



House of Assembly  
Nova Scotia

## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy**

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### Second Session

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:</b>	
Com. on Law Amendments, Hon. M. Furey .....	5801
<b>GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION:</b>	
Res. 1796, Southwest Lobster Science Soc.: Conservation - Congrats., Hon. K. Colwell .....	5802
Vote - Affirmative.....	5803
Res. 1797, Dietitians of Can.: March, Nutrition Mo. - Recog., Hon. R. Delorey .....	5803
Vote - Affirmative.....	5804
Res. 1798, JD Composites: Entrepreneur of the Yr. - Congrats., Hon. K. Colwell .....	5804
Vote - Affirmative.....	5805

Res. 1799, Clare: Communauté accueillante - Félicitations, Hon. L. Metlege Diab .....	5805
Vote - Affirmative.....	5806
Res. 1800, Mun. Affs. and Housing: Ldrship. Sch. for Women - Recog., Hon. C. Porter .....	5806
Vote - Affirmative.....	5807
Res. 1801, Zonta Intl.: Empowering Women and Girls - Commend, Hon. K. Regan.....	5807
Vote - Affirmative.....	5808
<b>INTRODUCTION OF BILLS:</b>	
No. 247, Sustainable Development Goals Act, T. Houston.....	5808
No. 248, House of Assembly Act, C. Chender .....	5808
No. 249, Buy Nova Scotia First Act, E. Smith-McCrossin.....	5808
<b>STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:</b>	
Ferguson, Bob: Death of - Tribute, T. Houston.....	5808
Bus Stop Theatre: Capital Campaign - Celebrate, L. Roberts.....	5809
Gerhardt, William: Screen N.S. Award - Congrats., S. Lohnes-Croft.....	5809
Epilepsy Awareness Mo.: Purple Day - Recog., B. Adams.....	5810
MacDonald, Dacia: Com. Serv. - Thanks, R. DiCostanzo .....	5810
Vince Ryan Mem. Tourn.: 31 <sup>st</sup> Anniv. - Thanks, B. Comer .....	5811
Intl. Women's Day: Recognizing Incredible Women - Thanks, B. Maguire .....	5811
Sackville Lions Club: 50 <sup>th</sup> Charter Anniv. - Thanks, S. Craig .....	5811
New Minas Lions Club: 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. - Congrats., K. Irving.....	5812
Stewart, John: Retirement - Congrats., T. Halman .....	5812
Samuel Prince Manor Tenants' Comm.: Com. Serv. - Recog., L. Roberts.....	5813
Mustangs Midget Hockey: Season Victories - Congrats., Hon. M. Furey.....	5813
NSTSA: 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. - Congrats., L. Harrison .....	5814

Taste of Mauritius Restaurant: 5 Yrs. of Bus. - Congrats., Hon. K. Regan.....	5814
Millwood Girls Sports Teams: Great Season - Congrats., B. Johns.....	5814
Nashwaak Valley Farm: Animal Visits - Thanks, Hon. G. Wilson.....	5815
Kids Cooking Table: Ed Bowden Com. Wellness Award - Congrats., K. MacFarlane.....	5815
Jeffrey, Scott: Baseball Coach of the Yr. - Congrats., Hon. Z. Churchill.....	5816
Mitton, Sarah: World-class Shot Put - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5816
Firth, Ethan: Kayaking Achievement - Congrats., Hon. K. Colwell.....	5817
Waddell, Kelsey/Crowe, Angel: Exercise Sub-zero - Good Luck, T. Rushton.....	5817
Hunter, Frances Hazel: Death of - Tribute, Susan Leblanc.....	5818
Sisters of Science: Robotics, Internationally Competitive - Congrats., Hon. L. Glavine.....	5818
Francis, Lloyd: <i>Gulden Leeuw</i> Adventure - Recog., M. Ryan.....	5819
Nickerson, Amanda: Dartmouth N. FoodFit - Commend, Susan Leblanc.....	5819
ArtWorks East: Visionary Com. - Recog., Hon. L. Hines.....	5820
Scots Bay Com. Hall Assoc.: Com. Serv. - Thanks, J. Lohr.....	5820
Our Lady of Lebanon Church: Spring Opening - Celebrate, Hon. L. Metlege Diab.....	5821
Clarke, Trina/Lair, Allison: Coldest Night of the Yr. - Thanks, E. Smith-McCrossin.....	5821
Holland Rd. Elem. - MusiCounts Ntl. Award - Congrats., B. Horne.....	5822
Caregivers N.S.: Expansion to E. Passage - Welcome, B. Adams.....	5822
Allen, Jennifer - Master Mariner: Career Achievements - Commend, A. Paon.....	5822
Wife: Birthday Wishes, Hon. R. Delorey.....	5823
MacKay, Shannon: Vocal Performance - Congrats., S. Craig.....	5823
Shaw Wilderness: New Park - Thanks, B. Maguire.....	5824

