



House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy**

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### Second Session

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020**

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House of Assembly  
*Nova Scotia*

**HALIFAX, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020**

**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 begin the daily routine.

**PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition:

“Petition to Ask the Government to Analyze the Effects of Free Ambulance Rides in Various Jurisdictions to determine the Effect of Eliminating Ambulance Fees.”

Mr. Speaker, I have affixed my signature as well.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS**



**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS****GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

HON. TONY INCE: Mr. Speaker, may I make an introduction, please?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

TONY INCE: Mr. Speaker, joining us today in the East Gallery are staff from Irving Shipbuilding Inc., as well as the coordinator and students from the Pathways to Shipbuilding program. I would ask them to rise as I call their names: Ms. Audra McCreesh, Mr. Tom Ormsby, Ms. Shelley Fashan, Mr. Juno Beals, and Ms. Sattina Dobb.

I would like the House to give them a round of applause. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1694**

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

Whereas in September 2018, 20 African Nova Scotian participants took part in Pathways to Shipbuilding, which is a two-year program to study welding and secure careers with the Halifax Shipyard; and

Whereas Pathways to Shipbuilding is a collaboration between government, Irving Shipbuilding, the Nova Scotia Community College, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, East Preston Empowerment Academy, and the CWB Welding Foundation; and

Whereas this June all 20 participants will be graduating from the Nova Scotia Community College and will begin work on building the Royal Canadian Navy fleet;

Therefore be it resolved that members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Pathways to Shipbuilding participants and wishing them the best of luck in their future careers.

I would like to add one other thing. They are going to be the first to work on the new *William Hall* when that is finished, so thank you.

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 Lands and Forestry.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1695**

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

Whereas the wildfires in Australia continue to burn, threatening forests, ecosystems and homes; and

Whereas the Department of Lands and Forestry has some of the top wildfire-fighting expertise in the country available in our department who are ready to support efforts to fight the wildfires burning across Australia and are proudly available to assist other countries that may need help in an emergency; and

Whereas we recently had three firefighters return from Australia, Paul Schnurr from the Shubenacadie office, Terry White from the Windsor office and Kirk Webster from the Kentville office and have six more currently deployed in Australia, Bernie Morrissey from the Waverley office, Jamie Brown from the Milton office, Jacob Penny from the Lunenburg office, Matt Gallant from the Parrsboro office, Brennen Ash from the Bible Hill office and Jim Rudderham from the Milton office;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly thank the Department of Lands and Forestry staff for their diligent work and extensive experience in helping battle the wildfires in Australia.

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 Lands and Forestry.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1696**

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

Whereas Nova Scotians are reflecting on the importance of wildlife and biodiversity on World Wildlife Day; and

Whereas the theme of World Wildlife Day for 2020, Sustaining All Life on Earth, encompasses all wild animal and plant species as critical parts of our planet's ecological health; and

Whereas Nova Scotians continue to be engaged in conservation and recovery efforts such as public forums and presentations on species at risk;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly celebrate World Wildlife Day by recognizing the importance of biodiversity and the need for shared stewardship of our natural resources and by engaging Nova Scotians in conservation efforts.

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. 243 - Entitled an Act Respecting Certain Financial Measures. (Hon. Karen Casey)**

**Bill No. 244 - Entitled an Act to Amend Schedule A of Chapter 1 of the Acts of 2018. The Education Act, Respecting Mental Health Wellness Kits. (Tim Halman)**

**Bill No. 245 - Entitled an Act to Dissolve the Brookside Cemetery Commission. (Hon. Mark Furey, as a private member)**

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 Queens-Shelburne.

#### **LIVERPOOL KINSMEN CLUB: 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - RECOG.**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, this year marks an incredible 100 years that Kinsmen Clubs throughout Canada have been operating under their motto: “Serving the Community’s Greatest Need.” It goes without saying that this wonderful organization is a national beacon of charity and selflessness.

The Liverpool branch of Kinsmen is one of Nova Scotia’s oldest chapters of this club and will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November. To commemorate this special occasion, Kinsmen Gary Levy, Brian Godfrey, Chad Bourgeois, and Earl Lawrence recently visited elementary schools in Queens County to visit with students and pass out free treats of milk, balloons, and tattoos.

I would like to recognize the generosity of the Liverpool Kinsmen and thank them for all that they do for their community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

#### **NEW MOSH CLINIC: CONSTANT INNOVATION - COMMEND**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to attend the launch this morning of the North End Community Health Centre’s new Mobile Outreach Street Health mobile clinic - a shiny, purpose-built van with head room, and examining bed, a sink, a refrigerator, and technology to connect with electronic medical records and more. It’s quite an upgrade from the red Toyota van that MOSH began with 10 years ago. This new clinic is funded by Telus through its Health for Good program.

With a yellow sunflower on its back door, the clinic pays tribute to the founder of MOSH, the late Patti Melanson. Her family was there this morning, still grieving her loss and celebrating her impact. Her workmates and collaborators are still being inspired by her

example to serve individuals experiencing homelessness with dignity and humility. With the upgrade to the MOSH clinic, they are now also dreaming and scheming about doing dental outreach, mental health outreach, and food delivery with their health centre colleagues.

The North End Community Health Centre, like many non-profits, is constantly innovating and connecting with new funding sources like Telus, where government funds fall short.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

### **E. HANTS RECIPES AND COOKING: SHARING IDEAS - THANKS**

HON. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, have you ever wondered what to cook that's quick and easy after a long day or wanted to try something new for dinner but just not sure what? Robert Richardson has created a wonderful, wholesome Facebook page that can help with both of these dilemmas and more. East Hants Recipes and Cooking was an idea Robert had that came to fruition in May, and since its inception over 6,000 members have joined the page.

[1:15 p.m.]

Each day he asks a question of the day that is related to food and gets the group communicating with each other in a positive way and giving many new ideas a try in the kitchen. Every day, people post pictures of delicious food and others use the recipes, creating meals that they never would have otherwise, and the feedback is very positive. The page often feels like you're sitting around a Sunday table with family and friends.

Robert's desire to bring the community together through food not only shines through his Facebook group, but he also organized a sample night where members came together to try all the lovely dishes they had posted about. He organized some baking in December to give out to seniors who no longer have the ability to bake for themselves and it was a huge success.

I would like to thank Robert for creating a safe spot and give him the warm regards of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: With the unanimous consent of the House, we'd like to revert back to Presenting and Reading Petitions for the NDP.

THE SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

### **PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, may I make an introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: In the gallery opposite is Megan Boudreau who's joined us today. Megan is a third-year psychology student at Saint Mary's University. After seeing anti-choice protests outside the Women's Choice Clinic at the Victoria General Hospital, she started this petition all by herself to fight for bubble zone legislation.

I'm honoured to table that petition today. Please join me in welcoming Megan to the Legislature. (applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition regarding the implementation of a bubble zone law, the operative clause of which reads:

"We, the undersigned, ask the Government of Nova Scotia to pass bubble zone legislation to put a safe distance between protestors and patients. The legislation should prohibit interference within a defined access zone (to be determined by regulations) around a hospital, a clinic, a service provider's office or residence, or a premises prescribed by the regulations."

I believe there are 150 signatures and, Mr. Speaker, I have affixed my signature to the petition, as well.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

### **[STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS]**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

### ***PARENT-CHILD GUIDE: 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.***

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Rockwell, owner and publisher of the *Parent-Child Guide* newspaper. Robert and his team have been publishing the *Parent-Child Guide* newspaper since 1995 and on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, they will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Parent-Child Guide* newspaper is one of, if not the oldest and largest, locally-owned family newspapers in Metro. The newspaper contains positive, helpful and informative articles written by local professionals including doctors, psychologists, counsellors, educators and health consultants. Topics include general health, self-help suggestions and child safety, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Robert and his team at *Parent-Child Guide* on the success of serving the community for over 25 years.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: We have with us in the East Gallery a very special and unique young woman whom I've known since she was 10 years old. She has survived many scary encounters with wild animals in Africa, including elephants, zebras, rhinos and hyenas. She is joined today by her mother, Nancy Sievert; her father, Kirk Sievert; and George Crocker. Please stand up and receive the welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

**SIEVERT, OLIVIA: WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST - COMMEND**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, in recognition of International Wildlife Day, I rise today to recognize the work of a very special young woman from my riding: Olivia Sievert. I have known Olivia since she was 10 years old. She is a very accomplished young woman. She has a master's degree with honours in conservation and ecology.

She has been working in Africa for the past five years with African Parks, the largest NGO in Africa. She has recently received a great promotion as a wildlife research and conservation manager in Malawi. Olivia's main objective has been to reintroduce endangered cheetahs back into the wild in Malawi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members of this House join me in applauding Olivia for her unique talents, stamina, and genuine concern for the conservation of wildlife in Africa.

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

**CIOE COM. RADIO: INSPIRING WOMEN IN SONG - CONGRATS.**

BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CIOE Community Radio, members of its planning committee, and the many volunteers for their recent presentation of Inspiring Women in Song, a concert to celebrate International Women's Day. The concert showcased several award-winning female Nova Scotian artists. Enthusiastic music fans were treated to an evening of original music and entertainment at the Spatz Theatre.

Over the past two years, CIOE Community Radio has presented regular concerts and community events that have promoted talented Nova Scotia artists. I would like to ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating CIOE Community Radio and their volunteers for their hard work and the dedication to the arts and culture they've shown toward the province of Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**I READ CANADA DAY: N.S. AUTHORS - CELEBRATE**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, February 19<sup>th</sup> was I Read Canadian Day across the country, which is an annual event started by children's author Eric Walters, dedicated to getting kids to read at least 15 minutes of a book by a Canadian author.

In the spirit of I Read Canadian, I want to celebrate just a few of the amazing authors we have right here in Nova Scotia - authors who have written incredible books for kids, like Shauntay Grant, Budge Wilson, Sheree Fitch, and Mayann Francis; fiction writers like the amazing Ami McKay, Alexander MacLeod, and Amy Spurway, who released her debut novel, *Crow*, this past year to great acclaim; non-fiction writers like Rebecca Rose, Stephen Kimber, and Chris Benjamin; and poets from all over the province, like Alison Smith, Rebecca Thomas, and Sue Goyette, to name just a few.

Catherine Banks, Hannah Moscovitch, Josh MacDonald, and Michael Melski all write for the stage. Their work has been seen all over North America and beyond.

I'll go further and say I Read Dartmouth North and celebrate authors Jon Pierce, Robert John Schwarzman, and Guyleigh Johnson, who have each published books in the last year or so.

Mr. Speaker, there's an incredible array of writers in Nova Scotia and many excellent book publishers. Let's celebrate them and challenge ourselves to read at least 15 minutes of a local author the next time we pick up a book.

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



**CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND CHANGE:  
SERVING WOMEN IN RURAL N.S. - RECOG.**

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the work that Tara Reddick and Tonya Pelley are doing with the Circles of Support and Change in support of the African Nova Scotia communities of Sunnyville, Lincolntonville, and Upper Big Tracadie.

Circles of Support and Change is a five-year initiative of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre focused on community-based and community-led support to women in underserved rural communities. The project has hosted a community information session in Sunnyville and an advisory committee meeting in Upper Big Tracadie. There was also a social at the Lincolntonville Community Centre with the theme Honouring the Black Women of Our Communities, which by all accounts was a fun and empowering evening.

Circles of Support and Change is an ambitious, much-needed project, and Tara and Tonya are definitely the ladies for the job. Most importantly, they're listening to the community and what it wants and needs, encouraging anyone interested in participating in any context to contact them.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Tara and Tonya and wish Circles of Support and Change much success.

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

**COLE HBR. PARKS AND TRAILS ASSOC.:  
TRAIL STEWARDSHIP - THANKS**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association for all of the dedication and volunteer hours its members give to our community.

After Hurricane Dorian, there was some damage to the Salt Marsh Trail in Cole Harbour, a trail spanning 6.5 kilometres from Cole Harbour to Lawrencetown. Repairs happened with the generosity of Jason Rafuse of Rafuse Excavating, emergency funding from HRM and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation, and of course, with our association chair Michael McFadden and many other members and non-member volunteers.

The trail sees over 30,000 visitors annually, and the association prides itself on making the trail as accessible to as many people as possible.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in thanking the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association and all of their volunteers for all that they do for our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

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

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John McGowan for his invaluable contributions to our school communities. Mr. McGowan, as he's known to students, is a physical education and core French teacher at Springvale Elementary School. He is a lifelong athlete and passionate about promoting good health and well-being.

John has taught after-school karate at Springvale, helped launch the Kids Run Club at the school for over 15 years, and has been a driving force behind the school's yearly fundraisers for the Terry Fox Foundation.

In past years John has helped encourage donations from the school community by promising to dye his hair pink once their donation target was met. This Fall, the buzzer claimed all his hair at the High 5 Assembly, as the school raised \$12,000 for the foundation. Mr. Speaker, that brings the Springvale Elementary community's donation over the last 15 years to over \$130,000 - an incredible amount for a great cause.

I ask all members of this House of Assembly to join me in thanking John McGowan for efforts and the difference he makes to enriching our communities.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

**PARIS, JOSHUA B. - CPT.: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life of the late Captain Joshua B. Paris, who was taken from his family and friends far too soon.

Joshua Paris had a distinguished military career with the Air Cadets, beginning his career with the 689 Handley Page Cadets in Parrsboro and spending many summers at the CFB Greenwood Training Centre.

Captain Paris assumed command of the 154 Amherst Squadron on September 15, 2015, but sadly, six months later, on March 15, 2016, he passed away in a tragic car accident.

To memorialize Joshua's dedication and passion for the cadets, the fourth Annual Memorial Golf Tournament will be held this year to raise money for bursaries for students in the cadet program who wish to pursue a post-secondary education.

Please join me in recognizing and honouring the life of Captain Joshua B. Paris for his dedication, his service, and for the legacy that continues to live on through this bursary and through his family.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**TRIBAL BOXING CLUB: GENEROUS COMMITMENT - THANKS**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Tribal Boxing Club, located on the upper level of Farrell Hall in Dartmouth North. Owners Bridget Stevens and Jim Maloney have built an incredible community of amateur and professional boxers, including many young people from the North Dartmouth community.

While Bridget holds several different levels of classes, she doesn't want anyone to not try boxing because of financial difficulty. Tribal offers free training to any Indigenous person, any youth from the neighbourhood, and anyone who is facing unemployment or underemployment. As Jim explained, many who come to the club treat their boxing like medicine. It's healthy and healing.

I got to train at Tribal last week. While there I witnessed boxers younger and older with an incredible diversity of abilities and backgrounds. There was a baby crawling and a dog running around, and everyone shared the space as a big, extended family. Bridget expertly guided us in warm-ups and skills training, and was supportive and encouraging, fun, and challenging. Mr. Speaker, my jab jab power hook has never been better.

I am grateful for what Tribal Boxing gives to the people in our community, and I thank Bridget Stevens and Jim Maloney for their generous commitment to the boxers there.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**JOLCAR SECURITY:  
CARING FOR VULNERABLE CITIZENS - THANKS**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben and Michele Joly, owners and operators of Jolcar Security Services in Timberlea. Ben and Michelle have worked hard to build the company based on attitude, integrity, and service and have always been generous and charitable with their support to the local community.

I am pleased to report that Michelle and Ben are once again extending their generosity by donating security guards to Shelter Movers, an organization that assists predominantly women and children escaping domestic abuse in Halifax. Sadly, three to four families require assistance every week in the HRM to relocate because their safety is at risk.

Key components to ensuring a safe and smooth transition for women and children who access this service is to find a safe place to live and a safe way to get there. The Jolcar security guards offer safe passage to a new environment for these families.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like the members of the House of Assembly to join me in acknowledging and thanking Michelle and Ben for donating their expertise to assist and care for vulnerable citizens.

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

**CHURCH'S VALU FOODS: EXEMPLARY COM. SPIRIT - THANKS**

BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jason Church, of Church's, and his family, of Church's Valu Foods in Marion Bridge, who scheduled traditional Cape Breton winter activities for their employees.

Church's Valu Foods employs several of Cape Breton University's international students from India who have not had the chance to experience Winter activities - for many of them, this is their first Canadian Winter.

Jason and his family took the group ice fishing and tobogganing, which was a first for all. Not only is this a great example of an employer initiating team building with their employees, but it went a step further as it introduced this group of international students to our cultural traditions.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, to praise Jason and his family for taking the time to go above and beyond as an employer. I encourage him to continue with these exemplary acts.

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

**CHIASSON, CARTER: TEACHER OF THE YEAR - CONGRATS.**

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I rise in my place to congratulate Cape Breton teacher Carter Chiasson, who has been named the 2020 MusiCounts Teacher of the Year. Carter is a teacher at Allison Bernard Memorial High School. He is the teacher behind the program that saw Emma Stevens perform Blackbird in Mi'kmaw.

Both Emma and Carter have travelled around the world as a result of that, and Carter is involved with a number of other initiatives within the school to revive the Mi'kmaw language. As part of the award, he received \$10,000 and a \$10,000 donation to the school. I rise in my place today and I ask all members of the House to congratulate Carter on this amazing accomplishment and his continued success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

[1:30 p.m.]

