House of Assembly has that responsibility at some point to take a look at that.

Thank you very much and I'll sit now.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, again I appreciate the comments and the indulgence of the House while I get the numbers straight and some comments just quickly to close here.

I want to be clear on this piece. This is an autonomous level of government who are elected by the people to make decisions. This is a tool for them and an opportunity for them to put in a policy that is responsible and what they would consider to be the right mechanism that would speak to all these things.

We passed a bill in this House - or we didn't pass the bill but have introduced the bill and moved it forward this very day - talking about what MLAs do and the rules around that in this House. I believe it is most appropriate for those councils to have an opportunity to have that discussion along with us. We will do that going forward, and their input and guidance along this will be quite important.

As the honourable member who just spoke knows, as I know, and others in the House who have come from the municipal world, we understand clearly how it can be clouded as to what the rules have been. We also need to make sure that that is clear. We want people to understand what those rules are as well, not only the councillors but the citizens because they may have an opportunity one day to run and, of course, we want to encourage people to run. This is good for democracy, Mr. Speaker.

We want to continue to work with them and to show the leadership that they require, their leadership, and their input.

With those few comments, I move to close debate on Bill No. 191.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 191. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 192.

**Bill No. 192 - Municipal Elections Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, given that I've already delivered the remarks for this particular bill, I won't go through that again. There are five very important pieces here, though.

I'll just remind the members that we're talking about changes to the Municipal Elections Act, the ability to allow returning officers to do a number of different things. I think it's important that we address those. Getting people out to vote - the more we can get them out, the higher the numbers, their democratic right we want them to express - we want to make it easier for them to do so.

With those few comments I will move second reading of Bill No. 192.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, regarding an Act to Amend Chapter 300 of the Revised Statutes of 1989, the Municipal Elections Act, our caucus is looking forward to hearing comments in Law Amendments Committee.

I was curious, Mr. Speaker, what other provinces' legislation is regarding these matters. I think with respect to all the bills we've talked about today, including this one, we all want to see it as easy as possible for those who want to serve in elected office, the ability to do so.

I do echo my colleague's comments that representation of all people should be of the utmost priority, and we would like to see that taken into consideration for all of these bills presented today.

Again, I look forward to comments in Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: I am pleased to rise and speak very briefly to this bill that amends the Municipal Elections Act. I think any changes that make our electoral system stronger and possibly more reflective of the population we serve are welcome.

We know that municipal politics and the municipal level of government in Nova Scotia is crucially important and delivers many essential services, and yet voter turnout in municipal elections is low.

I welcome these amendments which have come forward through a review process following the last municipal elections, and we look forward to seeing them hopefully result in higher voter turnout in 2020. We'll be glad to support those or consider any further improvements.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the honourable members across the way for their comments as well. We look forward to getting to Law Amendments Committee also and back to proceed through this House.

Again, I thank the members for their comments, and I would move to close debate on Bill No. 192.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 192. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 193.

**Bill No. 193 - Massage Therapist Titles Protection Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 193 be now read a second time.

This legislation, this Act, is designed to introduce title protection for massage therapists. What that means is that we'll set restrictions with respect to the use of the titles massage therapist, registered massage therapist, or any other words that may imply that one is a massage therapist.

The restrictions and the requirements set forth in order to be eligible to use such a title include 2,200 hours of education in an approved or recognized training program or education program, and that would be a program that is recognized by a professional association.

Candidates would have to have liability insurance, they would have to belong to and be in good standing with a recognized professional association, and they would have to provide information on criminal charges or convictions on an annual basis. The associations that would be recognized will be defined in the regulations that will come along with this legislation for the benefit of members of the House.

We currently have three associations in Nova Scotia: the Massage Therapists' Association of Nova Scotia, the Massage Therapists' and Wholistic Practitioners' Association of the Maritimes, and the Natural Health Practitioners of Canada. Representatives from all three of these organizations were here in the Legislature the day we tabled this legislation. I think they appreciate the steps that are being taken here to strengthen their profession for Nova Scotians and their members.

With that I look forward to hearing comments and thoughts from my colleagues in the Legislature.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Minister of Health and Wellness for his comments.

I want to stand today and just quickly recognize the important work of our registered massage therapists here in the Province of Nova Scotia. Certainly the massage therapists that I spoke with are happy to see this bill coming forward.

I did have a question for the minister. In the industry in the past we've always talked about therapeutic massage therapists versus relaxation massage therapy. I'm wondering if

this legislation will prohibit those in the spa industry - will they be able to still use the words “massage therapy” when the massages are being performed by an esthetician because that would be an industry norm? A therapeutic massage would be performed by a registered massage therapist, but a relaxation massage therapy would be performed by an esthetician. It would be very important for industry that that clarification is made so that laws wouldn’t be broken by accident or without purpose.

With those few comments, we’ll leave that and look forward to Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

TAMMY MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, massage therapists provide relief from pain and immobility for many Nova Scotians. We, in the NDP, agree it is crucial that their title be protected to ensure everyone seeking the services of a massage therapist can trust that their provider has been trained and has the proper skills.

We understand the government has been consulting with massage therapists and we look forward to continuing the conversation at Law Amendments Committee.

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

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues across the way for their preliminary support for the steps being taken. I believe we all look forward to the Committee on Law Amendments to hear feedback there.