Legion Br. 16: New Exec. - Congrats., K. MacFarlane.....	5824
Zinck, Bob & Marlene: Xmas Village - Thanks, S. Lohnes-Croft.....	5824
Liverpool Privateers: Future Games - Good Luck, K. Masland.....	5825
Bedford Basin Farmers Market: Rich in Amenities - Congrats., R. DiCostanzo.....	5825
Amherst Royals: Featured, Cdn. Stamp - Recog., E. Smith-McCrossin.....	5826
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS:</b>	
No. 1089, Prem. - MLA DUI: Knowledge of - Clarify, T. Houston.....	5826
No. 1090, Prem. - COVID-19 Threat: ER Access - Respond, G. Burrill.....	5829
No. 1091, Prem. - MLA DUI: Source of Information - Confirm, T. Houston.....	5830
No.1092, Prem. - Chief of Staff: Additional Info. Not Sought - Explain, T. Houston.....	5832
No. 1093, EECD: Anti-bullying Coordinator - Details, T. Halman.....	5833
No. 1094, SNS & Int. Serv.: Rent Control - Implement, L. Roberts.....	5834
No. 1095, H&W: Cannabis Studies - Consult, J. Lohr.....	5835
No. 1096, H&W: Stats. Collection - National Numbers, K. MacFarlane.....	5836
No. 1097, EECD - Incl. Educ. Invest.: Student Needs - Meet, T. Halman.....	5838
No. 1098, H&W - Roseway Manor (Shelburne): Replace - Timeline, K. Masland.....	5839
No. 1099, Environ. - Dartmouth Lakes: Protection - Update, Susan Leblanc.....	5840
No. 1100, Energy & Mines - Alton Gas Dev.: Environ. Assess. - Status, L. Harrison.....	5841
No. 1101, Environ.: Mercury Collection Prog. - Continue, B. Johns.....	5842
No. 1102, EECD - École Wedgeport: Replace. Proj. - Status, Colton LeBlanc.....	5843
No. 1103, H&W - Aberdeen Hosp.: Lack of Beds - Justify, K. MacFarlane.....	5844

## GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:

## GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:

## PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING:

## No. 246, Opioid Damages and Health-care Costs Recovery Act

Hon. R. Delorey .....	5845
J. Lohr .....	5846
L. Roberts.....	5846
Hon. R. Delorey .....	5847
Vote - Affirmative.....	5847

## ON MOTION FOR SUPPLY:

L. Harrison .....	5848
Susan Leblanc .....	5850
Hon. P. Dunn.....	5854

HOUSE RESOLVED INTO CW ON SUPPLY AT 6:35 P.M. ....5858

HOUSE RECONVENED AT 10:41 P.M.....5859

## [GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:]

## [GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:]

## PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING:

## No. 220, Labour Standards Code

Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5859
B. Comer .....	5860
Susan Leblanc .....	5860
Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5860
Vote - Affirmative.....	5860

## No. 221, Labour Standards Code

Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5861
B. Comer .....	5861
Susan Leblanc .....	5861
Hon. K. Regan.....	5862
Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5863
Vote - Affirmative.....	5863

## No. 223, University Foundations Act

Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5864
B. Comer .....	5864
Susan Leblanc .....	5864
Hon. L. Kousoulis .....	5865
Vote - Affirmative.....	5865

## No. 225, Elections Act

Hon. M. Furey .....	5865
A. MacMaster .....	5865
C. Chender .....	5866
Hon. M. Furey .....	5866
Vote - Affirmative.....	5866

No. 226, Companies Act	
Hon. P. Arab .....	5866
A. MacMaster .....	5867
L. Roberts.....	5867
Hon. P. Arab .....	5867
Vote - Affirmative.....	5867
No. 227, Legal Aid Act	
Hon. M. Furey.....	5868
K. Masland.....	5868
C. Chender .....	5868
Hon. M. Furey.....	5868
Vote - Affirmative.....	5869
No. 228, Housing Nova Scotia Act	
Hon. C. Porter .....	5869
S. Craig .....	5869
L. Roberts.....	5869
Hon. C. Porter .....	5870
Vote - Affirmative.....	5870
No. 230, Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter	
Hon. C. Porter .....	5871
S. Craig .....	5871
L. Roberts.....	5871
Hon. C. Porter .....	5872
Vote - Affirmative.....	5872
No. 232, Electricity Act	
Hon. D. Mombourquette.....	5872
A. MacMaster .....	5872
Susan Leblanc .....	5873
Hon. D. Mombourquette.....	5874
Vote - Affirmative.....	5874
ADJOURNMENT, House rose to meet again on Fri., Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.....	5875
NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3):	
Res. 1802, Patton, Lisa: 4-H National Volun. Ldr. of the Yr. - Congrats., Hon. K. Casey .....	5876
Res. 1803, Esau, Emily - Winner: Writing Contest - Congrats., Hon. K. Casey .....	5876
Res. 1804, Power, Brooklyn: Queens Co. Hosp. Fdn.- Thanks, K. Masland.....	5877
Res. 1805, The Queen's Florist: Botanical Gardens, Spring Opening - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5877
Res. 1806, Seaboyer, Shawn: Exemplary Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5878
Res. 1807, Camp, Brian: Long Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5878