**CENTURY SAW AND MARINE: GREAT CUSTOMER SERV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. PAT DUNN: I rise today in the Legislature to recognize Russell MacIntosh and the great customer service at Century Saw and Marine Ltd. in New Glasgow, a company that opened its doors in 1967. There are companies that are known for good customer service, and then there are companies like Century Saw and Marine Ltd. that take service to the next level. Their experience, dedication and commitment to customers is remarkable.

Customer loyalty is Russell's ultimate goal. Customers come first in everything the company does and every employee values their relationship with all customers. Employees go above and beyond to help customers find what they need. Russell has always known that good customer service encourages customers to remain loyal.

It's undeniable that a well-trained, positive customer service team can make your company the best version of itself. Owner Russell MacIntosh has always known that there is great value in ensuring you deliver a positive customer service. Russell's service philosophy is a model to emulate.

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

**KELLY-DWINELL, RAY AND JOANNE:  
COM. FOOD DRIVE - THANKS**

BILL HORNE: Twenty-five years ago, Raymond and Joanne Kelly-Dwinell began a community food drive to honour Joanne's sister Ruth Ann, who had passed away from cancer. Lakeview area children, accompanied by adults, go door to door collecting donations for the Lions Christmas Express, helping those in Lakeview, Windsor Junction, Waverley, Fall River and Wellington areas.

This will be the last food drive organized by the Dwinells, and they were recognized by the community for what they have done over the last two and a half decades. Fellow residents have stepped forward to lead the drive for next year. I invite all members of the Legislature to join me in thanking Ray and Joanne Kelly-Dwinell for creating a community tradition and honouring her sister Ruth Ann.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**INTL. WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON, AMHERST:  
#EACHFOREQUAL - THANKS**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Today I rise to recognize Dawn Ferris, Lisa Emery and Michelle Harrison, organizers of the International Women's Day luncheon in Amherst, which will be held next Monday at 12 noon at the Lions Den. There will be a free meal with a guest speaker, Cumberland YMCA CEO Trina Clarke.

This year's theme is #EachforEqual and will help bring awareness to the contribution of women in our community as well as gender equality. These three women, among many others, are very active in our community on committee and volunteer work. They're a great example of strong women who want to make a difference in our community and who stand up for gender equality. I would like to thank them for their continued work and dedication to this cause, and I encourage all women and men to celebrate International Women's Day and recognize the importance of equality and respect.

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

**OSTREM, DAWN: PROGRAMMING FOR SENIORS - THANKS**

ALANA PAON: I rise today to acknowledge the work of Dawn Ostrem at the Dr. Kingston Memorial Community Health Centre in L'Ardoise. As the project coordinator of the Mind-Body-Spirit grant program, she delivered workshops and organized activities such as music care level one training, which uses music to improve the quality of life of patients. The program also created Villa Vignettes, bringing students and seniors together through storytelling.

These valuable programs, which are community based and volunteer led, helped improve the quality of life for seniors in Richmond County by strengthening the importance of inclusiveness and social relationships. Dawn is now in pursuit of new projects. I call upon all members of this House to wish her well. May she continue her valuable work improving the lives of people of all ages, reminding us how feeling socially connected plays an important role in our mental and physical well-being.

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

**MADELINE SYMONDS: SCH. TRIP - BEST WISHES**

BEN JESSOME: I just wanted to take the opportunity to give my best wishes to the graduating class at Madeline Symonds Middle School. This year they've been busy fundraising for their Grade 9 trip. They're headed out of province - they're going to New Brunswick and P.E.I. Next year they're going to be Grade 10 students in high school, and I want to wish them all the best in their future academic endeavours.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, permission to make an introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

TIM HALMAN: In the West Gallery we have members of the Nova Scotia Healthcare Crisis Group. Their Facebook page currently has 9,421 members. In the West Gallery we have Leslie Tilley, Paula Minnikin, Joan Hawkin, Janie Andrews, Cindy Moxsom, Sabrina Thurlow and Scott Parks. Please receive the warm welcome of the House of Assembly.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**COLLEEN'S PUB: HOME AWAY FROM HOME - CONGRATS.**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dartmouth East entrepreneurs Colleen Farrell and John Gold, business partners at Colleen's Pub. On December 16, 2019, Colleen's Pub opened for business and has been thriving ever since. Colleen and John have built a business where anyone in the community feels like family as soon as they walk through the door.

Just off the Waverley Road, customers step into a home away from home and in true Maritime spirit, Colleen's Pub features local talent through community events, such as an Open Mic Kitchen Party.

Whether you stop in for a drink or a meal, Colleen's Pub is always a place to be surrounded by old and new friends.

Mr. Speaker, local businesses are always appreciated in our community. Through Colleen and John's hard work, Dartmouth East is truly lucky to have this business in our backyard.

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

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITEA:  
AWARD-WINNING TEA - CONGRATS.**

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Fairview residents, Wanda and Andrew Aulenback, on the creation and success of their unique small business. In 2014 Wanda and Andrew started a family business called Sense and SensibiliTea. The name of their business is aptly named, given their passion for literary classics and their love for tea.

The goal of their business is to recreate tea blends from various historical time periods, using research and descriptions in novels. According to Wanda and Andrew they want everyone to not only enjoy an excellent cup of tea but to also learn a little bit of history in the process.

Consumers have been enchanted with this unique product and in 2017 and 2018, Sense and SensibiliTea won bronze in the Best of Halifax, Best Tea, and silver in 2019 in the same category.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this House to join me in congratulating Wanda and Andrew on their continued success and their continued growing business.

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

**BURGESS, JIM & JUDY:  
WILD BLUEBERRY ASSOC., RECOG. BK. - COMMEND**

LARRY HARRISON: Since 1980, the Wild Blueberry Producers Association has added a new name each year to their Recognition Book. This year's inductees were Jim and Judy Burgess, who operate Glenmore Farm in Middle Musquodoboit.

The Burgesses do not limit their resourcefulness to growing blueberries, although 70 acres of their 200-acre property is devoted for this. A retiree from the Department of Natural Resources, Jim also taps maple trees for syrup and grows and sells Christmas trees, while Judy manages farm logistics, bookkeeping, quality control and the storefront.

Strong believers in pollination, they have served on a Joint Pollination Committee with beekeepers. The couple's leadership in entrepreneurial innovation, sustainable environment and community economic development is highly deserving of recognition.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**SHIFT EQUITY CONF.:  
EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC SPACES - RECOG.**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the SHIFT Equity Conference taking place in Halifax on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

This free public conference is dedicated to advancing conversations about equity and accessibility and inequity and lack of accessibility in public space. It is organized annually by students in the Dalhousie University School of Planning.



Saturday's conference day will happen on Gottingen Street in the Halifax North Memorial Public Library and will investigate themes of racist inequality and exclusion in modern planning and the impacts of short-term rentals on affordable housing.

Keynote speakers include Ted Rutland, Concordia professor and author of *Displacing Blackness: Planning, Power, and Race in Twentieth Century Halifax*, as well as David Wachsmuth, McGill professor, investigator and co-author of *Short-term Cities: Airbnb's Impact on Canadian Housing Markets*.

I encourage members of this House and members of the public to consider attending and engaging with these important issues facing residents of Halifax Needham and beyond.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

### **HENDSBEE FAMILY: SUPPORTING FAMILIES - THANKS**

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize Kennedy, Ryan, and Sheri Hendsbee for the outstanding child care that they give to many in our community. Sheri provides daily care at her home and treats Amber, Jacob, Quinny, and my beautiful baby girl Isla with love and respect.

The kids are forming lifelong friendships and Isla looks forward to going to Sheri's house every single day. daughter Kennedy, and Ryan, or Ro-Ro as he's known, have become like family and babysit anytime we ask.

Thank you to the Hendsbees for all you do for not just my family but all the families in our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the members' attention to the West Gallery where we have a familiar face joining us this afternoon - the former member for Argyle-Barrington and Nova Scotia's best member of Parliament, my friend Chris d'Entremont. Welcome back to the House, Chris. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

**DESPRES, NOËL:  
CHANCELIER, UNIVERSITE SAINTE-ANNE - FELICITATIONS**

COLTON LEBLANC: Un des grands piliers du développement économique et communautaire de la communauté acadienne et francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse, M. Noël Després a été nommé chancelier de l'Université Sainte-Anne, en novembre 2019.

M. Després est le président et chef de la direction de Comeau's Sea Foods, une entreprise influente dans le sud-ouest de la province. D'ailleurs, très impliqué dans le monde des affaires et dans sa communauté de Clare, M. Després a toutefois été impliqué auprès de Sainte-Anne comme membre et président du Conseil des gouverneurs, ainsi que le président de l'Association des anciens et amis.

En 2016, M. Després fut présenté un doctorat honorifique en sciences administratives de l'Université Sainte-Anne. En tant que chancelier, il continuera d'être un actif ambassadeur pour Sainte-Anne. La cérémonie officielle d'installation aura lieu en mai 2020 lors de la collation des grades de l'Université.

J'invite tous les membres de cette Assemblée à se joindre à moi pour féliciter M. Noël Després sur sa nomination comme chancelier et lui souhaiter plein de succès dans ce nouveau rôle.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**LAWLESS, CHRIS: CARNEGIE MEDAL - CONGRATS.**

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Sydney native Chris Lawless. In December, it was announced that Chris would be receiving the Carnegie Medal later in 2020. The Carnegie Medal is the highest honour for civilian heroism in the United States and Canada.

On July 22, 2017, a tourist and her daughter were overwhelmed by rip current in Inverness, Nova Scotia. The woman's husband was soon followed by Chris. By the time Chris caught up, the husband was pulling his daughter in but the wife was swept out further into the deeper water. Chris continued out 300 feet from shore where he found the barely conscious woman. He brought her to the shoreline where she received first aid treatment and transport to hospital.

I ask all members of the Legislature to applaud a fellow Nova Scotian, his bravery and his selflessness. Nova Scotia is stronger because of people like Chris and the example they set for all of us.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**N. GERMANY LIONS:  
SUPPORT FOR BLOOD DONOR CLINIC - THANKS**

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the New Germany and Area Lions Club for their support of the Canadian Blood Services donation clinics in their area. During the clinic, volunteers such as Debra Featherby and Mike Crouse offer support in several ways. As well as welcoming people, they work the refreshment table to ensure those who donate blood receive nutritional support once their donation was complete. Should donors have any challenges once they give blood, the Lions Club volunteers alert officials but are also trained to assist themselves.

Blood donor clinics are an extremely important part of our health care support system and would not always be possible if it were not for the work of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and the members of this House of Assembly please join me in thanking the New Germany and Area Lions Club for their ongoing support of blood donor clinics for the Canadian Blood Services.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**SEXUALIZED HUMAN TRAFFICKING:  
COMBAT THROUGH EDUCATION - RECOG.**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, as we near International Women's Day 2020, I rise today to express my belief that education is paramount in the prevention of sexualized human trafficking and sexual exploitation in our province.

It is reported that Nova Scotia has the highest rate of sexualized human trafficking incidents in the country. The impact of this ruins communities and destroys lives. Educating young people about what sexualized human trafficking is and giving them the tools to combat it is crucial to saving lives. We can only stop sexualized human trafficking by ensuring our youth know the facts, know the signs, and know where to turn if confronted with situations that may result in sexual exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, consistent, factual education is the key to prevention provincewide.

[1:45 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**BRIDGEWATER DAYCARE CTR.: 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, the Bridgewater Daycare Centre is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this October.

Over 20 dedicated staff work hard to fulfill the organization's mandate to provide families with a high-quality, affordable, caring and challenging environment. Many of the faces you see working there today are the same ones from 30 years ago. This is truly a testament to how much they love and are committed to their work with the children of Bridgewater and area.

Mr. Speaker, the centre continues to be a part of the community, visiting seniors at Hillside Pines, baking muffins for Souls Harbour, fundraising for muscular dystrophy, collecting food for the food bank and packing shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, to name a few. The children also experience art, music, literature, science and physical activity.

Congratulations and thank you to the staff and board of directors for their commitment, kindness and enthusiasm.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**FRANCIS, JUDY: COM. SERV. - COMMEND**

KIM MASLAND: I rise today to recognize Queens County resident Judy Francis, who personifies the expression "going above and beyond."

Judy has worked at the Liverpool Bowling Centre for an impressive 40 years. She is not thought of as simply an employee but is known as "Judy of all trades," having been instrumental in the organization of many leagues at the centre over the years. She has worked tournaments, served as their statistician, facilitated the youth league, operated the lunch counter, and so much more. She is truly an icon in the bowling community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that members join me in applauding Judy as an unsung hero in Queens and thanking her for her tireless dedication to her job. She goes beyond what's expected and has most certainly left her mark on many generations.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

**PATTON, LISA: NTL. 4H LDR. OF THE YR. - CONGRATS.**

HON. KAREN CASEY: Lisa Patton from North River, Colchester North, grew up on a cattle farm in Onslow and was a member of the Onslow Belmont 4-H club. She is the daughter of the late Ed Lorraine, Liberal MLA for Colchester North and one-time Minister of Agriculture.

As a 4-H member, Lisa took part in goat, horse and beef programs. While still a teen, she milked a herd of 11 does each day. When her own children began to participate in 4-H, Lisa became involved again, this time as a leader. She has set an excellent example for her family. Both her daughters, now 21 and 19, are still involved in 4-H activities. When

she first began volunteering, the North River club had 33 members; they now have 75 and three additional leaders.

Lisa, who now serves as president of the Colchester County 4-H council, was chosen as the 4-H National Volunteer Leader of the Year. She says the honour is especially rewarding because she was nominated by the co-presidents of the Truro club. She received her award at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Lisa firmly believes in a phrase coined by her late father: 4-H members today, community leaders tomorrow. She has proven herself to be an excellent example of this philosophy.

On behalf of the members of this House of Assembly, I wish to offer Lisa our congratulations for receiving such a prestigious award and thank her for her volunteer work, which has been of benefit to so many young people in Colchester County, including the Town of Truro.

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

**AN CALA PALLIATIVE CARE: EXCEPTIONAL CARE - RECOG.**

BRIAN COMER: I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the An Cala Palliative Care Unit in the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. It opened in 2008 and is a nine-bed acute care unit.

Patients spend their final days with loved ones on the unit, and it is through those doors that people receive the most exceptional care. It takes a special person to work on this unit - one who will act as a nurse, a friend, and even family. They go above and beyond to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible, not only responding to the needs of the patient but of other family members as well. It is such a vital part of the hospital and our community, and I commend all the workers and volunteers on this unit.

I would like to stand here today, Mr. Speaker, to encourage all members to make a donation to palliative care in their area. Every donation has a profound impact on their community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston-Dartmouth.

**SMITH, JOHN - PHYSICIAN:  
VISION FOR HEALTH CARE - CONGRATS.**

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. John Smith, MD, of Mineville, Nova Scotia, who graduated in 1978 with his medical degree, thus beginning many years of service as a family doctor, surgeon and medical examiner.

Dr. Smith served as base surgeon at Stadacona; Deputy Command Surgeon, Atlantic Canada; Commanding Officer Canadian Forces Hospital, Halifax; and Medical Examiner. He provided exemplary medical care to the residents of Lake Echo, Mineville, Preston and surrounding communities, culminating in the establishment of the Mineville Health Centre in 2012.

I recognize and congratulate Dr. John Smith on a stellar career and a vision for providing excellent medical care for the residents of our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**HINES, JENNIFER: VIKING FOOD PANTRY - RECOG.**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jennifer Hines and the Viking Food Pantry at the Amherst Regional High School. This program has been around for about two years and has been providing students in need with the option to bring food back home to their families. This program has grown, and students are now joining to come to the pantry to have snacks and lunch, building a community through this pantry. The pantry has recently even started providing clothing to students as well.

I would like to thank Jennifer Hines for the work that she has put into this program and giving her heart back to students.

Although I commend Jennifer Hines for her efforts, this highlights the need for us in government to focus on finding solutions to the underlying problems that are causing hunger in our communities. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings West.

**PINE RIDGE STUDENTS:  
JOURNEY TO PEACE POSTER CONTEST - CONGRATS.**

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the club level winners of the annual Kingston Lions' peace poster contest. The 2019 Kingston Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest serves as an opportunity for students in Grade 6 to design a poster relating to the theme Journey to Peace, promoting the message of peace, tolerance, and international understanding.

This year students from Pine Ridge Middle School entered the contest with Mercedes taking home fourth place, Ryver earning third place, Emily coming in second, and Gilliane who earned first place. Gilliane's poster was selected to advance to the Lions District N2 level competition where she won third place.

I would ask that all members of this House of Assembly join me today in congratulating all students for participating, including the four winners, and to our local Lions Club for continuing to annually provide this wonderful opportunity for our youth to further their understanding of peace.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**BLACK SPOON BISTRO: RECENT EXPANSION - CONGRATS.**

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mike and Monica Black. Back in 2009, Mike and Monica opened the Black Spoon Bistro on Commercial Street in North Sydney.