To the one question that came forward: the legislation, as crafted, would apply to anyone using the term “massage therapist,” a registered massage therapist. I guess to the extent that someone may distinguish or believe that their services do not require or warrant such requirements of the training and so forth and joining a recognized professional association representing massage therapists, they wouldn’t have to, but they could not hold themselves out as being a massage therapist or suggest that they are such.

They would have to differentiate their services from those of a massage therapist, but we wouldn’t prevent them if they were so inclined to meet the requirements which as I mentioned briefly were the training, education, of the 2,200-hour course program and be a member of a professional association, have your liability insurance, and make sure you provide the criminal information on charges or convictions - that is the requirement to be updated each year.

So, I too look forward to the Committee on Law Amendments and continuing to move this bill through. With that, I move to close debate on second reading of Bill No. 193.



THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 193. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

I move that the House now rise to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Of course, tomorrow being Opposition Day, Wednesday, the agenda goes to the NDP. I don't know if there is someone on that side to call business.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable New Democratic Party Deputy House Leader.

LISA ROBERTS: I will try not to get my numbers mixed up, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow we will be calling Bill Nos. 76 and 176.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for the House to adjourn, to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

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

The motion is carried.

The House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

[The House rose at 3:31 p.m.]

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**NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)****RESOLUTION NO. 1329**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas the constituency office I now occupy at 271 Main Street in Liverpool is a building filled with history, which was previously the home of the *Advance* community newspaper; and

Whereas it was also home to its long-time editor, G. Cecil Day, who passed away in 1976 after 61 years in the news industry; and

Whereas his daughter, Beverley Burlock, was honoured recently to accept an award where he was posthumously inducted into the Atlantic Journalism Hall of Fame;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize that Mr. Day was a cornerstone of the community, promoting and supporting everything that was going on during the 45 years he lived in Queens and congratulate his daughter, Beverley, for all she has done to honour and retain the memories of her dear father.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1330**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas junior curling skip, Kolby Thompson and his team - Morgan Cowie, mate; Zander Goodwin, first stone; and Olivia Burgess, extra - were selected for the Team Gushue Curling Camp held in St. John's, Newfoundland for a week beginning August 25, 2019; and

Whereas together with 96 other young curlers from across Canada they received world-class coaching, learned tricks and techniques to improve their skills, and developed new friendships within the sport; and

Whereas the community is very proud of them all and looks forward to celebrating many more accomplishments in the future;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Kolby and his team on being selected for this tremendous opportunity and the wonderful experience they had.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1331**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas the 9<sup>th</sup> Lighthouse Art and Craft Show took place between August 16 and 25, 2019, at the Warehouse and Seeley Hall in Port Medway to raise funds for the restoration and preservation of the historic Medway Head Lighthouse; and

Whereas the chair of the organizing committee, Victoria Fraser, and her fellow volunteers put on a spectacular array of beautiful art and craft works from artists around the province in a wide variety of media;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Art Show organizing committee and members of the Medway Head Lighthouse Society on a very impressive and successful fundraiser and for all the work they do to preserve the lighthouse.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1332**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas four students from Queens, after success in the Queens County Music Festival, were recommended for the Provincial Music Festival on May 31, 2019, in Wolfville; and

Whereas they were Ellen Raddall for Senior Musical Theatre, Grace Smith for Junior Musical Theatre, Gwen Williams for Senior Brass and Lauren Amirault for both Junior Piano and Musical Theatre; and

Whereas Lauren was the only performer from Queens in recent memory to be recommended for both categories in the same year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ellen Raddall, Grace Smith, Gwen Williams and Lauren Amirault on their incredible

musical talent and successful performances at the Nova Scotia Provincial Music Festival, continuing a long line of accomplished musicians from Queens.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1333**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas I rose in the Legislature this time last year to congratulate Queens County Transit Society as this new organization began to find its wheels; and

Whereas they have experienced tremendous growth and expansion in the first year, beyond their expectations in ridership with both paid and unpaid drivers; and

Whereas they are providing a service to all age groups in Queens, with an expanded reach to connect with Bridgewater, Halifax, and all places in between;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Queens County Transit Society on providing a vital, affordable transportation option, making a huge difference for those who cannot afford their own vehicle or are no longer able to drive themselves.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1334**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Sarah Mitton from Brooklyn, Queens County, has dramatically added to her list of women's shot-put achievements by winning the gold medal for Canada at the 2019 Summer Universiade in Italy with a season's best throw of 18.31 metres; and

Whereas this was followed by a silver medal in Montreal at the Canadian Track and Field Championships, which qualified her to represent Canada at the World Championships in Qatar this month; and

Whereas she also represented Canada in the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru this August;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Sarah Mitton on making Nova Scotia proud with some outstanding athletic achievements, reflecting her relentless dedication and hard work.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1335**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas weddings are an occasion for family and friends to gather together to celebrate the life of two individuals united as one; and

Whereas it was once said by Darlene Schacht that “a long-lasting marriage is built by two people who believe in, and live by, the solemn promise they made”; and

Whereas on August 24, 2019, the wedding of Rhonda and Mike Gracey took place;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Rhonda and Mike on this wonderful occasion and wish them every happiness for the future.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1336**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas weddings are an occasion for family and friends to gather together to celebrate the life of two individuals united as one; and

Whereas it was once said by Darlene Schacht that “a long-lasting marriage is built by two people who believe in, and live by, the solemn promise they made”; and

Whereas on August 24, 2019 the wedding of Staci and Tyler Frank took place;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Staci and Tyler on this wonderful occasion and wish them every happiness for the future.