Res. 1808, Marriott, Trevor: Long Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5879
Res. 1809, Allison, Allen: Long Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5879
Res. 1810, MacKenzie, Derek James: Long Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5880
Res. 1811, DesChamp, Wes: Long Service Medal - Congrats., K. Masland.....	5880
Res. 1812, Fraser, Leighann: REC Girls Soccer Champs. - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5881
Res. 1813, Prest, George: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5881
Res. 1814, Searle, George: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5882
Res. 1815, Vroegh, Clara: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5882
Res. 1816, Hubley, Lisa: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5883
Res. 1817, MacQuillan, Sandra: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5883
Res. 1818, Prest, Janice: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5884
Res. 1819, MacLellan, Paula: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5884
Res. 1820, Dobbin, Jackie: E. Hants Shining Star Award - Congrats., Hon. M. Miller .....	5885
Res. 1821, Boutlier, Ingrid: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5885
Res. 1822, Sampson, Harry Alfred: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5886
Res. 1823, Barrett, Gerald James: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5886
Res. 1824, Landry, Elizabeth (Jane): Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5887
Res. 1825, Sampson, Gracie Annie Mae: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5887
Res. 1826, Newfield-Armstrong, Gail Beryl: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5888
Res. 1827, Cook, George Lewis: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5888
Res. 1828, MacNeil, George Joseph "Joe": Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5889
Res. 1829, Matthews, Gerald: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5889

Res. 1830, Samson, Felix Joseph: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5890
Res. 1831, Sampson, Elizabeth (Liz) Margaret (Mountain): Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5890
Res. 1832, Smith, Inez Evelyn: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5891
Res. 1833, Stride, Golda Ilene Noseworthy: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5891
Res. 1834, Forrest, Greta Gladys: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5892
Res. 1835, MacLean, Edmund Gordon: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5892
Res. 1836, Stone, Gordon James: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5893
Res. 1837, Samson, Herman Joseph: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5893
Res. 1838, Clayton, Francis Victor: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5894
Res. 1839, MacDonald, Effie: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5894
Res. 1840, Greencorn, Edward Howard "Eddy": Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5895
Res. 1841, MacDonnell, Isabell Jean: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5895
Res. 1842, Ryan, Gertrude Lillian (Gertie) Coffin: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5896
Res. 1843, Britten, Eldora "Dora" Cecile: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5896
Res. 1844, Martell, Herman Joseph: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5897
Res. 1845, LeBlanc, Francis Joseph: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5897
Res. 1846, Winsor, Eric Howard: Death of - Tribute, A. Paon.....	5898
Res. 1847, Slaunwhite, Constance Evelyn: 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday - Best Wishes, Hon. I. Rankin .....	5898
Res. 1848, Monk Renovations: Renovator of the Year - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5899
Res. 1849, Made with Local - Gold: Small Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5899
Res. 1850, Hfx. Wanderers Football Club - Gold: New Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5900
Res. 1851, Flag Shop - Finalist: Small Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5900



Res. 1852, Air Realty - Bronze: Innov. Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5901
Res. 1853, Bar Kismet - Finalist: New Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5901
Res. 1854, G.M. Applied Technologies - Finalist: Export Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5902
Res. 1855, Greywave Sr. Care - Finalist: New Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5902
Res. 1856, Precision Biologic - Gold: Innov. Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5903
Res. 1857, Northern Bus. Intelligence - Gold: Export Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5903
Res. 1858, Preserving Traditions - Bronze: Small Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5904
Res. 1859, Site2020 - Bronze: Export Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5904
Res. 1860, Ring Rescue - Silver: New Bus. of the Yr. - Congrats., T. Houston.....	5905



House of Assembly  
*Nova Scotia*

**HALIFAX, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020**

**Sixty-third General Assembly**

**Second Session**

**4:00 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**

**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1796**

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

Whereas the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association, Brazil Rock 33-34 Lobster Association, the Coldwater Lobster Association, the Maritime Fishermen's Union Local 9, and the Scotia Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association joined in 2017 to form the Southwest Lobster Science Society, an historic partnership between industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, and regulators; and

Whereas the Southwest Lobster Science Society, with funding from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, is approved for a three-year pilot project offering fishermen an alternative at-sea observer plan collects scientific data to assist in conservation efforts; and

Whereas the pilot represents about 52 per cent of licence holders in the identified lobster fishing areas, and the Southwest Lobster Science Society collaborated successfully to offer fishermen throughout the region an alternative to DFO's at-sea lobster observer plan;

Therefore be it resolved that this program provide an opportunity for fishermen to demonstrate strength in numbers and participate in industry-owned science research initiatives, while meeting the requirements outlined by DFO for monitoring by-catches.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, may I make an introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct the members' attention to the East Gallery and introduce some special guests. As I call out your names or group, please feel free to stand so that people can recognize you: Kate Comeau, a dietitian with Dietitians of Canada, Manager of Public Relations and Media; Jackie Spiers, a dietitian and Regional Executive Director with Dietitians of Canada; and Carissa Bellefontaine, a dietitian with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. We have a number of graduate and undergraduate students studying nutrition at Mount Saint Vincent University as well.

I would like to ask my colleagues on the floor of the Legislature to please give our guests a warm welcome. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1797**

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

Whereas healthy eating and proper nutrition are foundational for overall health at any age; and

Whereas dietitians are valued health care professionals who practise in a variety of settings and support Nova Scotians in optimizing their health and well-being, while reducing the risk of diseases and illness through their expertise; and

Whereas Dietitians of Canada is a professional nation-wide organization that provides credible information about nutrition, thereby enhancing and improving the lives of citizens in Nova Scotia and beyond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing March as Nutrition Month in Nova Scotia, an opportunity to encourage all Nova Scotians to increase their awareness of the benefits of healthy eating through a variety of fun and educational events.