Almost from the moment it opened, the Black Spoon became a fixture and must-go place to eat in North Sydney. Word soon spread and customers came from all over the CBRM. Being a few short steps from the Marine Atlantic Terminal, the Black Spoon has delighted many a visitor over the past 11 years.

In January, Mike and Monica proudly completed an expansion of their bistro to almost double its capacity. When the Spoon first opened, they employed six people. With this recent expansion the Black Spoon now has 27 employees. Entrepreneurs like Mike and Monica make downtown North Sydney a little more vibrant.

I would like to thank Mike and Monica for all of their hard work and congratulate them on the opening of this new chapter of the Black Spoon.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

**BURNS, KIM: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

HON. MARGARET MILLER: Mr. Speaker, dedicated and committed to advocating for her community describes Kim Burns of Kennetcook.

She plays an active role in the Hants North Food Bank, the Hants North Recreation and Development Association, has been a board member of the local soccer association, and sat on the board for the Kids Action Program to name a few.

Kim, now the director of the Kids Action Program, advocates for those who do not have a strong voice and helps youth to strengthen their voice with soft encouragement. She is a vocal advocate for the reduction of child poverty and supports those in her community with a quiet determination. As one participant shared with me, Kim encouraged her to take part in the Starting Point Program. It gave her renewed purpose, and it gave her the tools to not only be successful in the workforce but to be a better mother. Kim helped her to find the power to use her voice.

Kim's strength lies in her ability to not take no for an answer. She quietly encourages and is willing to see a project through no matter how tough the going gets. I would like all members of the House to join me in thanking Kim for her dedication to her community, to improving the lives of family and being an advocate for all.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**ALBION BOXING CLUB:  
BRAMPTON CUP MEDALLISTS - CONGRATS.**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate members of the Albion Amateur Boxing Club who participated in the 2020 Brampton Cup with several medals in tow.

Four of the club's boxers won medals in the 52-kilogram weight division: Tivor Stewart and Sadie LeBlanc earned gold medals, Noah Thompson earned a silver medal, and Cameron Munroe took home a bronze. In the 49-kilogram division, Carson Scholes earned a gold medal, and Rob MacLeod earned a bronze in the 94-kilogram division.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating all the boxers who trained for the Brampton Cup, and in particular, congratulations to those who were successful in winning their matches.

I would also like to congratulate coach Walter Linthorne for the wins and thank him for his dedication to the young people and to the club.

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

**COYOTES HOCKEY: ST. MARY'S HOUSE LEAGUE - THANKS**

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to cheer on the St. Mary's house league hockey program and their children's team, the Coyotes. The new Coyotes recently played their first public scrimmage against one another at the Recplex during the Keith Jordan Memorial Hockey Tournament.

House league hockey programs are an amazing way for kids and community to enjoy Canada's national pastime and to make the most of our northern winters. Recreation opportunities in sports are so important for all of us but especially for our young people. It's so wonderful to see such talented, eager young athletes start on a path of fitness and sportsmanship at such a young age.

It must be said, of course, that athletic opportunities don't happen on their own. I'd like to take a moment to thank their coaches, sponsors, and community for supporting these



young athletes. The kids especially love for the community to support them by coming out and cheering them on.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask everyone to join me in giving the St. Mary's house league Coyotes our sincerest congratulations. Go Coyotes!

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

**PASSAGE PLAYERS:  
MUSICAL, A TRIBUTE TO BROADWAY - COMMEND**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the ingenuity and hard work of the Passage Players members and society. They've been practising for months and are about to proudly present *A Tribute to Broadway*, a celebration of musical theatre through the decades.

Their March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> shows are nearly sold out at the Cow Bay Buffalo Club. The members for this particular tribute are Brittany, Cate, Jon, Sherry, Sherri, Mandy, Danielle, Megan, Trish, Wendy, Elvie, Cathy, Julie, Mitch, Kennedy, Bailey, Kaelyn, Liz, Faith, Evie, Christine, Rachelle, Noah, Cheryl, Neve, Kelly-Anne, Charlotte, Luke, Barb and Shannon..

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing these amazing artists, their volunteers, the board of directors of the Passage Players, and all of those who support them.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**CHEBUCTO LINKS: 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, keeping our seniors connected, active, learning, and doing is an important priority for government. It's also the core mission of a local organization coming up on a big milestone.

This June, Chebucto Links will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at St. Agnes Church. Chebucto Links is a registered charity that provides programs, services, and opportunities for older Nova Scotians in our communities. Their programming keeps seniors busy and engaged, offering occasions for crafting, shared meals, low-impact exercise, and opportunities for day trips.

Mr. Speaker, every time I visit their annual 90-plus birthday celebrations, I'm impressed by the warmth and community they've built up in our area. This year, through their Smitten for Mittens initiative, the ladies of Chebucto Links made 679 mittens and 67 toques for 11 elementary schools in Halifax and Dartmouth.

I want to thank Chebucto Links staff Jan Boswell and DeAnn Mitchell and their board and volunteers and congratulate them all on their quarter-century milestone.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**GOULDEN, TROY: CAREER ADVANCEMENT - CONGRATS.**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Troy Goulden. Troy is a lifelong resident of Timberlea and was recently appointed store manager of the Sobeys store that opened in Timberlea in November 2019.

Four weeks prior to the grand opening of this eagerly-awaited store in our community, there was nothing more than an outer shell of the building. After assembling a team and full complement of staff who proudly live and work in the BLT area, Troy managed the enormous task of ensuring the store opened on schedule.

Working feverishly every possible hour of the day, six to seven days a week, Troy guided his team with the daunting task of setting up and fully stocking the store. He successfully managed resources, coordinated staff, and ensured that equipment and products were received on the shelves and in place for the grand opening.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the House to join me in congratulating Troy on the tireless work to ensure every detail was in place for the grand opening of this new amenity in our community.

[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.: N.S. HEALTH CARE - CHALLENGES**

TIM HOUSTON: Earlier this year, Doctor Brendan Carr, the new CEO of Nova Scotia Health Authority, was asked about the major challenge facing the Health Authority. In his response, he said the major challenge was changing the very critical nature around health care in this province. Sometimes words aren't clear, but I would have thought that maybe one of the major challenges might have been a shortage of health care professionals, or the endless stream of code criticals, or ER closures, or the major issues with the One Person One Record system.

There are an endless list of issues that could have been deemed the major challenge faced in the health care system, not the narrative about health care in this province. I'd like to ask the Premier what he thinks is the major challenge facing health care in Nova Scotia?

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): One of the major challenges facing health care in this province is continued negativity around the entire system, much being put for political fodder. The reality of it is we continue to attract physicians from across the country. The very numbers they put on the floor, that they said were 100,000 without a family physician, is now below 50,000.

We're continuing to move to provide support. They've been opposed to the investments that we've been making in the infrastructure, in the capital of our province and in Cape Breton, and the collaborative care centres across the region. It would have been much nicer if, when the last time the Progressive Conservatives were in power, they would have actually done something to improve the infrastructure of the health care system so they'd continue to attract people. I'm really happy that after seven years we're beginning to see some positive movement in delivering a health care system, not only for this generation but for the next one.

TIM HOUSTON: It's just a perception issue, I guess, indeed. Meanwhile, with all the infrastructure the Premier's been talking about, physicians and front-line workers are raising major concerns. Dr. Badley raised his concerns. He made his voice clear on the concerns he had about the move of the cancer centre.

I understand that many other oncologists have been silenced by the Health Authority, and we know, according to the September 2019 organizational chart from the NSHA, there are 38 staff in the communications department. Thirty-eight people whose job it is to possibly convince Nova Scotians that they are, in fact, receiving sufficient health care even when they know they're not.

We hear the Premier saying that it's just a perception problem, it's just a negativity problem. I'd like to ask the Premier, if 38 professional communicators haven't been able to fix the alleged perception problem, what's the number that it will take to fix it? Is it 42? Is it 55? How many people is it that can change the perception of health care and put it to the Premier's perception, which is not reality?

THE PREMIER: Again, the honourable member stands up and criticizes the fact - Dr. Bethune, who heads cancer care across our province, came to government and said it makes no sense to leave the Dickson Centre where it is and take the sickest patients who arrive at this facility and move them back and forth in ambulances. When you're making an investment for a generation, do the right thing for Nova Scotians. That's what our government is doing, not trying to make a political statement on everything that comes forward. We are listening to the cancer care people in this province, and Dr. Bethune

believes this is a good move and so do the families of people suffering with cancer, and so do we.

TIM HOUSTON: Oddly enough, the Premier would have me criticizing somebody whose name I never mentioned. The name I did mention, though, is Dr. Bernard Badley, who has raised a number of concerns about the move. Maybe I'll just ask a simple question. Premier, is Dr. Bernard Badley wrong in the concerns he raises?

THE SPEAKER: I'll remind the honourable Leader of the Official Opposition to direct his questions through the Chair.

THE PREMIER: The physician the honourable member is talking about is retired. The reality of it is I'm dealing with Dr. Bethune, who's delivering the services across the province and leading cancer care in Nova Scotia. He has a long-term vision about how we deliver services to some of the sickest members in our province. Why does the honourable member think it's okay that we put those patients in an ambulance and drive them down the street, give them treatment, drive them back?

Oh, I forgot, Mr. Speaker, at the annual meeting he thought the best way to deliver primary care was for all of us to sit in our living rooms and call a doctor.

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

### **PREM.: POTHoles - CAR DAMAGE**

GARY BURRILL: My question is on a different subject for the Premier. A man named Derrick Tobin in North Dartmouth had \$1,300 worth of damage to his car when he went into a mega-pothole at the Lancaster intersection coming off Highway 118. A woman named Karen Cole had a similar experience on a different road, but as a result of it she had to replace all four tires on her car. Now, if this were extremely rare it would be one thing, but it isn't.

Does the Premier agree that our roads should be in better shape than to be causing so many thousands of dollars of damage to people's cars?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and his department and the men and women across our province who continue to deal with highway infrastructure. I am proud of the investments that we continue to make.

As the honourable member would know, this time of the year we, through all governments, continue to deal with the issue of potholes. The honourable member - I don't know specifically the cases that he is referring to. There is a loss claim prevention they can go through the department that will be analyzed, and I would encourage the people he's mentioned to do so.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, it is exactly that program that the Premier mentions which is the problem. The program - the Road Hazards Claims/Investigations program - is intended to compensate people whose cars are damaged by provincial roads. Last year 910 claims were made and, of those, only 47 resulted in a benefit to the driver.

In the last five years the percentage of successful complaints every single year has declined. In 2014 almost 8 per cent of claims were successful, but only 5 per cent of claims were approved last year.

Mr. Speaker, what is the point of a program that almost no one seems to be able to benefit from?

THE PREMIER: Again, I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I think the importance of this program is that Nova Scotia motorists wanted an avenue when they feel that their vehicle has been damaged based on the road conditions. Based on the fact that something hadn't been addressed, they needed an avenue to the government and we think this is an important step.

In terms of the ratio - why certain ones had been done over the last year and not this year - I don't have an explanation for it, but I will endeavour to find out for the honourable member and be able to answer that question for him.

GARY BURRILL: Thank you. I want to suggest that part of the answer to this problem is the way that the program is set up and the way that its current rules give the government all the cards. Once the department is made aware of a hazard, the department decides on the time that needs to be allowed before that hazard needs to be fixed, after which there will be liability for damages incurred, but this information is never made available to the public.

Will the Premier agree to develop a system where road hazards and repair time frames are publicly listed so as to increase the transparency and, therefore, the success of the Road Hazards Claims/Investigations program?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. I don't know all the details as he describes, so for me to commit to that on the floor of the Legislature - but I do think in his preamble to that question, the issue about whether or not there is a third party that can determine who is right and who is wrong and whether or not the government has used all of the data in front of them, I think it merits consideration.

I would tell the honourable member that I will raise the issue with the department to see if there is a way to adjust this program that provides motorists with a better feel that they are being treated more equitably when it comes to their complaint, and if there is a disagreement between the government and them, that we have a third party that can actually adjudicate and determine which is right.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

**PREM. - A. CAMERON CASE: BAY STREET LAWYERS - COST**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, on February 20<sup>th</sup> during Question Period the Premier repeatedly refused to disclose the amount of money taxpayers have been forced to pay for high-priced Bay Street lawyers in the Alex Cameron case.

The next day during Question Period the Premier walked back a little bit on his refusal and said: "I will attempt to get that number for him." He repeated the same commitment outside to reporters.

For clarity Mr. Speaker, I am talking about fees paid to two partners at a major Bay Street law firm, plus one associate - at least three lawyers at the Bay Street firm. One of those partners, their whole bio is three words - they defend reputations. Isn't that ironic, Mr. Speaker, considering the Alex Cameron case.

My question for the Premier: Why hasn't he disclosed the amount of money taxpayers have paid the Bay Street lawyers to keep details of the Alex Cameron case secret?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Justice told the honourable member, we have been served notice, it will be before the court, and this item is still before the court.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I know the Premier has been served notice on quite a number of cases where his government will be brought to court, but in this particular case it's over. Legal expert Wayne MacKay says there has never been and isn't now a legal reason to keep the costs of this case secret. I will table that for the Premier.

In fact, the refusal to disclose fees paid to lawyers seems to be a relatively new development for this government. In 2015 in a FOIPOP request the government revealed the amount that it paid to a lawyer, Jack Graham, \$130,000. I can table that FOIPOP. Another one from 2016, they disclosed the revised procurement proposal, a process for Mr. Graham, up to \$440,000 so this is a new development.

I'd like to ask the Premier, through you, Mr. Speaker: Why would the government refuse to release the amount it paid in the Alex Cameron case but willingly released information about the amounts it paid to lawyers in the past?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, he answered his own question when he asked me the question. Those matters were finished with the court system, this one is not. As the honourable member knows, we've been served notice that we're going back to court.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**H&W: COVID-19 - PREPARATION**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Seniors are the fastest growing population in Nova Scotia. Dr. Robert Strang, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, says that seniors are at a higher risk for needing hospital-based care. The threat of COVID-19 is increasing worldwide, and it seems only a matter of time before we have our first case here in Nova Scotia.

The recent budget reports that over \$900,000 will be cut from Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, under Programs and Services, and we already know that flu season is a strain on our health care system. My concern is that funding does not reflect and prepare us for what is happening in the real world.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness: Are people actually expected to feel that they are protected with these cuts? What is being done to prepare, currently?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. There's a lot of work being done throughout both the Public Health as well as our partners in the Health Authorities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The response plan that is in place, which is being followed and which really results in an escalated preparedness as the situation globally and nationally evolves - at present time the threat risk level in Nova Scotia does remain low, although we do see growing cases throughout the world.

In Canada nationally we do see that the cases are being constrained quite well. Although the cases increase, they are very much traceable to countries of origin and people are being self-isolated and treated, not seeing community-based transmissions.

KARLA MACFARLANE: I thank the minister for his answer. He did indicate yesterday in Estimates that he has been briefed on this but that there were no discussions around long-term care of our most vulnerable.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently declared the first diagnosed without relevant travel history or exposure to another patient. The unknown origin increases the risk of transmission by a considerable amount.

My concern is that we do not, Mr. Speaker, have the capacity right now to manage a serious outbreak in Nova Scotia, if it was to happen.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness: Does Nova Scotia, in his opinion, have the capacity to test properly for COVID-19 and what hospital is actually responsible for the testing here in Nova Scotia?

RANDY DELOREY: I guess there's a lot of information to respond to in 45 seconds, but I'll do my best.

First and foremost, a further update, the member referenced Estimates commentary. In fact, I believe what I said was that I didn't recall having information, I couldn't confirm if those discussions within the continuing care, long-term care sector had taken place.

Following Estimates, it has been confirmed that that outreach had already begun, Mr. Speaker, so that is part of that escalation. I believe in that Estimates discussion I did highlight that we were at that stage of the planning preparedness and that we are broadening the sphere of engagement outside of just our health care system directly, so that work is ongoing.

Again, the preparedness, as I've stated previously in Estimates and elsewhere, is that they are following the planning protocol that has been in place and modified, based on SARS, H1N1 outbreaks. It's going along very well, and health officials throughout our Health Authority and Public Health believe we're in a far better preparedness now than we were a decade ago, based upon those planning materials being in place.

[2:15 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

#### **EECD - CSAP: OVERSEAS TRIPS - CANCELLATION**

TIM HALMAN: My question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. In response to the growing concerns about COVID-19, as the minister is aware, it was announced on Sunday that the Acadian school board would cancel overseas trips. The CSAP has withdrawn their approval for overseas trips. We know students are staying home. We also know that this is a disappointment to those students, but the school board must feel the risk of infection from COVID-19 is such that this move is in everyone's best interests.

My question to the minister is: Does the minister agree with the CSAP on this measure, and will we see cancellations for other schools?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: I support the CSAP in making the decision that they believe is best. All three of those trips that were cancelled were heading to Europe, where there's a higher risk of infection at this particular point in time. Not every trip in the province is to Europe. We are in the process of having our regional executive directors meet with school communities, parents, and principals to get a sense of what the front lines would like us to do. That may impact a province-wide decision in this matter.