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 Fisheries and Aquaculture.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1798**

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

Whereas JD Composites, a new business based out of Meteghan, made their debut this Summer by constructing a 2,000-square-foot home made from approximately 600,000 recycled plastic bottles; and

Whereas JD Composites places recycling as the top priority of their business, and having close ties to the fishing industry as one of their partners, Joel German, CEO of I. Deveau Fisheries, has expanded the business portfolio to include decking used in lobster tank houses in Southwest Nova Scotia, and the 115-foot walkway is non-skid, durable and made from approximately 8,000 recycled plastic bottles; and

Whereas the partners of JD Composites, David Saulnier and Joel German, were recognized by the Clare Chamber of Commerce as Entrepreneurs of the Year for their outstanding innovations in the field of developing sustainable construction materials to help address the global issue of discarded plastic;

Therefore be it resolved that the partners of JD Composites, David Saulnier and Joel German, have been recognized as an innovative company that is creating custom materials for use in the seafood sector and beyond.

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 Acadian Affairs.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1799**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Monsieur le Président, a une ultérieur, je demanderai l'adoption de la résolution suivante :

Attendu que le gouvernement du Canada investit dans l'attraction et la rétention d'immigrants francophones, entre autres par un projet pilote mené par l'entremise de l'immigration pour les communautés francophones en situation minoritaire; et

Attendu que le choix du Réseau en immigration francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse a sélectionné la communauté acadienne de Clare pour participer à ce projet de communauté accueillante en raison de son réseau d'organismes, d'associations, et d'institutions francophones; et

Attendu qu'un groupe de travail, en consultation avec la communauté, a établi un plan d'action sur trois ans visant à sensibiliser la communauté et à mieux reconnaître les besoins, les réalités, et enjeux des nouveaux arrivants;

Par conséquent, il est résolu que les membres de l'Assemblée législative se joignent à moi pour féliciter la communauté acadienne de Clare pour sa sélection et pour célébrer cette initiative qui renforcera davantage l'immigration francophone dans les régions acadiennes et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

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

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

Whereas the Government of Canada is investing in the attraction and retention of French-speaking immigrants through, among other things, a pilot project carried out through immigration for French-speaking minority communities; and

Whereas the Réseau en immigration francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse selected the Acadian community of Clare to participate in this welcoming community project because of its established network of francophone organizations, associations and institutions; and

Whereas a working group, in consultation with the community, has established a three-year action plan to raise awareness in the community and to better recognize the needs, realities, and challenges of newcomers;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Acadian community of Clare for their selection and to celebrate this initiative which will further strengthen Francophone immigration to Nova Scotia's Acadian and Francophone regions.

[4:15 p.m.]

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 Municipal Affairs and Housing.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1800**

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

Whereas in the lead up to the 2020 general municipal elections, the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is partnering to design and deliver activities aimed at improving participation of under-represented groups in municipal democracy, including women who can often face barriers to running for office; and

Whereas the long-term goal through this work is to help ensure municipal councils reflect the gender and diversity of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is working with colleagues from the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women in providing support for the Local Government Leadership School for Women happening in Port Hawkesbury in May, which is a great example of how communities are providing knowledge and tools for women who want to run for elected positions;

Therefore be it resolved that as March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day, members of the House of Assembly recognize the work being done to help promote gender equity in our local democracies and pledge to offer their support in any way possible.

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. (Applause)

The honourable Minister of Community Services.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1801**

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

Whereas Zonta International is a global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy; and

Whereas Zonta International is helping ensure women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential; and

Whereas this year, Zonta International is celebrating 100 years of promoting the empowerment and rights of women, young women, and girls across the globe;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House join me in commending the work of Zonta International and commit to doing what we can to empower women and girls in communities across Nova Scotia.

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



THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried. (Applause)

### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 247 - An Act to Amend Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2019. The Sustainable Development Goals Act. (Tim Houston)**

**Bill No. 248 - An Act to Amend Chapter 1 (1992 Supplement) of the Revised Statutes, 1989. The House of Assembly Act, to Provide for Scheduled Sitzings of the House of Assembly. (Claudia Chender)**

**Bill No. 249 - Entitled an Act to Require the Government of Nova Scotia to Purchase Agricultural Products from Nova Scotia Producers (Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin)**

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 Pictou East.

### **FERGUSON, BOB: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the late Bob Ferguson. Bob was a well-known member of the community in Westville who served in the local fire department, had a local store, and was the founding member of the Pictou County Rivers Association. He was a Scout leader and even played in a well-known band called the Blue Cats.

His local store not only had the best penny candy in town but also, because he was such a fishing enthusiast, became Ferguson's Sport Shop and had the best supply of fishing and hunting gear. This year the Pictou County Rivers Association named their annual fishing derby in honour of Bob.

I ask all members to join me in sending our sincere condolences to Bob's family and friends and recognizing a good man and a life well-lived.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**BUS STOP THEATRE: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - CELEBRATE**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge a local multi-use performance venue located on Gottingen Street in Halifax Needham.

For 17 years, the Bus Stop Theatre has served as the city's only independently operated, accessible, and professionally-equipped performance space. Since 2012, it has operated as a co-operative.

The theatre has hosted countless emerging and professional artists, both local and touring, and has doubled as a gallery, workshop venue, screening cinema, and community meeting space. In 2019 alone, it hosted more than 150 public events and welcomed more than 16,000 audience members.

It is in the midst of a capital-raising campaign to purchase, renovate, and expand its space. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, I rejoiced with many community members when the Province announced that it would fund the Bus Stop Theatre to the tune of \$355,000. This is in addition to the \$250,000 commitment from HRM.

I wish to applaud the Bus Stop Theatre on its success thus far as it continues on its mission.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**GERHARDT, WILLIAM: SCREEN N.S. AWARD - CONGRATS.**

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William Gerhardt, who won the 2019 Film Crew Excellence Award at the Screen Nova Scotia Awards in May. The Screen Nova Scotia Awards celebrate the talent, creativity, and passion that are the trademarks of Nova Scotia's screen industry.

William won his award for transforming Yarmouth's Cape Forchu into an island from the 1800s for Robert Eggers' most recent film, *The Lighthouse*. This film was screened at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. William has also worked on a variety of other productions which have included *The Mist*, *The Curse of Oak Island*, and *The Book of Negroes*.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and members of this House of Assembly please join me in congratulating William Gerhardt for receiving the 2019 Film Crew Excellence Award at the Screen Nova Scotia Awards.

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

**EPILEPSY AWARENESS MO.: PURPLE DAY - RECOG.**

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes and the national Epilepsy Awareness Month of March.

There are between 4,500 and 9,000 Nova Scotians living with epilepsy today. The association realizes the need for awareness, communication, and education such as seizure first aid and offers all of this to schools, community groups, and individuals alike.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of volunteers who fundraise for this great cause. March 26<sup>th</sup> is Purple Day, now celebrated in over 100 countries around the world and founded by Nova Scotia's very own Cassidy Megan.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in thanking the Epilepsy Association of the Maritimes for their tireless advocacy and to recognize the national Epilepsy Awareness Month of March and, last but not least, Cassidy Megan.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

**MACDONALD, DACIA: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dacia MacDonald an exceptional employee of the Keshen Goodman Library.

For the past seven years, Dacia has been responsible for adult programming, newcomer services, and community engagement. Aside from being a valuable team member, Dacia sits on the Mobile Food Market board. Through her position at the library, she has been able to supply the market with iPads, staff support and special programs for market days. Additionally, Dacia was able to find a Winter home for the program on Ford Street.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House of Assembly join me in applauding Dacia. She is a proud citizen of Clayton Park West, where she lives, works and has raised her family. Thank you, Dacia.

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

**VINCE RYAN MEM. TOURN.: 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNIV. - THANKS**

BRIAN COMER: I would like to take this opportunity to talk about one of the largest recreational adult hockey tournaments held in Cape Breton. The 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Vince Ryan Memorial Hockey Tournament will be held this March 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with over 160 teams participating.

The tournament was launched in tribute to John Vincent Ryan's accomplishments. He was from Donkin and began playing organized hockey in the late 1940s, leading his teams to local and Maritime championships.

I stand here, Mr. Speaker, to commend all the people who worked tirelessly to make this tournament such a huge success and to all who participate, making it worthwhile.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

**INTL. WOMEN'S DAY:  
RECOGNIZING INCREDIBLE WOMEN - THANKS**

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is International Women's Day and I'd like to take a moment to recognize some special people. Thank you to Chris Hornberger, Martha Reynolds, Ainslie McNeil Campbell, Linda Wilson, Marion Brown, Kelly, Becky and all the incredible women who make up my team, which is 80 per cent women.

Thank you to my sister-in-law, Theresa, who volunteered countless hours fighting for the Preston land title claims; to Katie Dickinson, who is a wonderful, brilliant scientist; my mother-in-law, Rufina Meir and sister-in-law, Rufina Kaulback, who are always there for me; most important in my wife Rena, who is my best friend and rock; and, to my daughters Isla and Rufina - you can be whatever your heart desires.

I am surrounded by incredible, strong, funny, talented women. Thank you for all you do. Happy International Women's Day.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

**SACKVILLE LIONS CLUB: 50<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER ANNIV. - THANKS**

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate members of the Sackville Lions Club.

On April 10, 1970, the Sackville Lions Club was formed, which means that this year they will be commemorating their 50<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary. To celebrate this occasion, they will host a dinner and dance on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at the Sackville Legion.

Members of the Sackville Lions Club are very supportive of their community, raising funds to assist numerous organizations and service projects throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Sackville Lions Club on their 50<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary and thank them for their continued efforts to support the community of Lower Sackville.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

**NEW MINAS LIONS CLUB: 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

KEITH IRVING: With 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members worldwide, the Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization. We are fortunate to have four active Lions Clubs in my area: Coldbrook, New Minas, Wolfville and Hantsport.