TIM HALMAN: We recognize that there are different itineraries for various trips. We know that under most cancellation insurance, the decision has to come from higher than the school level. CSAP students with cancellation insurance will receive their payouts because the cancellation at the board level triggers the insurance. As I understand it, a cancellation by the principal or a decision by parents to stay home does not entitle them to access the cancellation insurance. This creates a double standard for those who don't fall under a school board, which is every English student in the system in our province.

Can the minister provide some clarity whether trips cancelled at the school level will be eligible for cancellation insurance payouts?

ZACH CHURCHILL: The situation varies from travel provider to travel provider. In the cases where a decision is made to cancel a trip, we will make sure that all the steps are taken so that parents can recoup the costs through insurance when that option is available.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

#### **MUN. AFFS. & HOUSING - RENT CONTROL: ANALYSIS - TABLE**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Lately, when pressed on the growing number of Nova Scotians who are facing rent hikes in the hundreds of dollars a month, the Premier has insisted that rent control does not work. Across many jurisdictions, rent control is giving some certainty and protection to renters and some stability and liveability to communities. There is no significant evidence that it stymies housing construction. In fact, the policy is in place and working well in Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and British Columbia. Yet the Premier has decided that rent control won't work for Nova Scotians.

Will the Premier table the analysis that his government has used to reach that conclusion?

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

HON. CHUCK PORTER: I'm pleased to rise today to talk a bit about housing. We know that there have been challenges over the years, and we have continued to invest over the years. Another great example was our commitment yesterday to the folks in the Tawaak organization: \$7.3 million in the first three years. We'll continue to work with organizations like Tawaak, our private industry, co-ops and organizations as such, and not-for-profits.

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, this government sees rent control working well enough in order to bake it into agreements that it reaches with landlords under its housing programs. When negotiating the terms of rent supplements or through the Rental

Rehabilitation Assistance Program, rent increases are indexed to the consumer price index, commonly for periods of 15 years at a time.

If rent control doesn't work for the people of Nova Scotia, how then does it work when the government is the one paying?

CHUCK PORTER: The honourable member mentioned a couple of great programs. We put forward a \$400 million program signed with the national government; the rehab program she spoke of, \$70 million over and above that that this government has invested in Nova Scotians who need repairs to their homes; and much more - \$20.5 million announced in the budget this year to create housing workers right across this province. The government is working hard to solve issues and concerns around those in need of housing in this province.

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

### **H&W - MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS: EAST. ZONE - WAIT TIMES**

BRIAN COMER: Mental health and addiction wait times were updated just a few days ago. The Eastern Zone is the only zone where wait times were increased overall. Youth in the Eastern Zone had their non-urgent wait times increased by 50 per cent or more compared to the data from July to September.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Why is the Eastern Zone the only zone with no net improvements in wait times overall and keeps getting significantly worse?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: As we've discussed many times on the floor of the Legislature, the efforts to support mental health and addiction services and expand those services - in this year's budget, we've continued to invest the highest amount of money dedicated throughout government, towards mental health and addiction services. We recognize some of the challenges with recruitment for some vacancies within the Eastern Zone. We continue with our partners to recruit to fill those vacancies.

At the same time, we've instituted new engagements with other zones to leverage telemedicine and other initiatives to help support and increase access to the supports and services that are needed. The recruitment efforts continue and are ongoing.

BRIAN COMER: Within the Eastern Zone, non-urgent adults and youth in industrial Cape Breton are the worst in the province: 309 days for adults, 313 days for youth. The benchmark for non-urgent mental health wait times is 28 days. A 28-day benchmark, a 313-day result. Nine of eleven areas failed to meet this benchmark for youth, 13 of 16 failed for adults, and \$550,000 is all the new money this government is willing to spend.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness: Is he satisfied that this year's investments in mental health will start to fix the failures in mental health service delivery seen in this province?

RANDY DELOREY: The increased investments this year build upon many years of increased investments. The investments noted aren't just those investments within the budget of the Department of Health and Wellness. It's important to recognize that many of the investments we've made as a government throughout this budget include targeted investments around social determinants of health, which are critical components to ensure the success of mental health and addiction situations in particular. It includes investments in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Department of Community Services; and the pre-Primary program, to support youth and families throughout the province in the four-year-old program of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

We've made investments not just in the Department of Health and Wellness. The investments are across government, to support Nova Scotians, to help them achieve the best possible outcomes in their lives. It's what this budget is all about.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

#### **H&W - MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS: SUICIDE ASSESS. - TRAINING**

COLTON LEBLANC: In October 2019, in the Blueprint for Mental Health and Addictions, one of the actions outlined was "Provide enhanced suicide risk assessment and management training for mental health and addictions clinicians" - I'll table that report. The goal of this was to arm workers in mental health and addictions with the training to identify and monitor the risk of suicide. It states that training is currently under way for mental health and addictions staff.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: How many health care professionals have received suicide risk assessment intervention training?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Having these questions about mental health services and priorities on the floor of the Legislature does help us illustrate to Nova Scotians the importance we place on these programs. I don't have the exact number that the member has requested but, as noted, the work within our health system to ensure those front-line health care workers have the appropriate training is being executed and delivered by our partners in the Nova Scotia Health Authority, where those front-line health care workers are operating. The work is under way, as with a number of other initiatives, particularly focused around suicide prevention.

COLTON LEBLANC: This is a welcome implementation to serve those in the clinical setting; however, mental health training should not stop with mental health

workers. More frequently, we see the value in having professionals outside the clinical setting equipped with health training, such as first responders.

My question for the minister is: What is the potential for training being adapted to other professions?

RANDY DELOREY: We recognize the importance of having a multitude of entry points and supports for both identifying and responding to mental health needs within our population. That's why, as the member looks at the investments we make and the programs that we've launched and/or expanded throughout the province including, for example, the adolescent mental health outreach program, which is in about 100 schools across the province now - I believe somewhere in the vicinity of 25,000 visits took place since launching the program a year ago - shows that we are investing to provide numerous opportunities for people to engage with mental health supports where they are.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

#### **H&W - PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE: RURAL RESIDENTS - WAIT-LISTS**

KARLA MACFARLANE: The most recent report from the Nova Scotia Health Authority revealed that the number of people who need a family doctor has risen, and I will table that document. While the trend has been going down since last August, the same can't be said for every zone. Doctors wait-lists have either remained the same or have been on the rise outside of Halifax.

My concern is that non-Halifax Nova Scotians are being neglected and left behind. My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Why are rural Nova Scotians making no progress and even losing the doctors promised to them?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I believe the latest information that just came out - I'll have to double-check to see if it's up on the website yet, but if it's not there today, it should be up shortly - shows that we have a reduction of about 600 people on the wait-list across Nova Scotia.

That builds on the success we've had, particularly over the last 14 to 18 months, based upon the programs and initiatives that we've been implementing as a province to attract and retain physicians to the province, and to attach patients from the 811 registry to primary care. We're going to continue that good work.

A number of our initiatives - like the long-term programs, residency, and medical school seats - haven't even fully manifested themselves within the public space. I look forward to even more success as we continue to reap the rewards of these investments in programs.

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, congratulations. I hope some of those 14,000 people in northern Nova Scotia received a doctor yesterday.

In the doctor recruitment update it was stated that departures are not being reported due to the challenge on reporting since it was transferred in 2016. In 2016, there has been no solution to tracking the number of departures, but NSHA claimed they were working on various stakeholders. That was back in 2016. We are only seeing recruitments and have no indication of doctor departures and why they're leaving. My concern is that this has been worked on since 2016 with no avail, and the doctors are not just leaving because of retirement.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Why are Nova Scotians not getting the whole picture for doctor recruitment and retainment?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, as stated, the progress, based upon programs and initiatives that we've been implementing over the last number of years, we've seen that the number of Nova Scotians waiting, registered, and in need of a family practice has been reduced by about 20 per cent over the last 12 to 14 months. This month, in the most recent data, we see another 600 fewer people registered on the 811 list compared to the month previous. That shows the success.

Our focus is not necessarily on counting doctors in and of themselves but about the objective, which is getting the care and attachment of Nova Scotians to the primary care providers. By that measure we're seeing success.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

#### **H&W - LONG-TERM CARE BEDS: INFO. - ACCURACY**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply concerned about the disconnect between the reality for front-line health care workers and top management within the office of the Minister of Health and Wellness and the NSHA.

In the Fall, I contacted the office of the Minister of Health and Wellness and the NSHA about the problem that patients are being kept in acute care beds while long-term care beds are available and sitting empty for extended periods of time. I'll table that document.

The Minister of Health and Wellness responded by saying that staff at Continuing Care provided him with data showing that in the Fall there were zero vacant beds, but staff who are actually front-line health care workers shared data with me that showed there were 15 empty long-term care beds in Cumberland County at the same time.

[2:30 p.m.]

I would like to ask the minister: Does the minister share my concern that the info being fed to him is, in fact, accurate and this impedes their ability to address the problems facing vacant long-term care beds?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I'd like to first and foremost acknowledge the hard work of the many public servants throughout the government of Nova Scotia - particularly in the Department of Health and Wellness, as well as those front-line health care workers. I hope the member opposite is not suggesting that something nefarious is happening with the information being provided to me through the many hard-working public servants who serve the people of Nova Scotia through the Department of Health and Wellness.

If the member is alleging that there has been something untoward about the information that is provided to me, I will certainly dig in a little bit further to help to ascertain where the disconnect between the information she's been provided and the information that I've been provided. Again, I stand to hope that the member is not suggesting that the staff within the department are doing something to mislead me and the people of Nova Scotia - the information they provide to help make the best decisions we can for the health care of the people of Nova Scotia.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, what I am saying very clearly is that there is a disconnect between the reality of front-line health care workers and what this minister is being told, or at least what he is feeding back to me. (Applause)

I will share another example of this. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, I shared another problem with his office as well as a Nova Scotia Health Authority CEO. In the Fall, staff of Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre were instructed that four of their acute care beds were not to be used and not to have any admitted patients due to a nursing shortage. I waited two months and during that two months four people who normally would have had a hospital bed had to stay in an emergency room hallway.

When I asked for help with the Minister of Health and Wellness' office and the CEO to reopen these four beds and help to staff with nurses, I received letters from both of them stating that there were, in fact, never four beds closed - and I'll table those letters. Today the Minister of Health and Wellness's letter also states that the unit is at full nursing staffing capacity, yet over the last week the OB unit had to change scheduled inductions due to lack of nurses.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Wellness: How can we achieve best possible outcomes, when someone is feeding him misinformation of the realities of the ground zero health care workers?

RANDY DELOREY: Again, I thank the member for the questions. As I restate, I believe the letter illustrates the circumstances behind the beds that she referenced.

As far as the staffing complement having a vacancy at a particular point in time, again, I think timing may play a role in some of the concerns that the member is stating where she may observe differences of information.

When the issue was brought to my attention and I had it looked into, that results in the information that was provided back to her at that point in time. As the member herself acknowledged, she waited two months to bring this issue and concern to our attention. I had it looked into and resolved and, as is the case from time to time, the Nova Scotia Health Authority - our partners - are already well under way in resolving the issues and concerns when they come to me several months after the work has already commenced.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**PREM. - AT-RISK MOTHERS: BIRTH ALERTS - END PRACTICE**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. For pregnant people who are involved with Children and Family Services, the birth alert system flags a mother's health file so that hospital staff notifies social workers as soon as the baby is born. A review of this practice in Manitoba found no evidence that it increased the safety of children in any way.

The final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls called upon provincial and territorial governments and child welfare services for an immediate end to the practice of birth alerts.

I would like to ask the Premier: Will the Premier agree today to end the discriminatory and racist practice of issuing birth alerts for at-risk mothers and their babies?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I will ensure the honourable member that I will look into the fact of whether that is actually happening in our province. I agree and I share her concern as she's describing the situation, and I will get back to you and to try to determine whether it is actually happening in our province. If it is, we will have a further discussion.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I thank the Premier for that answer. British Columbia and Manitoba have agreed to end the practice of birth alerts. Women's Wellness Within, a registered non-profit in Nova Scotia, is calling on the government to invest in adequate pre-, peri-, and post-natal care for all new mothers, with special attention and supports being made available to mothers who may be younger than the average or poorer than the average, with culturally-sensitive and targeted supports for Indigenous, African Nova Scotian or otherwise racialized families.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit to providing these enhanced supports to help marginalized parents with their pregnancies, births and parenting experiences?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, it's why we continue to provide wraparound services, whether it is through the Department of Health and Wellness or the Department of Community Services. It's to provide supports around families across this province especially those as they begin a new journey. An exciting new journey for them: the birth of their first child or second child, or third or fourth - and if you happen to be in my case, twelfth. I am sure she was still excited at that point.

I want to tell the honourable member that's exactly why we are making these investments in pre-Primary and other programs. It takes away the socio-economic circumstances that a child is born into and provides them with the best outcomes, the best starts, the same as every child in our province.

I will endeavour to find the answer to your first question. We as a government, and I am committed, Mr. Speaker - through you to the member - to making those services available to those families, particularly those families most in need.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

#### **TIR - HWY. 104 TWINNING: PROPERTY ACCESS ISSUES - CLARIFY**

TIM HOUSTON: My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. There are a number of properties along the route of the twinning of Highway No. 104 that are going to face difficulties accessing their properties because of the new twinning projects. A number of these driveways have direct access to the highway.

My question for the minister is: What is the plan to preserve access for these properties during and after the twinning of Highway No. 104?

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. That's a very relevant question. In most instances a suitable access is provided. In some instances, the acquisition of the entire property might occur, which would make the matter moot.

We're very sensitive to not injure any of the properties that are adjacent to the improvement.

TIM HOUSTON: I understand that in some cases the plan is to incorporate a single-lane access road and there are obviously some concerns about accessibility, particularly for emergency vehicles. Residents are also unsure who would be responsible for maintaining any single-lane access road that may be incorporated into the project going forward.



Can the minister clarify who is responsible for maintenance of any single-lane access roads that are incorporated, so people can access property? Is it his department? Is it the municipality, or does it become a private road?

LLOYD HINES: Solutions, Mr. Speaker, that would involve the building of an alternative route along the adjacent twinned highway would be the responsibility of the department.

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

**COM. SERV. - LOW-INCOME HOUSING: LIST INCREASING - RESPONSE**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community Services. Time and time again, we hear this government tout its record on health care, housing and jobs in the province, only to hear stories upon stories of Nova Scotians being left behind. We see seniors locked out of their nursing homes in Truro, Northern Pulp and forestry workers losing their livelihoods, and now the rising rate of homelessness in Nova Scotia that left one elderly, disabled woman homeless and living in her car at the Dartmouth Walmart parking lot.

I met Joni Rutledge, who was at the Dartmouth General Hospital, where her specialist told her that if she didn't stop living in her car she was possibly going to lose the rest of her foot. So I went to the hospital and I worked with her.

My question to the Minister of Community Services: Do you know how long your department let Joni sleep in her car in the cold parking lot, after my initial call?

THE SPEAKER: I'd just like to remind the honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage to keep the questions directed through the Chair.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the honourable member that, as she well knows, we do not discuss individual cases here in this House. She knows that.

What I would like to let the honourable member know is that Nova Scotia made the most improvement in combatting poverty in 2018. Those are the latest Statistics Canada numbers. That has happened because of a number of different investments that we've made combatting poverty, Mr. Speaker, not limited to introducing the standard household rate in January of this year, which was the largest single investment in income assistance in the history of this province, ever.

BARBARA ADAMS: Well Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Community Services might want to not talk about what's really going on, but this woman certainly did - I have

the reporter's articles that she did. She wanted this brought to this Legislature, and that's what we're doing here on this side of the Legislature, telling people what's really going on.

The truth of the matter is that this minister's department left a disabled, partial amputee in the freezing cold for almost 30 days - 30 days after my initial phone call. The minister's department cited issues with paperwork, but it's pretty hard to have something mailed to your car in a Walmart parking lot. So, let me repeat: she was living in her car, in the dead of winter. She was on the priority list, and it took 30 days.

My question to the Minister of Community Services: Why, after six years of this government being in power, the vacancy rate for apartments in Nova Scotia has dropped to 1 per cent, and the number of people waiting for low-income housing (particularly those who are disabled) has skyrocketed under this government?

KELLY REGAN: I'd like to thank the honourable member for the question. While that member may be free to bring up individual cases, she knows that we are not allowed to speak about individual cases. We can talk about policy, but we cannot speak to individual cases.

What I would like to inform the honourable member is that this most recent budget has increased the Nova Scotia Child Benefit so that 10,000 more children will be covered by it. We also tripled what was the personal items allowance, which no government had had before, which we introduced. We nearly tripled that in this particular budget, which will allow people who are living temporarily in shelters, and in transition houses, so that they actually have money to spend on personal items.

We are working to combat poverty, and I would note that the poverty rate for seniors in Nova Scotia is actually lower than the national average.

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

#### **IMMIG.: RURAL N.S. - LOW SETTLEMENT RATES - ADDRESS**

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, the government is quick to point out Nova Scotia's high record population in 2019. What isn't addressed though is the bulk of those who have immigrated or migrated from other provinces settle in Sydney and Halifax. All counties except HRM reported more deaths than births between July 2018 and June 2019.