This year, the New Minas and District Lions Club is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the leadership of King Lion Shirley Reid. Whether hosting community breakfasts, collecting used glasses for the Lions Recycle for Sight Program, beautifying roadways through the Adopt a Highway Program or supporting fundraising initiatives for the Salvation Army and Open Arms Shelter, the New Minas Lions volunteers make a significant and lasting contribution to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the New Minas and District Lions Club and their members on 50 years of community service, putting into action their commitment to the Lions motto, We Serve.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**STEWART, JOHN: RETIREMENT - CONGRATS.**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Stewart. He is a teacher who has been a staple at Prince Andrew High School, and he will be retiring at the end of 2019-2020. Since 2017, John has been saying that he will retire next year. In 2020, three years after he initially said he would retire, he is actually working his final year as registrar at PA.

Throughout his career John has spearheaded many opportunities for students, most prominently his efforts in getting PA students to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vimy Ridge in 2017. John is an incredibly hard worker and without a doubt his presence at PA will be missed by fellow staff and students alike.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that members of the House congratulate John on his fulfilling career as a teacher and I wish him luck during his final semester.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**SAMUEL PRINCE MANOR TENANTS' COMM.: COM. SERV. - RECOG.**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Samuel Prince Manor Tenants' Committee.

This group is concerned with increasing the well-being of their fellow residents at Samuel Prince Manor, a large public housing high-rise for seniors in Halifax Needham. The group keeps busy. They organize weekly bingo, occasional karaoke nights, an annual Christmas dinner, and a community Canada Day barbecue and celebration that draws upwards of 200 people. These activities are made possible through their ongoing fundraising efforts.

[4:30 p.m.]

They also coordinate to bring more services to residents in the building, including income tax support, flu shots, blood pressure tests, and more. In February, they collaborated with my office to offer a meet and greet where tenants had an opportunity to share their concerns, do a fitness class, and enjoy refreshments together.

Last year they lost their beloved president, Sharon Briand. Bill Boutilier has assumed the role of president and will continue her legacy of community spirit and service.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

**MUSTANGS MIDGET HOCKEY: SEASON VICTORIES - CONGRATS.**

HON. MARK FUREY: I rise today to recognize the UPS Store South Shore Mustangs Major Midget Hockey Club. For the first time in the club's 35-year history, they have clinched first place in the eight-team Nova Scotia Major Midget Hockey League. The Mustangs finished the season with 51 points, just one point ahead of the Halifax McDonalds.

The 2019-20 regular season championship team is a talented, dedicated group of tenacious hockey players who are mentored and trained by a knowledgeable and dedicated coaching staff. I would ask the members of the House of Assembly to please join me in congratulating all the players, coaches, volunteers, and parents on this successful season.

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

**NSTSA: 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

LARRY HARRISON: Join me in congratulating the Nova Scotia Trucking Safety Association on this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, particularly Middle Musquodoboit's Bryan Decker of WIT Trucking Ltd., the 2019 recipient of the Association's Safety Representative Award.

Since its formation, the NSTSA has regularly increased its programming, offered more than 20 programs and services, including Occupational Health and Safety programs, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System training, and safety audits. Their efforts have paid off across the industry, but most particularly in the bulk liquid group. Despite risks and hazards associated with loading, unloading, and transporting goods like water, milk, and gas, this group realizes a workers' compensation assessment rate that is lower than the average rate in Nova Scotia. I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in congratulating both NSTSA and Bryan Decker of WIT Trucking Ltd.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

**TASTE OF MAURITIUS RESTAURANT:  
5 YRS. OF BUS. - CONGRATS.**

HON. KELLY REGAN: I would like to share some information about a Bedford business. Taste of Mauritius is a catering company opened by a Mauritian ex-pat, Malini Veerassamy-MacDonald. Malini also has take-out nights and sells her spices across the Maritimes.

Mauritius is an island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa. Malini originally wanted to showcase her country of origin through its cuisine - there's a real food culture there. Her new business has had the added advantage of connecting her children to her heritage. In Mauritius, the kitchen is the centre of the family, and now Malini's children are learning about their cuisine and learning how to cook it too. Another plus is that Nova Scotians are enjoying the tastes of Mauritian food with its fresh ingredients and Indian influences. I'd like to congratulate Malini Veerassamy-MacDonald on five years of business success and thank her for opening her kitchen to Nova Scotians.

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

**MILLWOOD GIRLS SPORTS TEAMS:  
GREAT SEASON - CONGRATS.**

BRAD JOHNS: With International Women's Day coming up on Sunday, I wanted to rise today to acknowledge the Millwood High School girls sports teams and the great season that they've actually been having this 2019-20 year. In particular, the Millwood High girls volleyball team won a silver at their provincials in December; Millwood High's girls hockey team, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, won their 2<sup>nd</sup> Division regional games and went on to

play provincials on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Dalbrae Academy; and the Millwood High girls curling team won their metro and regional championships on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate not only Millwood High's girls volleyball, hockey, and curling teams for their big wins but all the other girls sports that are at Millwood High School. I wish them all the best in the rest of the season to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

HON. GORDON WILSON: I did want to open up by wishing a happy birthday to probably the most special person in my life, somebody who supports all of us when we're in here, my wife Deidre, on a big day today. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare-Digby.

#### **NASHWAAK VALLEY FARM: ANIMAL VISITS - THANKS**

HON. GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mike Sorenson of Nashwaak Valley Farm, as well as the staff of the Villa Acadienne and Tideview Terrace for making Valentine's Day extra special for the residents.

Nashwaak Valley Farms has a collection of baby llamas, mini donkeys, and Nubian goats that spend the warmer months of the year going to the fairs and exhibitions. In the Winter, instead of staying at their home base in Nashwaak River, they spend some time on the road visiting schools and senior residences.

For the seniors these are special visits during a time of the year when they often cannot get out into the community. On the 14<sup>th</sup> they waited eagerly for the arrival of Nashwaak Valley Farm and their collection of animals. They were not disappointed. As the animals arrived ready to be petted and cuddled, some of the residents were delighted to see a llama or a mini donkey for the first time in their lives. These types of visits are so important for our seniors, and many of them talk for days later about the visit of Nashwaak Valley Farms.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

#### **KIDS COOKING TABLE: ED BOWDEN COM. WELLNESS AWARD - CONGRATS.**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2020 Ed Bowden Community Wellness Award, the Kids Cooking Table, a project hosted by the Scotsburn Recreation Club.



The award was established in 2010 by the Pictou West and Central East Pictou Community Health Boards, in consultation with the Bowden family. It is presented annually to a community group that reflects Mr. Bowden's strong community spirit, his passion for leading a healthy lifestyle, his volunteerism, and his legacy as a role model.

The goals of the Kids Cooking Table project were to promote healthy eating, teach cooking skills, get kids excited about cooking, build an active community garden, and bring community members together.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Scotsburn Recreation Club for this amazing initiative and in congratulating the organizers of the Kids Cooking Table for receiving the Ed Bowden Community Wellness Award.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

**JEFFREY, SCOTT: BASEBALL COACH OF THE YR. - CONGRATS.**

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, Yarmouth's Scott Jeffery was named Baseball Nova Scotia's 2019 Coach of the Year. Scott coached the Peewee AAA Chris Scott Construction Gateways, helping guide them to become Atlantic champions, a huge and impressive accomplishment.

Being named the province's Baseball Coach of the Year is another honour in Scott Jeffery's involvement in the sport of baseball. He was a teenager in 1990 when he was signed by the Toronto Blue Jays and joined their minor league system. He later joined the legendary Yarmouth Gateways and helped them reach the 1994 senior league championship series.

I would like to ask this House to join me in congratulating Yarmouth's Scott Jeffery on being named Baseball Nova Scotia's 2019 Coach of the Year and thanking him for dedicating his time, skills, and energy to our youth. His contributions to the sport of baseball and to our community will be remembered for many years to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**MITTON, SARAH: WORLD-CLASS SHOT PUT - CONGRATS.**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, Queens County's Sarah Mitton started throwing shot put in junior high school, and she never looked back. She has a most impressive list of accomplishments, victories, and personal bests, some of which have already been celebrated here in the Legislature.

In February of this year she travelled to New Zealand and threw yet another personal best of 18.84 metres. This performance surpasses the 2020 Olympic Games

standard and means that Sarah will be representing Canada and Queens County in the shot put circle in Tokyo, Japan.

This is indeed an impressive accomplishment, but outside of the shot put circle, Sarah has also managed to merit an Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology degree from the University of Windsor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this impressive young woman on her accomplishments and in wishing her success in Tokyo and beyond.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston-Dartmouth.

**FIRTH, ETHAN: KAYAKING ACHIEVEMENT - CONGRATS.**

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ethan Firth, a resident of Porters Lake who is a 13-year-old student at Gaetz Brook in the French Immersion Program. He is a member of the Orenda Canoe Club in Lake Echo and is talented in a kayak, coming third in the 16-year-old category in the national 6-kilometre K1 race held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In addition, he is also talented in hockey. He was nominated and won the Atlantic Division Top Male Athlete of the Year.

I recognize and congratulate Ethan Firth for achieving this high level of athletic achievement in kayaking and wish him every success in the future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

**WADDELL, KELSEY/CROWE, ANGEL:  
EXERCISE SUB-ZERO - GOOD LUCK**

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, along with the 1859 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, to announce that Chief Warrant Officer Kelsey Waddell and Warrant Officer Angel Crowe have been selected to attend Exercise Sub-Zero in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador. Approximately 25 cadets from all over Atlantic Canada will be in Happy Valley-Goose Bay for a week of Winter camping and survival expeditions. These two cadets, working in teams, will be trekking and camping in the Labrador backcountry, covering 40 kilometres on a pair of snowshoes to meet their accomplishments and destination.

This is a wonderful challenge and experience for both these young ladies from Springhill, and their families, friends and community are very proud of their accomplishments. We wish them the best of luck.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**HUNTER, FRANCES HAZEL: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honour a beloved member of the Dartmouth North community, Frances Hazel Hunter, who passed away on January 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. Frances was married to her sweetheart for 69 years, a mother of 4, grandmother to 12, great-grandmother to 10, and great-great-grandmother to 3.

She was an extremely active member of Stairs Memorial United Church, sitting on many boards and committees. She was also a member of the Stairs United Church Women, Garnet Rebekah and Topaz Rebekah Lodges, Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant, and Queen Esther Chapter 61 of the Eastern Star.

Frances wrote in her own obituary: “My proudest accomplishment is my 40 plus years with North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre Food Bank.” She was completely dedicated to her work at the food bank, and the kindness with which she treated the clients made a huge difference to them. A testament to her commitment to Dartmouth North, Frances’ celebration of life was standing room only and fittingly, at the front of the church there was a basket for food bank donations.