Rural areas of this province not only seek new residents, we desperately need them. The current programs like the Atlantic Immigration Pilot and Occupations in Demand pilot lack sufficient enticements for immigrants to settle where they desperately are needed the most, in rural Nova Scotia. What's the government's plan to encourage newcomers to settle in the areas where they are desperately needed in rural Nova Scotia?

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Thank you to the member for that question. First let me thank the staff at the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration for the great work they're doing. I also want to thank this government and this Premier for making immigration a priority when we came into power.

The member's quite right, we are growing our population and we are working hard across the province, including Cape Breton, and including all of the rural areas, to attract newcomers. I am very pleased with the reports of yesterday that Sydney for the first time is increasing its population through the international students. Very pleased with the work that we're doing and members are also doing with Cape Breton University and all the partners in that municipality.

ALANA PAON: I thank the minister for her response. Unfortunately, we're not seeing the gains that we need, through the programs that are available in rural Nova Scotia and constituencies such as Cape Breton-Richmond.

I applaud my colleagues across the floor for increasing the population in Sydney, but that is an urban environment. In fact, population decline was the fastest in Guysborough County, followed by Shelburne, Queen's, Victoria, Cumberland, Digby, Inverness, Pictou, and Richmond. We need to reverse this.

What is the government doing in rural Nova Scotia communities to make certain that those newcomers that are here, and people who are migrating from other provinces, not only are placed in those communities, but they stay and they settle on a long-term?

LENA METLEGE DIAB: Thank you again for that question. Let me remind the member and all colleagues that 10 out of 18 counties have increased their population this past year.

[2:45 p.m.]

Let me also remind everybody that we also have the Atlantic Immigration Pilot, and through that program alone 40 per cent of employers that are using it are outside the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Thirdly, with the time that I have, I want to also remind everybody that last March 20<sup>th</sup>, we launched the Francophone Immigration Action Plan. Through the work of that plan, we are increasing our francophone population in the province.

I'm happy to report that people are going throughout the entire province. We will continue to work with our employers, with our businesses, with our settlement partners, and with all municipalities to increase our population and grow our communities throughout the entire province.

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

**TIR - ENGLISHTOWN FERRY: RESUMPTION - UPDATE**

KEITH BAIN: My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Mr. Speaker, the saga of the Englishtown ferry continues. As a result, the ferry has been out of service since December. We're into March. Many community members are wondering when this ferry will be operational again - a common occurrence.

We know that the ferry is sitting in drydock for repairs. Residents will now have to wait for that work to be complete. After that, residents will have to wait for the right weather because the ferry needs to be towed back. Finally, the residents will have to wait for federal inspectors to give the ferry the green light once the work is complete and the ferry ready to sail. Soon the drift ice will be in, causing further interruptions.

My question for the minister is: Will the minister give the House an update as to when the public can once again travel on the Englishtown ferry?

HON. LLOYD HINES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. I'm very familiar with the Englishtown ferry and the challenging environment that it operates in. We do everything we can to make sure that it meets all the standards that it has to meet, some of which are federal because of the nature of the crossing that's there.

The drift ice is something that I have to say exceeds my grasp. I'm not quite able to give you any guarantees around the drift ice, but let me tell you that I'm certainly appreciative of the inconvenience that it causes for the folks North of Smokey. We will do everything we can to get it back in operation as quickly and as expediently as we possibly can.

KEITH BAIN: I realize that the minister can't control when the drift ice might be coming, but it's coming.

Mr. Speaker, having the ferry closed has inconvenienced both residents and businesses and has caused emergency providers delays when responding to emergency calls. The loss of the ferry service, again, is unfortunate for the area. Delays hurt both residents and businesses - so much so that residents are once again asking for a fixed link. The department should show these constituents that they realize the disruption this has caused.

My question to the minister: For the short term, will the minister rise today and commit that all those who have purchased passes will receive a refund, and for the long term will he once again open discussions on the possibility of a fixed link?

LLOYD HINES: I would draw the member's attention to the full name of our department, which is Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. I'm very, very happy to stand here today and talk about the infrastructure renewal that this government is undertaking across this province.

Huge investments in our road budget - the highest ever. In our capital budget, the highest in history. It is amazing. Also, one possible silver lining for the cloud is that we rebuilt the Tarbot Road a couple of years ago and it's in very good condition.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I recently met with a constituent whose parents both died of lung cancer. She was inquiring about whether or not there are any plans to have a lung cancer screening test in place to detect the disease earlier - an excellent question. According to her, Japan offers annual screenings by way of X-rays and bloodwork.

With breast cancer screening and colon screening offered here in Nova Scotia, I was wondering if there was any possibility to add lung cancer screening? That was a reasonable . . .

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

The honourable Minister of Agriculture on an introduction.

HON. KEITH COLWELL: In the East Gallery is my nephew, Jason Balcom. He is a schoolteacher here in the Halifax Regional Municipality. It's wonderful to see him here today. It's his first visit to the Legislature. (Applause)

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

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: I'd like to bring members' attention to your gallery where we are joined today by, maybe arguably, the best Liberal MP from Nova Scotia, the former member of the House of Assembly for 10 years in Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River and now our MP for Cumberland-Colchester, Lenore Zann. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: We will now move on to Government Business.

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

**GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

THE SPEAKER: The House will now recess for a few minutes while it resolves itself into the Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

[2:51 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[4:24 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened. The Speaker, Hon. Kevin Murphy, resumed the Chair.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on Bills reports:

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

**Bill No. 221 - Labour Standards Code.**

**Bill No. 225 - Elections Act.**

**Bill No. 226 - Companies Act.**

**Bill No. 228 - Housing Nova Scotia Act.**

**Bill No. 230 - Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.**

**Bill No. 232 - Electricity Act.**

without amendments, and bills:

**Bill No. 220 - Labour Standards Code.**

**Bill No. 223 - University Foundations Act.**

**Bill No. 227 - Legal Aid Act.**

with certain amendments, and the Chair has been instructed to recommend these bills to the favourable consideration of the House.

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

### **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. 233.

**Bill No. 233 - Smoke-free Places Act and Tobacco Access Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 233 be now read a second time.

I will keep my opening remarks brief. (Applause) I know my colleagues are looking forward to Estimates, where I can keep my comments long.

There are five key amendments being made between these two Acts as part of this bill. The first one is within the Tobacco Access Act, providing the Province with the ability to regulate the nicotine content within the cigarette products. We know and have heard from many that the potency of nicotine within these products increases the probability of addiction to nicotine and nicotine products and also serves as a gateway into other traditional tobacco products that contain nicotine.

This is an important feature. The actual details of the nicotine levels would be regulated in regulations. That just provides us the flexibility that, should national

regulations in this regard be established, we don't have to have duplicates out there. We'll be able to make more timely and efficient changes through those regulations.

Within the Act we also broaden the definition of "tobacco." This is because we don't want to find ourselves in a similar situation as we did with e-cigarettes and vaping products, where products that don't meet the current legislation definitions make their way into the marketplace and government is catching up. By broadening the definition within our existing legislation to focus on nicotine product, we stay in the forefront. We can be more responsive on a go-forward basis should new technologies and delivery mechanisms come to market.

The third thing is that this is an amendment that requires individuals to assist in an investigation. This would be in a situation where inspectors evaluate that they need the cooperation of employees within an organization that may be selling to provide pertinent information or details necessary to complete an order. This does require that reasonable participation to take place.

Those three changes are in the Tobacco Access Act portion of the changes.

In the Smoke-free Places Act, the first change enables peace officers to confiscate and destroy vaping products. If confiscated from a person who is in possession of a product who isn't supposed to be, they can confiscate and destroy. That would be similar and consistent with tobacco and alcohol legislation.

Strengthening the language - this is a minor clarification being made to strengthen language around outdoor patio spaces. It just clarifies a current section within the Act. We have had some inquiries about the language and the intent, so this just tightens that up. If there's an outdoor patio space in an establishment that serves food or alcohol, it's not to also be providing an opportunity to consume a cigarette or e-cigarette tobacco products, even if the patio space is large enough to segregate an area that's not serving alcohol or food, if the patio is there and it's generally being used for service.

Those are the five amendments being brought in. Obviously, the members of the Legislature know our intention here is to reduce the amount of e-cigarettes and vaping use, particularly within our youth population. I look forward to feedback from other members as second reading continues.

[4:30 p.m.]

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

BRAD JOHNS: It gives me pleasure to rise here today to address some of the thoughts that our Party has as regards Bill No. 233.



Mr. Speaker, I want to start by saying it's somewhat ironic because I am - although not proud of it - probably one of the few people in this House who actually smokes, and probably the only person under this roof who actually vapes. I don't know if there's anybody else, but I do vape.

I didn't start smoking until 8 years ago when I was 42 years old. It was a spinoff from some personal issues and the depression I was going through at the time, and I started smoking. I managed to actually go 42 years without smoking. I often say to people that God has a very funny sense of humour sometimes. I would say that at one point in time, I was quite the snob when it came to smoking and people who smoked. I didn't have very much time for, and I was pretty critical of, those people. Now I am one of those people unfortunately.

I would also preface my comments by saying that although 14 years ago I actually quit drinking, smoking and nicotine addiction is one of the hardest addictions I have ever been able or ever tried to quit. However, one of the things on a personal level that has helped me to curb smoking is my use of vaping. I know that many people will say that anecdotal evidence is not concrete enough. What I will say is that from my perspective, it has helped me to curb my smoking and get away from cigarette smoke. I am a proponent of vaping.

Having said that, because of my own personal addiction to nicotine and knowing what I go through, I certainly do not by any means support youth vaping. One of the things I often say to my two girls - I have 12- and 13-year-old daughters - I tell them constantly not to smoke. I say it's somewhat ironic. I don't think any time in my life have I ever met a smoker who said, Brad, the best thing I ever did in my life was start smoking. I have never met anybody who said that. I have met loads of people who say, man, why did I start smoking? I wish I had never started smoking; it was the stupidest thing I have ever done.

Any legislation that can come forward that helps to curb smoking or, in this particular case, helps to address the epidemic that I think is coming to our school system around vaping and youth vaping, our Party certainly does support it.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this legislation, of course, is to address that issue of youth vaping. Although it does not meet all five recommendations that Smoke-Free Nova Scotia brought forward, it does address four of those. Vaping has actually been around now for probably the last five or six years. Many studies have happened, both at the federal level - there's one currently going on at Dalhousie University that I'm aware of as well as many down throughout the States and in Europe. There have been many, many studies on vaping. Those studies do show that youth who typically use e-cigarettes are four times more likely to go on to smoke regular cigarettes than their peers who do not vape.

Obviously, something does have to be done. It is quickly becoming an epidemic in our schools. I have met with students at Millwood High as well as some junior high

students. I have talked with a variety of teachers and principals around vaping. It is becoming, in some case, out of hand for the principals trying to deal with these - the JUULs particularly, which is a type of vaping instrument that a lot of the kids are using now in school.

I would think that while obviously less toxic than a combustible cigarette, e-cigarettes do contain nicotine in most cases and they still contain toxic chemicals; nicotine being addictive. Also, studies have shown, of course, that nicotine is harmful to the developing adolescent brain.

Overall, as I will talk about, we do support this legislation. I do have some concerns in regard to where I think the legislation is somewhat weak and not hitting the mark. I believe. I will ask some questions and perhaps during closing remarks, if the minister might have an opportunity, he may be able to address some of these questions that I will ask. If not, I am sure they will come up at Law Amendments Committee as well.

I am curious to see that although this legislation does look at having retailers, manufacturers, and point-of-sale all registered, I do have some concerns that it doesn't regulate or restrict the sale of e-cigarettes and vaping products in convenience stores and gas stations and limit them only to specialty shops.

I guess where my concern with that is when it comes to youth vaping, particularly with the STLTHs or the JUULs, which are the ones that do have a higher nicotine content - those are usually sold in convenience stores, gas stations, and corner stores and things like that. Although also sold in specialty stores, when we get into some of the other diverse vaping products that are out there, those are typically not sold in corner stores. It's these JUULs or STLTHs or Perls and those ones that are being sold, and those are the ones that the youths seem to be purchasing.

There are a number of reasons that they purchase them, which I will get into in a minute, but those are the ones that, additionally, have the highest level of nicotine levels. I do know that this legislation does look to limit that, but I think that to go further, to have restricted these to only specialty shops would make it a little bit more difficult to get into the hands of youth.

Right now, I know with Millwood High School in my constituency, there are two corner convenience stores that are with walking distance of the high school. I know one of them does sell these products. I can't say whether or not they are selling them to students, but I know that they do sell them and thereby students, you know, have a tendency of getting them.

According to a study that was released from the Truth Initiative, it actually showed that 74 per cent of all youth who are currently vaping are obtaining JUULs via corner stores. So, even though this legislation does say that they have to be behind the counter and

hidden similarly to cigarettes, I think that if we were really trying to address this issue of vaping then we would try to limit where those could be sold. It is within the last year that we've actually seen an uptake in youth cigarette usage as well. I think stats are showing that now.

I have talked with numerous shop owners, specialty shop owners. I do know that when this topic around vaping came up at the legislative Health Committee, a number of the members - the two members who sit on this one, Argyle-Barrington and I believe, I forget the other (Interruption) Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage - both members raised and requested that members from the industry be able to come in and present to the House, and that Committee decided not to do that.

What I would suggest is vaping, and the discussions around vaping, are not as black and white as what I would think many members in this House think they are. There are many different types of vapes out there, very different terminologies, and very different aspects to vaping that make it quite an interesting industry. It is complex to understand it all, and it's not necessarily an industry that you can swat with a fly swatter and one swat kills all. I think there are many aspects to it.

When the legislation is coming forward under the auspices of trying to address youth vaping, then I think that's where we need to focus, and we need to be able to focus on things that deter youth from getting into vaping. I have met with students as well, I think I said, at Millwood High School and others.

Mr. Speaker, I do see that in the budget highlights report that we were given, on Page 5 it does say that one of these things is an introduction of a tax on vaping products that will begin in September 2020 to support the efforts to decrease youth vaping. Nova Scotia is one of the first provinces to do this. I do recognize that is the auspices, but I do have questions.

It's estimated that the revenue that will be generated under the tax on vaping materials, both on e-juice, on bricks, and on the materials that are used as well, will generate about \$2.3 million in the 2021 year with a future annual estimated revenue of \$4.3 million. One of the questions that I am curious to know is specifically how much of the revenue that's going to be generated this year and in ongoing years is actually going to be assigned to programs, dedicated to programs to educate and deter youth from vaping in our schools.

I think that considering that youth vaping is the reason for this new tax, we should actually be able to see exactly what money is going into vaping and preventative education towards vaping. I do also feel that should be a percentage amount and not a dollar amount because of course it will fluctuate the amount of income coming in, and so that should be a percentage amount. I don't really see that - we may be able to see that in what the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board brought forward today. I am assuming that there are the amounts of fines and some of these things will be in there; I will look at that when I have

an opportunity. I am curious to know what the percentage is of the new revenue generated that will be going specifically to education.

Just for the education of members, what I'm figuring out the impact of this new tax means, on average a bottle of e-juice - and there are different e-juices the same way that there's different bottles of wine, in the same way that there's different types of beer - a typical average bottle of e-juice currently runs about \$20 a bottle, and with the new tax that's going on this, I see it more than tripling to about an average of \$50 a bottle. I say that here with the hopes that the vapers who are out there who don't realize where this is going, recognize what that impact is going to be financially. It's a pretty significant impact, so I'd like to see how much money is actually going into education.

Mr. Speaker, nicotine of course is one of the top five addictive substances on the earth. As I've already said, unfortunately I've become addicted to that substance. It is only behind heroin, cocaine, alcohol, and of course cocaine would be crack or molly or whatever. Many adults have chosen vaping as a long-term alternative for cigarettes or a method to gradually reduce nicotine consumption, which eventually will lead to total quitting. Similar to other nicotine replacement substances that exist currently, other therapies like gums and patches, there are lozenges and medications. Anybody who smokes or knows somebody who smokes knows what they are. Studies have shown that vapes and e-cigarettes do improve the quitting from typical tobacco cigarettes.

[4:45 p.m.]

I did raise in our caucus today that there are places in Europe now where, with the prescription of a doctor, you're actually able to get a vape to help you get off smoking, similar to how you'd have to get a prescription to get Champix or different types of medications that we have now.

To me it seems somewhat counterproductive. Unless most of the money that is going to be generated on this tax is going into education and preventive measures, it seems somewhat counterproductive to me that there be a tax put on something that is there to help people quit smoking. I think that any smoker or anybody who wants to quit smoking and they're using vaping as a method to do that, it seems somewhat counterproductive to me - that is, until I looked in our budget to see how much money we currently make on smoking.

I discovered that this year, the projected revenues on tobacco products are \$196 million; \$196 million is what the Province of Nova Scotia has in their budget leading from traditional tobacco products. I now understand why we want to keep people smoking and we don't want to encourage or provide opportunities or things to have people stop smoking, because we're making \$196 million a year on smokers.

If we are looking at taxing vaping products which have been proven to be a method for people to quit smoking, it's too bad that some of that money couldn't go back into other

alternatives to try to help people reduce the cost of. If people don't want you to use vaping to quit smoking, then help to offset the cost of medications, lozenges, patches, or any of the other things that I spoke about. When I see \$196 million in a budget, I do recognize why we want everybody who smokes to keep smoking.

I'm not saying that there's no harm to vaping. I know that studies have said that there are chemicals that are still in vapes, and I know that current evidence is there that shows it. However, what I will speak about for a minute is my personal experience in regard to vaping.

I don't wake up coughing and hacking. I breathe better. I don't smell terrible, like smoke. I just feel better when I vape. As I said earlier, and I know that's my personal experience, but other people I've talked to have said the same things. I'm not saying that there are no downsides to vaping, but I will say I do fundamentally believe, and studies have shown, that vaping is less harmful than smoking. I've often said to somebody, I'd much rather be slapped in the face than punched in the face. That's kind of how I feel when it comes to vaping versus cigarettes. I know that they're both going to hurt, but one hurts a little bit less.

Obviously, the best thing people can do for their health is to quit smoking and don't do anything. However, completely replacing tobacco cigarettes with e-cigarettes or vapes will certainly reduce the number of toxic, cancer-causing, harmful chemicals that are found in tobacco but not in vape products.

One of the other parts that I totally like about this legislation is we support providing regulatory authorities with the ability to confiscate restricted nicotine e-juices, e-cigarettes, and other products from underage users. We certainly support that.

I questioned for a number of years why that legislation was not put into place. I remember as a youth, we were always afraid to drink underage because I think it was a \$250 fine. The police had the ability to confiscate your six-pack or whatever.

I will say to members of this House that some of the products that youth are using, 75 per cent of them are using things like the JUULs and the STLTHs, which are very small. I don't actually use a JUUL because of the nicotine content that's in them, but they are very small. They are able to be concealed well. They look like a typical USB drive, and most people wouldn't know what they were.

Some of these products are big and expensive. People can drop \$200 or \$250 for a good brick or battery with juice and the container that holds the juice, so some kids are investing a lot of money into these. I think that having the ability for regulatory authority to police and to confiscate these will hurt the pocket of some of these people who are using them.

As I was saying, I also totally support and think that it's great that this legislation provides the opportunity to limit the amount of nicotine content, particularly since two of the products that are being sold currently and are the more favoured of students - and I mentioned two earlier, JUUL and STLTH - are the two that actually have the highest nicotine content of anything. As I said, I vape, and I'm down now to about an 18 milligram content, actually.

Usually the types of vapes that people who are getting off smoking will use are starting at 25 milligrams of nicotine, and they go down from there. JUULs are 50. One of the things that is somewhat ironic is you cannot get zero nicotine, as far as I know; it's either 50 or 35. I tried a JUUL one time and was going to pass out just from one hit on it. Those are the things that the youth are using, and the nicotine levels in those are like off the chart. I support any legislation that comes forward that gives us the ability to limit the amount of nicotine.

In Europe they've started to do this, so JUUL turned around and they came out with a lesser nicotine pod. They came out with smaller pods, but right now, they are the highest concentration of any nicotine content on the market.

What the legislation doesn't talk about, and I don't know if the minister has ever looked into this, but there's also a thing called nicotine salts. It's a different type of liquid that is used. I believe that's the same type of liquid that is in JUUL, and it has a higher concentration, consumption level. You breathe it in, and it goes into your lungs two and a half times faster than what a normal e-cigarette does.

I think being able to confiscate these things is a great thing. I think being able to limit the amount of nicotine concentrations is a great thing. Just for the members' knowledge, the average cigarette typically contains about 13.4 milligrams of nicotine, but you don't inhale the entire cigarette, you take a couple of puffs here and there. The average amount of nicotine that gets into a system is roughly around 2 milligrams from the entire cigarette. Even if you smoked a whole pack you are only going to be at about 36 milligrams of nicotine. The nicotine found in a JUUL is 50 milligrams, it's really strong, so to be able to limit that is great.

A further question I have is in regard to Clause 7, where it is talking about the ability to limit nicotine. Clause 7 and Clause 8 actually discuss being able to restrict the nicotine concentration. Then it goes on to say the maximum capacity of electronic cigarettes.

Perhaps the minister would be able to let me know. I'm confused if that's referring to the maximum battery, the maximum capacity of the fluid, the maximum capacity of the tank, or the maximum capacity of the burner. I'm not quite sure in that respect.

My suggestion would be that it should probably identify exactly what it's the maximum capacity of, and I would also think that maximum capacity is somewhat restricted. I would suggest that the word "maximum" be removed altogether, because it could be a minimum.

By having a minimum size, ironically, I keep talking about JUULs, but JUULs actually have the smallest pods for sale. If it's a minimum size of the pod, this legislation could create a market where it's a monopoly of only one seller. I don't think that's what the intention of this legislation is. It would be nice to be able to identify what that's talking about.

As I spoke earlier, I don't think this identifies nicotine salts, which are not normal e-juice, and which are sold and can deliver into the blood two and half times faster than other e-cigarettes.

I'd also like to point out, as I said earlier, this legislation does hit on four of the five things that were recommendations of Smoke-Free Nova Scotia. I do note that this legislation doesn't increase the age from 19 currently, although it is something that I believe Smoke-Free Nova Scotia had requested.

The Canadian Cancer Society has actually said that they support a federal rise in minimum smoking age to 21. They've suggested, in a study that they put out in 2015, that it's somewhat inevitable that sooner or later provinces will eventually do this. Ironically, Prince Edward Island, as of Sunday just passed, March 1<sup>st</sup>, was the first province in Canada that did this and raised the minimum age for smoking from 19 to 21. The Canadian Cancer Society has suggested that increasing the smoking age from 19 to 21 would reduce smoking by 12 per cent, and thus smoking-related deaths would also reduce by about 10 per cent.

As I said earlier, I am looking forward to seeing what the fines are. I do see that fines are able to be levied here, but it's unclear what the actual fine is, both toward the individual user as well as industry or stores that are caught breaking the law.

Mr. Speaker, I think that was a half-hour. I did pretty good. I think that's the longest I've talked on anything here.

With that, I know that there will be many people coming to the Law Amendments Committee. I do expect there will be many people, especially when it gets out what the price of juice is going to be under this particular legislation. I would encourage the House Leader, or whoever sets the agenda for the Law Amendments Committee, to take that into consideration. It could be a very long Law Amendments Committee.

I certainly will be there. I look forward to hearing members of the Cancer Society - members of Health Canada, I'm sure, will be there, as well as people from the industry,

particularly given the fact that I don't think the industry was really consulted in regard to this legislation.

What I will say in closing is if the industry had been consulted on the issue of youth vaping and was asked, how can we address this, I think the industry would have come out and made some suggestions that would have helped this. I'm sure the amendments in the legislation that are before us will help, but I think there were other opportunities that could have been missed. With that, I'll leave it where it is and wait to hear what is said in Law Amendments. Thank you very much, everyone, for your patience.

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

GARY BURRILL: I would like to add a few brief comments about our thinking about this legislation at its second reading. I'll say first that there are certainly key components of the government's overall regulatory approach to the vaping question that we find commendable and worthy of support.

Particularly looking at the matter from a consumer protection point of view, it only makes sense that the Province should have the regulatory authority to form regulations over nicotine levels in nicotine-containing products. One person doesn't need to be an expert - either from personal experience or study - to understand the basics about the character of the product of nicotine, and to understand that its intensity, its concentration, is something that regulatory authorities ought to be able to have control over. This is a welcome component of this legislation.

The parallel component of this piece of the legislation - the matter of broadening the definition of tobacco - also makes plain sense in this current universe, in which there is such a wide, wide range of nicotine-containing but not necessarily tobacco-specific products. These are things that make eminent sense. Overall, in general, it certainly makes sense. This is a key component of the legislation about vaping, which we in the NDP brought forward some time ago.

It makes sense that there need to be thoroughgoing and serious measures, and we see them in this Act and we support them. There need to be thoroughgoing and serious measures that will continue to further discourage use of vaping among young people. These are all things that we are happy to be aligned with.

At the same time, though, it's also important to say that there are some real concerns we have, as do others, with the government's general treatment of the vaping question at the moment.

I guess the central fact about the vaping world is the extent to which it's composed of people. My colleague, the previous speaker, spoke to this at the first part of his remarks. The thing about the vaping world is the great extent to which it's composed of people who



are addicted to nicotine, but people for whom vaping has proven to be the only effective means for getting off smoking. We know there are many, many such people. From this point of view, it is awfully difficult for us to understand what is the public health purpose that's being served by the measures that we have before this House that will make vaping in effect more expensive than consuming combustible tobacco. This is an area of concern.

Secondly, in the proposed legislation on the subject which was put forward from our Party, at the core of it are provisions that would limit the availability of vaping products to specialized nicotine product-related stores. At the time we brought that legislation forward, we thought it was key to the kind of intelligent regulatory regime the province needs to have for vaping. We continue to think that this would be key to a constructive regulatory regime for vaping and that it is the right path forward. We are sorry to see that this provision doesn't have any place within the overall orbit of the legislation that the government is putting forward here.

These are the comments, Mr. Speaker, that I'd like to make in second reading.

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 appreciate the comments and feedback from my colleagues opposite. I have just a couple of points of clarity for the members on the floor. To be clear, this legislation as tabled affects amendments to two Acts: the Smoke-free Places Act and the Tobacco Access Act only. The five amendments that I noted in my opening remarks remains the scope of this particular bill.

Much of the commentary did delve into questions about taxation. That is something regulated and governed by the Department of Finance and Treasury Board. That is consistent with the existing regulatory regime for traditional tobacco products. For those who may be wondering why the Department of Finance and Treasury Board has the portion of our response for e-cigarettes relating to licensing and taxation and fines, it is because that is where the traditional tobacco structure that we've inherited lies, and for simplicity of maintaining the administrative structures in place for that licensing regime.

The discussions around taxation and so on, I would advise my colleagues that those discussions will be had in more detail when the Financial Measures (2020) Bill moves through debate.

As it relates to this particular bill, I think the question about max capacity of the devices with liquids, juices - whether it's the container or the pods or what have you - is broadly what we are looking at there. How much content can be delivered in one device is the area we're looking at, but maintaining a little bit more broad language in the bill gives us that flexibility to assess at the regulatory stage as we're building that, to ensure that we

have regulations that can respond. If there are other ways to interpret or apply that make good public health sense, providing the enabling legislation to build that into the regulations allows us to respond.

I'd remind members, I know there's some suggestions about some other features that they may like to see. The first phase and step, again, is not in this bill as it relates to licensing but that is a stage that we're taking, about the avenues for procuring these products. Again, a different piece of legislation is addressing that. That work is being done through the Department of Finance and Treasury Board.

We believe that these Acts, Mr. Speaker, will move us forward. I'd remind members that as a government, this is the second or third time we've opened these pieces of legislation in the last six years, so the ability to respond to the needs of Nova Scotians, to help continue our leadership in pursuing a tobacco-free province is consistent - and not just for this government. It's been amended over the years by all governments in response to the very real health challenges we have.

I think this is very important to be able to move these changes forward in a timely manner and there's always opportunity to pursue and look at other amendments in the future. Mr. Speaker, I thank everyone comments and advice and look forward to the progress of this bill through the remaining stages. With that, move to close second reading on Bill No. 233.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 233. 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. 234.

**Bill No. 234 - House of Assembly Act**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 234 - An Act to Amend Chapter 1 (1992 Supplement) of the Revised Statutes, 1989, The House of Assembly Act - be now read a second time.

Through this bill, Mr. Speaker, we are introducing amendments to the House of Assembly Act which will help ensure the ongoing safety and security of the Legislature. The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the crucial role of safety and security here in the

Legislature. The position is responsible for developing and implementing security policies and procedures; advising the Speaker and Clerk on issues of security; and ensuring the safety and security of members, legislative staff, the press gallery, and visitors.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is also responsible for supervising security personnel and acting as liaison with elected officials, legislative staff, police, and government departments. Ensuring that this role, including its accountabilities and responsibilities, is clearly defined in legislation is essential. It is also imperative that the Sergeant-at-Arms has the proper resources and authorities to do his job.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes four changes. First, the Sergeant-at-Arms will be granted the powers, authority, privileges, rights and immunities of a peace officer under common law, the Criminal Code and other federal and provincial legislation in Province House or in fresh pursuit. This includes the legislative authority to possess and use a firearm or other weapon that police are authorized to use in Nova Scotia.

The current Sergeant-at-Arms, David Fraser, was made a Special Constable when he was hired in 2016. As a Special Constable to the Legislature, he is permitted to possess, carry and use a firearm to fulfill his security role and responsibilities. With these changes, we are ensuring that this government and authority is clearly outlined in the legislation.

The second change will give the Sergeant-at-Arms the authority, in the event of an incident, to pursue persons that leave the premises when required and when appropriate. This will be a new authority granted to the position.

Third, the Sergeant-at-Arms position will be required to have the same training and certification that police officers must have in Nova Scotia to possess and use a firearm and other weapon used by police.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fraser is a former RCMP officer and has the training and license to carry and use a firearm. The legislation, however, has never stipulated that the Sergeant-at-Arms, whoever holds this position, must undergo the same training and certification as police officers in Nova Scotia.

The final change, Mr. Speaker, will give you, the Speaker of the House, the authority to appoint the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Governor and Council the authority to determine the salary. Currently, the salary is set in legislation. This means a legislative process must be undertaken to adjust the salary.

Mr. Speaker, these changes ensure that the legislation better aligns with the safety and security role of the Sergeant-at-Arms and clearly sets out the required authorities and powers of the position. The Legislature is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. The work that takes place here by members of the Legislature, staff and the press gallery is the foundation of our democracy. We must always be vigilant and prepared to ensure that this

democratic institution, and the people who work and visit here upholding our democratic values and processes, are safe and secure, and that they are free from any concerns about their personal safety.

That is why these changes are necessary: to ensure that the person accountable and responsible for our safety and security is properly equipped to prevent and respond to threats and that the legislation supporting the role is clear. Mr. Speaker, my hope is that we will never experience a threat or incident here. However, my 30 years of policing experience has taught me that the best way to prevent an incident from happening is by having robust and thorough plans, policies and protocols in place.

[5:15 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank the people who work here at Province House to ensure that we are safe and secure every day: the commissionaires, the members of Halifax Regional Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. David Fraser, who is doing an exemplary job in his role. With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the comments of my colleagues opposite.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

KIM MASLAND: I am happy to rise to speak to Second Reading of Bill No. 234, the House of Assembly Act.

The position of Sergeant-at-Arms was established at the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1790. Our province and our world have undergone enormous changes and advancements in the last 230 years. Similarly, the role of the Sergeant-at-Arms has changed, just as security at Province House has changed. I'm thinking of the addition of metal detectors not so long ago.

While I'm sure we regret it, some of these measures included in this bill are necessary. We in the PC caucus support giving the Sergeant-at-Arms the authority and equipment he or she needs to protect visitors, MLAs and staff at Province House - the people's House. I know I am not alone in this House when I say how appreciative we are for the work of our current Sergeant-at-Arms. (Applause) There is a sense of safety while doing our jobs each day in this House under his watch and all the commissionaires and staff who assist him.

This bill gives us the opportunity to commend and thank the current Sergeant-at-Arms and all the past Sergeants-at-Arms. Mr. Speaker, all who have had the privilege to serve in this historic place in recent years benefited from the service and friendship of the late Delmore "Buddy" Daye, Doug Giles, the late Noel Knockwood, and the late Kenneth Greenham. (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, the PC caucus supports this modernization of the House of Assembly Act that reflects the needs of modern society. We have the utmost respect for the position of Sergeant-at-Arms and the service these individuals have provided and continue to provide to our province, and we are happy to support the measures that help them at that task. I thank the minister and his department for bringing forward this legislation.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I am pleased to rise and say a couple of words to the Act to Amend the House of Assembly Act. I would join in the comments of my colleagues in recognizing the service of the current Sergeant-at-Arms and past Sergeants-at-Arms and all the staff here at Province House who keep us safe.

I think increasingly there are times when all of us personally appreciate that and have challenges. That's the nature of the work, that the decisions we make won't always be popular and people might respond to those decisions in all different kinds of ways. It does offer some measure of security that we can do the work we need to do in this Chamber without fear for our personal safety.

Beyond that I would say that we as MLAs have been aware, as the minister pointed out, that this particular Sergeant-at-Arms has had this training and does carry a firearm. While this is a change to the Act, it's not a change to the circumstance here in the Chamber so we're pleased to support this bill.

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

The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: I'll take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support and comments.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to close debate on Bill No. 234, the House of Assembly Act.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 234. 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. 236.

**Bill No. 236 - Railways Act.**

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

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 236, the Railways Act be read a second time.

It is a pleasure to speak to this legislation today. These amendments will improve government's oversight of the province's provincially regulated railways. It will also provide clarity to railway companies of their obligations and duties under the Act.

Rail transportation is important to our economy, Mr. Speaker. Therefore it is important that it is well-regulated and that there is appropriate oversight.

There are currently a number of gaps and deficiencies in our legislation that make it challenging for government to ensure that railway companies maintain and repair their infrastructure. The amendments before the House today will make clear the public safety and maintenance obligations for discontinued, abandoned, non-operational, or unlicensed railroads in the province. These changes will increase the obligations on railway owners to take more responsibility for their rail infrastructure.

This bill will ensure that rail companies governed by this Act keep their rail lines, bridges, and crossings maintained to a safe standard even when they are no longer operational. The legislation will require Nova Scotia's short-line railroad companies to have their infrastructure inspected by a qualified inspector every five years to ensure that rail assets don't become public safety issues.

The provincial Railways Act governs short-line railways. The federal Railway Safety Act governs interprovincial and international railways like CN. In Nova Scotia we have three short-line railways: the Sydney Coal Railway, the Windsor-Hantsport Railway, and the Cape Breton and Central Nova Scotia Railway.

The Sydney Coal Railway is owned by Nova Scotia Power. It was federally regulated until 2018 when Nova Scotia hired a new operator. At that time the Canadian Transport Agency determined that the railway was no longer under its federal authority. Because of the nature of its operation, it is now considered an industrial railway and therefore outside of the provincial authority as well. As a result, it has been operating without direct regulatory oversight, although it continues to follow the federal rules.

We have no concerns with the operations currently. However, the line has 42 crossings in CBRM, so it is important that it be regulated for reasons of public safety. The amendments we are proposing to the Act will extend legislative and regulatory oversight to the Sydney Coal Railway.

CBCNS is a long-established railway company in Nova Scotia. In 2015 it discontinued its St. Peter's to Sydney portion of its Truro to Sydney, leaving several bridges, including large structures at Grand Narrows and Ottawa Brook crossings and a number of culverts, as potential liabilities. It is important that our legislation provide clarity on the obligation it has for that section of discontinued line.

The Windsor Hantsport Railway Company ceased operations in 2011 with the closure of the Fundy Gypsum mine - its only customer. Regrettably, the Halfway River aboiteau failed in 2017, causing a threat to local public infrastructure upriver. The company would not take responsibility for the structure, which forced the Province to step in and initiate repairs at public expense.

The incident involving the aboiteau is just one example of a deficiency in our legislation and highlights that the Act isn't as strong as it needs to be to protect the public interest of Nova Scotians. The Railway Act currently does not give clear authority to intervene and repair railway infrastructure even when public safety is put at risk. That will change under this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The proposed amendments will address this deficiency. In the future, if an owner fails to act, this legislation will give the Province the authority to step in to recover costs when government has to make repairs in the interests of public safety.

I would also point out that this bill will further clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Utility and Review Board, which is the licensing body under the Railways Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to hearing from my colleagues across the aisle.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments on Bill No. 236, the Railways Act. When you look at the Act, there are certainly gaps and deficiencies in the Act, which is neglecting to protect the public interest.

It appears that the Railways Act requires amendments to ensure safe operations of short lines under provincial jurisdiction in the province. To have a licensed railway that is not operating trains and not subject to the Act and regulations fails to address safe operations in all aspects of the railway.

A couple of concerns were mentioned to me. Amendments to the Railways Act were not made public until I believe last Friday afternoon. Perhaps the minister could comment on the process that occurred in his closing remarks on second reading.

Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward to submissions made in the Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I'm happy to stand speak to this bill. It's important that our railway infrastructure across the province continues to be maintained, and of course public safety is a top priority. I look forward to hearing from stakeholders at the Law Amendments Committee. I have nothing else to say at this time.

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

The honourable Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

HON. LLOYD HINES: I appreciate those comments. I rise to close debate.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 236. 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 Deputy Government House Leader.

KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 238.

**Bill No. 238 - Insurance Act.**

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

HON. KAREN CASEY: I move that Bill No. 238, the Insurance Act, be now read a second time.

I rise today to speak to the amendments to that Act in order to protect Nova Scotians. For clarity, Mr. Speaker, Nova Scotians can be vulnerable to third-party financial schemes that target their life insurance policies.

We need to protect those consumers while insurance companies are able to continue to fulfill their purpose of providing financial protection for individuals. That is why we have listened to the concerns from the industry and are making changes to protect both the consumer and the insurance company. Amendments to the Act will ensure that insurance companies have legal grounds to refuse to transfer ownership of life insurance policies to



third parties; they will also prevent the transfer of large sums of money into side accounts to take advantage of fixed interest rates.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, seniors and critically ill Nova Scotians could typically be the most vulnerable to these predatory tactics. Third parties are potentially able to buy those life insurance policies at a fraction of the face value. The policy owner gives up all rights under their policy to a third party, in exchange for a cash payment which is often less than the full value of the policy. Going forward, policy owners cannot sign over their rights to a third party in exchange for that cash payment.

I'm pleased with these amendments, and our third-party companies will no longer be able to buy life insurance policies from vulnerable Nova Scotians. This will eliminate the risk to the consumers and to the insurance companies. Mr. Speaker, we need to protect both.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

MURRAY RYAN: I'm thankful for the opportunity to speak to this bill. Our seniors are some of our most treasured individuals. I believe that personally. I just spoke of my father late last week.

This bill protects our seniors and those who are ill who have taken out these insurance policies to benefit their families whom they leave behind. The fact that we are protecting them and providing this opportunity is win-win. If there is anything that I can say about this bill, it's that Nova Scotia and Quebec are the only provinces that don't have something on the table, so it's good that we're joining the majority in the country.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I'm happy to say a couple of words about this bill. I would join in the comments of my colleague that this appears to be a proactive change that closes a loophole that could certainly negatively affect seniors and vulnerable folks; we're glad to see that happening, to see our legislation being kept current. We'll look forward to hearing from stakeholders at the Law Amendments Committee.

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

The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. KAREN CASEY: Thank you for the support from the Opposition members. I think everyone in this House recognizes that we have to protect those most vulnerable. It's sad to think that we have predatory tactics out there, and we have to put legislation in place, but we believe that we are proactive in doing this.

As has been stated, we have joined other provinces to make sure that this province does not become a target when the predators are blocked out of other provinces. I look forward to the Law Amendments Committee.

[5:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 238. 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 Deputy Government House Leader.

KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 240.

**Bill No. 240 - Life Partners in Long-term Care Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I move that Bill No. 240, the Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act, be now read a second time. The goal of this bill is quite simply about providing a means to keep couples together as they enter into long-term care facilities.

We know that our partners have worked, when possible, to keep couples together in their facilities, but the system has been designed initially in a way to focus on the care needs in a clinical context. That leaves times when the care needs of the two partners may be different, requiring different levels of care that are provided at different facilities. What this Act does is enable a pathway for our partners in the long-term care sector to keep those couples together, providing the care based upon the higher needs facility of the two partners.

To make good, positive legislative changes does not always need to be complex. This is an example of making good legislation to support those in need. I look forward to hearing from my colleagues as this bill proceeds through second reading.

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

BARBARA ADAMS: I am pleased to rise today to speak to this bill about placing family members together. One of the things that we know is that long-term care is the final resting place for many people after a lifetime of being together, and the thought of being separated brings great sadness to many people. I know that the members of the PC caucus are, of course, in support of this legislation, so much so that on October 13, 2017, the

Honourable Jamie Baillie introduced this into the Legislature as well. I'm glad to see the government is finally ready to bring this into legislation.

One of the things that I am aware of is that the Homes for Special Care Act itself needs to be revised completely. It is quite an old Act, and there are an awful lot of changes that need to be brought forward. However, this is certainly a start.

In terms of the Life Partners in Long-term Care Act, for those who aren't aware, there are three levels of priority to get into a long-term care facility. The first is someone who is at risk, so someone who is in adult protection gets highest priority.

The next priority, already in this province, is to have spouses be united in long-term care facilities. That's already in place. This legislation, although well meaning, has already been the practice for quite a number of years in this province. The continuing care social workers and staff are already asked to unite partners in long-term care facilities.

The third level of priority is everyone else. That also includes people who are in an acute care bed. So there are 700 people approximately - we haven't had an update lately - waiting for acute care beds to get into long-term care. They're actually a lower priority than uniting a spouse is. We already have this, so this is great. Those who are waiting from home for a long-term care bed are also a lower priority than uniting spouses in long-term care.

When it says here "Where an individual and the individual's life partner have both been assessed and deemed eligible by the provincial health authority, as defined by the Health Authorities Act, for placement in a facility, the individual and the individual's life partner have the right to be placed in the same facility." That is in fact current practice. If this legislation is simply to enshrine a current practice, then there is no difficulty with it.

However, we have brought to this Legislature and it has been in discussion perhaps over the last 10 years that this does not - unless I stand corrected - include those spouses of veterans. There are quite a number of veterans in our community. As you know, Nova Scotia makes up 25 per cent of the Canadian Armed Forces and I certainly have a large contingency in my constituency. But right now, if you're a veteran living in the Veterans Memorial Building, you cannot have your spouse move in with you even though many of the beds in that long-term care facility are waiting for a long-term care bed to another facility.

There are overflow beds in the Veterans Memorial Building that are being used by people from the acute care hospital beds. The only people not allowed into the Veterans Memorial Building are the spouses of veterans. I have said this before, and I'll continue to say it until it is changed, that veterans and their spouses deserve to be together just as much as everybody else in this province.

This legislation, although the theory and the concept are great, is already current practice. What I was hoping was that this would add additional improvements so we could unite veterans with their spouses or partners. I know the PC caucus intends to introduce this during the Committee on Law Amendments as an amendment because we think that veterans and their spouses deserve to be together.

Just to remind everyone, although the care of veterans themselves is funded by the federal government, the Veterans Memorial Building is a provincial asset. In discussions with them and with Department of Health and Wellness, what is needed is for us to change the designation of the Veterans Memorial Hospital, to have them go through the accreditation process. That would make it a long-term care facility designation for the province of Nova Scotia.

I have been advised of this; there are a lot of people who are asking for this. There are ministers at the provincial and federal levels who have been talking about this for years. It has been in the newspaper. I was extremely disappointed to see that this bill, if we're going to talk about life partners, did not go that final step to make sure those who have served their country have the right to be with their spouses at their final resting post.

I look forward to seeing the comments of those in the Committee on Law Amendments and will have more comments coming up during Committee of the Whole.

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

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, there are in this short bill a couple of things about wording that I find especially welcome. The first is that very sensible formulation as it's put here; I'll quote from the bill - "the individual and the individual's life partner have the right to be placed in the same facility."

I think that's a pretty important construction - "have the right." Not that it will be a priority of policy at such times as it can be accommodated, or according to availability of space, but that we will regard this as a matter of such priority that the laws of our province will speak of it as a right - I think that's how it ought to be spoken of.

All policies aside, over the years it has not been an unheard-of thing, particularly in rural areas, where the supply of spaces in long-term care is more limited, that you might have a couple, one of whom requires long-term care at the highest level of intensity and there is a place at that level in perhaps the nearby home and it is something that is required today, on an urgent basis. So that member of the couple moves there, and the other member of the couple also needs long-term care but is not at that same level, and at their level there isn't a spot just now in the local facility but there is one at a place away.

I think everyone who works in placement in continuing care understands that this is not a bit ideal and that when it has to happen, everything that can be moved has to be

moved in order to get that couple together. Yet it's not unheard of over the years that this can go on for some weeks or some months.

I think it is a helpful thing to say that we don't look on this as a matter of policy or priority. We say that in this province this couple have this right. I think these are important words to have in the legislation.

Whenever this happens in a family, when families and friends organize themselves to get busy and bring people back and forth between the two institutions, you often hear people speak about, my heavens, this is a case of the rules and the bureaucracy being given more priority than common sense and care. I think that's right.

First, I want to say a word in favour of this formulation in the bill, that members of the couple should be together in long-term care facilities in Nova Scotia. This is something that we will regard in future as a right.

Secondly, I think the definition of a "life partner" that the legislation provides, which is a definition that encompasses a broad range of committed life partnerships, is a very helpful definition. Sometimes when people speak about the great variety and diversity of committed life relationships there can be in the world, they tend a little bit to speak about this as though it were something that were confined to middle-aged or younger people. In fact, this is not the case at all.

I think this is a useful thing that in this legislation that speaks about this being a right of lifelong partners, there should be a definition of lifelong partner which is leaving in the dust the old definition that was so prominent for so many years and which only accorded this kind of respect to people in married relationships.

In my own family, I had a great-uncle who, while living in a long-term care facility, fell in love with another resident in the facility. He and the person with whom he had established the relationship were, at that time - this is years ago - not able to live in the same quarters because they weren't married. This is hard for us to imagine now, but thankfully the world has changed on this front.

It's a useful thing to see that the definition we have of a lifelong partnership for these purposes reflects these changes in this bill. These are things that I am happy to speak in favour of.

Of course, I am not in favour of the overall current situation in Nova Scotia in which, whenever we think about our nursing homes, we can't avoid the fact that the government has not opened a single new facility since coming to power. This has the result that in some parts of the province, up to a fifth of our hospital beds are taken up by people who are not hospital patients, but people who are going through the very difficult wait of living in alternate level of care arrangements while they wait to be placed in a nursing

home. That can take a long time, according to where you live in the province. I don't think it's fair - it's good to speak about nursing homes and changes about nursing home rules in Nova Scotia - without bringing this into view.

[5:45 p.m.]

We're also not in favour of the current situation in Nova Scotia, where the expert panel about which the minister has been speaking in Budget Estimates - it was quite clear from the Expert Advisory Panel on Long Term Care that the number of people we have on the floors of our nursing home facilities in the province is not today adequate to provide the kind of care that residents have every right to be able to expect.

Yet, despite that being the case, the government has not made an initiative to implement, as has been recommended to them, an updated system of staff resident ratios that would reflect contemporary levels of acuity for residents of long-term care.

I am also not in favour of the fact that there are two successive budget years in the work of this current government where there were cuts made in our province's nursing homes to the budgets that supported diet and staffing and recreational programming. The result was that there have been a lot of negative consequences reported by residents and families and advocates and front-line nursing home employees across the province over the last couple of years.

I don't wish for us to open the file of long-term care in Nova Scotia for a debate in the House without these matters of deep concern for us being brought to the fore. We think of these matters as the context for evaluating the government's overall effort to this point in long-term care which, in my judgment, is an effort that has been disappointing. This is also context in which I want to say about the present bill before us - I think it is a welcome initiative, that it is well worded and well pictured and that we are pleased to support it.

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic, or rather Cape Breton-Richmond.

**ALANA PAON:** I was worried there that I had moved without knowing. Good to know I am still Cape Breton-Richmond.

It's my pleasure today to stand up to speak again on Bill No. 240, Life Partners in Long-term Care Act, on second reading. May I first say that I commend the government in putting forward this legislation.

I will say, however, that it saddens me deeply that we even have to put forward a bill such as this. It seems that it would really be common sense that we would try our best to make certain that couples are placed in the same facility for long-term care.

I want these comments to be brief, but one of the issues obviously with long-term care - especially in rural Nova Scotia and my constituency is no different - is that we just have a difficult time accessing long-term care beds when they are needed. As much as it is wonderful to see that this legislation is being put in place and to echo the minister's words to enable pathways for couples to stay together, I worry that some of the kind of the basics are not being looked at and invested in, which is really to increase the amount of long-term care beds that are available to rural Nova Scotians.

I think one of the first things that I remember working on as a file when I first became an MLA - there was an elderly lady travelling great distances to go and visit her husband every single day. He had been placed in a facility. As we know, sometimes we don't get our first choice if we have to place our loved ones in a facility. He had been placed in a facility, and she was travelling extraordinary distances every day, sometimes in the Winter months. I couldn't believe how long her husband had been on a waiting list to have him transferred to a facility that would have been closer to home.

I was really happy to assist in any way that I could. Within a couple of months, he was transferred to the Villa. That gentleman just passed away very recently. It feels good, as an MLA, to be able to assist with - sometimes you think they're the smallest things, but they have the biggest impact in people's lives. I think that this piece of legislation is one of them.

I would like to say, as well, echoing some of the comments from my colleague in the NDP caucus, that it's worrisome when we've seen cuts to some of the most basic elements of providing care in these long-term care facilities. It's very worrying, as well, that it seems that there's staff shortages that continue. Staff are run ragged at these facilities. They do an extraordinary job. I know many of them - many of them are my friends at both the Richmond Villa and at the St. Anne centre.

We're so fortunate to have these facilities. They're very community-orientated facilities. I want to commend the staff who are working there. I just wish that they had more assistance. We need more help. We need more bodies on the floor to assist those care workers who are in these facilities. I would just like to put that forward for the minister to perhaps comment on.

There are a couple of things as well, if I may just mention this, that just popped into my mind. I remember watching my parents when my dad was in palliative care. You'll see how this is related to where I'm going with long-term care. My parents were married for a very long time. I've seen people coming into my office who - I'm sorry, I'm going to try to say this without getting emotional. I never thought that this would happen to people.

There's a couple like my parents, who have committed themselves to one another for 50 or 60 years, and they're having to come to me and say, I don't know what to do. I'm having to legally separate from my spouse in order for me to be able to stay in my home

and afford the household expenses on my own now that I have to put my wife or my husband in a home.

It breaks my heart to know that people who have committed themselves to community, who have paid their taxes their entire lives, who have been Nova Scotians through and through - some of them are people I know personally. It's very difficult to accept that we would put people in these positions, loving couples who would have to separate legally from one another in the end stages of their life after making a life commitment to one another like that.

If I could just perhaps present that to the minister for some reflection. If there's something there that, perhaps, we could do to try and counter what is happening in a lot of rural communities and mine in particular. I have had three different constituency files with the exact same situation. It was a real eye-opener for me when residents come to me, and they're asking for help for something which I really am unable at the moment to do anything about.

With those few words, in the hope that we can enact some positive change with both this legislation and also with issues that arise, and that we're honest and open about talking here, I'm hoping that we can make decisions in this House that are good for all Nova Scotians.

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

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I appreciate the comments of my colleagues opposite. Very quickly, most of the key points that were brought up by the PC caucus first and foremost - with this bill, it does not explicitly state about veterans, but our intention is to work with the federal government to have that incorporated. We do believe this in terms of all Nova Scotians.

In fact, earlier today, I had a conversation with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Veterans Affairs on this very topic - how we can continue to move this forward in partnership. I think he feels optimistic that we can establish an appropriate framework to allow that to work out.

The other thing is about the difference between what currently is in place, and what this enables as well. The member opposite was speaking about long-term care; this bill actually goes beyond that. It's within the continuing care space so it takes into account residential care facilities as well, so, when you're at a different levels of care.

While it's a priority for connection in the current model when people are at the same level of care - this is where you see those news stories from time to time where it's



not happening and it's because they're at different care needs. This is making it abundantly clear that within the system, as the member from the NDP caucus highlighted, we view this as the right of those individuals, so they come at that point of their life for care.

Many of the comments seem to be supportive of the bill itself so I appreciate that. There are just a couple of technical clarifications. The wait-list is about 190, not 700 people in acute care beds as of February 19<sup>th</sup>. That represents about 8 per cent and not 20 per cent of the acute care beds - certainly not the 700 beds that the member from the NDP caucus cited. Again, we continue to work to address those wait times and the wait-lists and that's beyond the scope of this particular bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I move to close the second reading on Bill No. 240.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 240. 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, I move now that you do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply unto Her Majesty.

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

BARBARA ADAMS: I am grateful to have an opportunity to once again address the members of the Nova Scotia Legislature. We're in the middle of Budget Debate and so there's been quite an opportunity to ask the government how our money is being spent. Oftentimes, we get answers that are a bit brief in response.

I just want to take an opportunity to put back on the record some of the actual facts because I think it's important, as we're getting close to the end of Budget Debate, to discuss what the government itself is saying are the actual numbers.

One of the things that I want to talk about is the fact that our party, the PC Party has been asking for years how many physicians have come into the province and been hired, how many have retired, died, moved away, or simply stopped practising.

The other day during Budget Debate, we asked the Minister of Health and Wellness how many people in this province, who are attached to a family practice, are attached to

that practice by way of a doctor as their primary care provider, or by way of a clinical nurse practitioner? There is a difference between the two.

We were advised that we have no idea how many are attached to one or the other. I asked the Minister of Health and Wellness because all physicians were asked to roster their clients last Summer. We should have an exact number of how many people in the province have a family doctor. I was advised that only 60 per cent of physicians actually filled out the roster.

So, once again, we still have no idea how many people in this province actually have a family doctor. I think it's important for all of us to say that you're attached to a family doctor or you're attached to a clinical nurse practitioner, but they are not interchangeable.

[6:00 p.m.]

Nova Scotians deserve to know exactly how many doctors we have in the province, how much they are practising. As the Minister of Seniors mentioned during Budget Debate last night, if you have a physician retiring who had 4,000 people on his roster and a new physician comes on board and they're prepared to take only up to 1,500, the fact that you have brought in one physician does not replace the fact that one physician may have left. You might need two or three physicians, or three or four or five clinical nurse practitioners, to take the same place of one physician.

The other thing that we have not been able to get a handle on, because I don't know if it is tracked, is how long people are now waiting to get in to see their family doctor. If you have pressured physicians to take on more people than they are actually capable of seeing in the run of a day, what you end up with is people waiting four, five, or six weeks to see their family doctor or their clinical nurse practitioner. We are not getting those numbers as to how long people are actually waiting.

We do know that when a physician sees you there is often the tendency to use one patient, one issue, one visit - meaning, if you've taken time away from work to go to your family doctor with your mother, you are often or sometimes told that you can raise one issue at a time. You have to leave, call back, and reschedule to come in to talk about the second issue. That issue has not been addressed. When we try to ask about that we are not getting any answers.

One of the things I have raised in the House is that there is a time when the government will always respond with the answer: We are continuing to make investments. As a health care professional and as a researcher, I know that continuing to invest in something doesn't necessarily mean that you have better outcomes. It doesn't mean that you're meeting the indicators that were established by the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Continuing to invest money is not a true measure of whether we have improved health outcomes in Nova Scotia.

Where we don't have those actual numbers, we have to go by the numbers that the Nova Scotia Health Authority provides us in the Nova Scotia Health Authority By the Numbers report that comes out once a year. I'm going to reference a couple of those numbers because I think transparency is an important feature of government. Under emergency visits, in 2017-18, there were 600,095 emergency room visits. The very next year it went down to 585,026 visits.

I have mentioned before when our Party was discussing and debating our bill on having a health ombudsman that no one actually believes we have fewer emergency room visits because there are fewer emergencies. The number of emergency rooms that are closed across this province has escalated dramatically under this government. When you tell Nova Scotians that you are continuing to invest in health care and they show up at the door of the emergency room and it is shut, they don't feel that investment.

When we talked about mental health during the Health Committee debate on mental health, the government talked about how wait times in a couple of places had improved. What they didn't mention is that the majority of wait times in the majority of centres around the province had increased.

One of the speakers at the Health Committee mentioned that the wait times for non-urgent care had increased from around 60-some-odd days, up to 120 days. It had doubled. We are not hearing government mention those numbers.

For the record, I want to mention that the number of patients who received outpatient visits for mental health services last year went down, from 44,300 to 42,998. If we are continuing to invest in mental health services, the people calling my office who have attempted to take their own lives, showed up in emergency, and got sent home in less than 24 hours are not feeling those investments. The 7.5 people in Nova Scotia every day who attempt to take their own lives are not feeling those investments.

If we go down to continuing care, this government is very fond of saying we are continuing to invest in home care, so we'll look at what that actually looks like. In 2017-18, the number of home care clients was nearly 30,000 at 29,676. Last year, it went up a little to 31,688. You would think, while we're continuing to invest, more people are getting more care. No. More people are getting less care.

I'm going to say that again: More people are getting less home care according to this government's numbers. Just to make it clear what that means, if you had a loved one who needed home care in this province in 2016-17, the average number of home care hours per person was 107 hours per year. Last year it went down to 104 hours. Just this past year,

2018-19, it went down to 97 hours. That's the equivalent of four hours of home care per year.

We can't keep everybody home. Everybody, of course, wants to stay home - my own mother wants to stay home - but there is a point at which they cannot stay there. Dr. Ken Rockwood, who has quoted the frailty scale because he created it - and those of us who are health professionals know that when you reach a certain point of frailty, you cannot stay at home. I'm sorry, but I can tell you that 96.7 hours of care isn't going to keep very many people at home.

Continuing to invest is not what's being felt by those who are getting home care, because it's a different home care worker who shows up almost every single day. The home care companies that have those service contracts are taking on more clients than they can actually provide care to. I don't know what the actual percentage of cancellations is, but I have estimated, based on what I'm hearing, that it's somewhere between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of all of those visits that no one simply shows up. When you call the service providers, they say they just don't have the staff.

We have been waiting for this government to take action on the staffing issues for home care and long-term care. The long-term care report came out. There were supposed to be actions taken on the Continuing Care Assistant program. We need approximately 4,000 CCAs; the government gave a grant for 150. My mother had a CCA come to her home to help her with bathing; ironically, because I need to be here, I couldn't do it at the time. The care worker showed up for 20 minutes and then left. My mother paid for the full hour. This government paid for the full hour. I don't fault that care worker. She's got a whole lot of people she needs to get to, and she doesn't like having to cancel them.

We have a system in home care that is not sustaining people at home, which is why there are so many people waiting from home for long-term care beds.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the number of visits for mental health services, we actually saw a reverse trend. We saw fewer people getting mental health care but one extra visit. We invested in mental health services over the past year; the government has said so. What we have, though, is fewer people who received mental health outpatient services last year, but those who did get it got one more visit.

When we say we're investing in mental health, investing in long-term care, investing in home care, and investing in income assistance - the bottom-line question is: Do the people who are receiving those investments feel like things have gotten any better? As a critic, formerly for Community Services, people are not telling me that they feel like they're getting improved access to food, housing, clothing, and medication.

The investments that the Department of Community Services have put into raising income assistance is dramatic. They don't add up to much more than \$50 to \$100, but

because this particular government has not increased those amounts for so long, any increase is welcome. I would ask anybody in this Legislature to find any one of those constituents who comes through my door to find an apartment that you would be willing to live in, because they're certainly not able to find housing.

Earlier today I talked during Question Period about a homeless woman who reached out for help - actually, it was her brother who reached out for help. He said his sister was living in the Walmart parking lot, can you help? We started the ball rolling. I immediately went to the hospital where she had an outpatient visit with a specialist who said to stop sleeping in her car. I offered to bring her into my home temporarily, assuming that the Department of Community Services would find her a house within a few days, but she couldn't do stairs, so my home wasn't an option.

It took over 30 days for the Department of Community Services to take action for someone who was homeless and living in her car in a Walmart parking lot. When this government says they are continuing to make investments, they're not feeling it. All of those who show up at my office who have lost their housing because of a break-up, I have driven them to homeless shelters knowing full well they're going to get one night's care and that they will be back out on the street, back in my office again the next day. They're not feeling this.

Home care workers, health care workers, teachers - all the people we have been talking about on this side of the House are not feeling those investments. What you read about in the paper and what we're quoting here is what they're telling us. Although we are critics, we are responsible for shining the light on what is really happening and taking a look at what those numbers really mean.

If we really want to get serious about health care and home care and long-term care - and teachers, whether our students are better prepared when they graduate than when they entered the school system - we need to actually be listening to the front-line workers who have the solutions that we have been listening to, that we have put forward in resolutions and amendments to bills. This government, ironically, has taken some of them: the breast density bill that I put in place, the human trafficking bill, and the bill by the member for Pictou East on e-cigarette flavours. We're so grateful that some of our recommendations have been followed.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

[6:13 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CW on Supply with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[10:18 p.m. CW on Supply rose and the House reconvened. The Speaker, Hon. Kevin Murphy, resumed the Chair.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole on Supply will now report:

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole on Supply has met and made considerable progress and begs leave to sit again.

THE SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: That concludes government's business for today. I move that the House do now rise, to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Following the daily routine and Question Period, it is obviously Opposition Day. Momentarily, I will ask the Official Opposition House Leader to call his Party's business. After the Official Opposition business, government business will include the continuation of the Committee of the Whole on Supply, and second reading of public Bill No. 243 as well as private and local Bill No. 245. Also, with time permitting, we'll do third reading of Bill Nos. 220, 221, 223, 225, 226, 227, 228, 230, and 232.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Official Opposition House Leader.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, for Opposition Day tomorrow, after the daily routine and Question Period, we will be calling Bill No. 241, Change of Name Act, and Bill No. 244, Education Act, for second reading.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House do now rise, to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

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

The motion is carried.

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.

[The House rose at 10:21 p.m.]

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS****Given on March 3, 2020****(Pursuant to Rule 30)****QUESTION NO. 17**

By: Susan Leblanc

To: Hon. Iain Rankin (Minister of Lands and Forestry)

Little Brown Bats are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Their populations have been severely impacted by white nose syndrome. Little Brown Bat populations often rely on old forests and dead, hollow trees.

Happily, some Little Brown Bat populations are recovering. Any improvement in their population needs to be carefully monitored and stewarded, and their habitat needs to be carefully protected.

(1) What specific actions is the Department of Lands and Forestry taking to ensure protection of populations of Little Brown Bats as per the Endangered Species Act?

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**NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)****RESOLUTION NO. 1697**

By: Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas Scott Burke, a constituent of Hammonds Plains-Lucasville and the Legislative Assistant to the Speaker, has written a book titled *Presiding by Desire*; and

Whereas this book details the political career of former Lieutenant Governor MacCallum Grant, from Summerville, Hants County, who served in office from 1916 to 1925, and the manuscript will be going to print in March 2020; and

Whereas Scott Burke has dedicated himself to this ongoing project over the past six years and the book will be a good source of reference for the political history of the early twentieth century.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Scott Burke on his hard work and achievement in completing his first book and wish him well on future endeavours.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1698**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Ben Good was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Ben Good on this amazing athletic achievement.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1699**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Brandan Good was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Brandan Good on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1700**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Brock Andrews was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Brock Andrews on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1701**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Bryston Sarty was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Bryston Sarty on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1702**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Chase McDonald was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Chase McDonald on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1703**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Haylen Taylor was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Haylen Taylor on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1704**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Hunter Newton was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Hunter Newton on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1705**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Jesse Dalrymple was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Jesse Dalrymple on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1706**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Kristian Hirtle was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Kristian Hirtle on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1707**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U113 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Landon Withrow was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Landon Withrow on this amazing athletic achievement

**RESOLUTION NO. 1708**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Owen McCarthy was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Owen McCarthy on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1709**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Ryan Barrett was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Ryan Barrett on this amazing athletic achievement.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1710**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Scotty O'Keefe was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Scotty O'Keefe on this amazing athletic achievement

**RESOLUTION NO. 1711**

By: Hon. Margaret Miller (Hants East)

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

Whereas Soccer Nova Scotia held their annual Night of Excellence awards on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to recognize outstanding accomplishments in soccer during the 2019 season; and

Whereas the East Hants U13 B Boys team was the recipient of the Team of the Year award, going undefeated in all 16 regular season games and winning the provincial title; and

Whereas Zack Rogers was part of the East Hants U13 B Boys team roster that cemented themselves in Soccer Nova Scotia's history:

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Zack Rogers on this amazing athletic achievement

**RESOLUTION NO. 1712**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Annie Mae Gracie Sampson of L'Ardoise deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Annie Mae Gracie Sampson having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1713**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Barbara “Elsie” MacLeod of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Barbara “Elsie” MacLeod having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1714**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Ann Marie Burke of Whiteside deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Ann Marie Burke having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1715**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas A. Gregory “Greg” Samson of Samson’s Cove deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of A. Gregory “Greg” Samson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1716**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Alexander Marshall of formerly of Potletek deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Alexander Marshall having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1717**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Adeline Cameron Decoste of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Adeline Cameron Decoste having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1718**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Anne Marie MacPherson of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Anne Marie MacPherson having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1719**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Blaise Jude David of Alderney Point deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Blaise Jude David having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1720**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Anna Evelyn Cameron of Port Hood deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Anna Evelyn Cameron having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1721**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Alice Ethel Roberge of Rockdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Alice Ethel Roberge having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1722**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Agnes Rebecca Laing Walsh of Rockdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Agnes Rebecca Laing Walsh having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1723**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Blanche Marie Boudreau of Boudreauville deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Blanche Marie Boudreau having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1724**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Beverly Ann “Bev” Fader of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Beverly Ann “Bev” Fader having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1725**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Aloysius Bernard “Al” Fougere of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Aloysius Bernard “Al” Fougere having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1726**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Annie “Jane” Croft of Rockdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Annie “Jane” Croft having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1727**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Arthur Joseph McKenzie of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Arthur Joseph McKenzie having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1728**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Blair Anderson Campbell of St. Peters deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Blair Anderson Campbell having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1729**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Adolphe Patrick Kehoe of River Bourgeois deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Adolphe Patrick Kehoe having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1730**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Arnold Henry Chamberlain of Arichat deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Arnold Henry Chamberlain having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1731**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Albert Alfred DeWolfe of Arichat deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Albert Alfred DeWolfe having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1732**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas April Rose Battiste of Potlotek deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of April Rose Battiste having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1733**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Abraham Joseph Sampson of Louisdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Abraham Joseph Sampson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1734**

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

Whereas any loss of life is tragic and imparts upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Anna "Beatrice" Burke of French Cove deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

Whereas as we mourn, we celebrate the contributions to life, love and our memories from current or former deceased residents of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Anna "Beatrice" Burke having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1735**

By: Hon. Iain Rankin (Timberlea-Prospect)

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

Whereas on September 13, 2019, with great sadness we observed the passing of a very talented and accomplished resident of Hubley, Mr. Walter Jakeman; and

Whereas Walter served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1954 and then worked for IBM for over 20 years, retiring as branch manager, and was well known as a true self-made backyard engineer and mechanic as well as a fine craftsman and artist; and

Whereas he was also a true outdoorsman, which led him to enjoy many years of hunting, fly fishing and boating and assisting Lands and Forests as a nuisance wildlife trapper, helping to safely relocate raccoons.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in remembering Walter Jakeman and expressing our gratitude for his service to our country and the many ways in which he touched the lives of so many people.