I want to express my sincere condolences to Frances’ family, friends, and community and my deep gratitude to her for what she gave to her family, friends, and the North Dartmouth community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings West.

**SISTERS OF SCIENCE:  
ROBOTICS, INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE - CONGRATS.**

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of young ladies and their leaders. As Grade 4s, the Sisters of Science entered a LEGO competition and after four years had gained provincial and international recognition. After placing third overall and winning the Innovation Solution Award at the Maritime Regional Competition at Acadia University in 2019, they qualified and attended the Mountain State Invitational Robotics Event in West Virginia. In the 2020 Maritime Regional at Acadia University, the SOS all-girls team won the Inspiration Award for their balanced emphasis on all areas: Robot, Project and Core Values.

I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in extending best wishes to Amelia and Hallie Blatch, Kenzie MacNeil, Kaley Jefferson, and Carmen Glavine as they end their SOS involvement. Also, kudos to younger member Abby Murphy and their very special leaders, Crista MacNeil and Sara Chisholm.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**FRANCIS, LLOYD: *GULDEN LEEUW* ADVENTURE - RECOG.**

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Lloyd Francis of Sydney Mines. This 30-year-old has had life experiences to certainly last a lifetime. For the past year and a half, Lloyd was aboard the tall ship *Gulden Leeuw*, a Lunenburg-based, ocean-going classroom for students aged 15 to 20. Lloyd taught political science and global history aboard the ship while learning how to sail, and he had the opportunity to visit four continents and see sights like the Sahara Desert and the Amazon rainforest. At some ports of call the crew even got involved in local community projects.

Lloyd is back in Cape Breton now, working as a substitute teacher for the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education. Lloyd can bring incredible life experiences to the classroom; how much richer he will make the students' learning experience. I wonder how many future world adventurers will be inspired by Lloyd's stories. Inspiring our young can be the greatest gift that we can provide them.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**NICKERSON, AMANDA: DARTMOUTH N. FOODFIT - COMMEND**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to Amanda Nickerson who, among many other awesome things, coordinates the FoodFit program at the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre. Amanda came to work at the food centre by way of the Dartmouth Family Centre, where she was a participant in the programs there with her two children. When the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre opened its doors, Amanda volunteered there; and when the centre began the FoodFit program, she took on the role of coordinator in a paid position.

FoodFit is a 12-week program developed to help people become healthier through being fit. The participants learn about basic nutrition and smart goals and then bring what they've learned to the kitchen, cooking beautiful recipes together. While the food cooks, they go for a 30-minute walk and then come back and share the meal. The pillars of this free program are to move more, to try new foods, and to make new friends. Amanda leads this program, which is starting up again on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with joy and energy, which seems to me to be her natural state. She is one of the reasons why the Dartmouth North Community Food Centre is such a special place in our community.

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

[4:45 p.m.]

**ARTWORKS EAST: VISIONARY COM. - RECOG.**

LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the creative spirit and artistic talent found in Guysborough County, represented by visual artists and crafters of ArtWorks East.

ArtWorks East is a visionary community where the skills and related products of the visual arts and crafts are appreciated, shared, taught, promoted, and purchased by residents and visitors, both young and old.

This past Fall, ArtWorks East planned an amazing and successful event: the ArtWorksEast Exhibition and Sale hosted at the Canso Lions Club in Canso. The exhibition and sale provided many talented artists with the opportunity to connect with those who appreciate their artwork and provided the community an opportunity to support their local artists and crafters while enjoying their creations.

ArtWorks East definitely gives back to the community, not only in the beautiful arts and crafts they have to offer, but also in providing open studios such as that at the Boylston School House, where creativity and community is fostered.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to applaud ArtWorks East for their creative endeavours; art truly touches the soul and tells the story of a community. We're lucky to have ArtWorks East telling ours.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

**SCOTS BAY COM. HALL ASSOC.: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge today the important work that the Scots Bay Community Hall Association does to improve the life of all residents of Scots Bay. The Hall hosts many events including potluck suppers, flea markets, auctions, community suppers, breakfasts, costume parties, Christmas events, and community meetings.

The Scots Bay Community Hall Association directors include Jerry Huntley, Chair; Fred Huntley, Vice Chair; William Poole, Treasurer; Hope Corkum, Secretary; and Directors Walter Huntley, David Corkum, and Peter Huntley.

On behalf of the residents of Scots Bay, I wish to thank Scots Bay Community Hall Association Board of Directors for their commitment to making the Bay a great place to live.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH: SPRING OPENING - CELEBRATE**

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, after years of prayer, discussion, and research, parishioners in my Maronite Catholic faith community of Our Lady of Lebanon parish have a very exciting milestone coming up this Spring when our new church opens at Clayton Park Drive for its first Mass.

The new structure is impressive and includes a beautifully designed church for prayer and worship, new classroom spaces for our youth, community space for activities outside of the liturgy, and the multi-use Cedar events centre.

The capital campaign entitled, Faith Is Our Foundation, has been under way for years. I was proud to hear that my late father had been the first donor to this fund. His Eminence Bishop Paul Marwan Tabet will be joining us to consecrate the building. It promises to be a very special occasion for a growing and vibrant congregation like ours.

I want to thank our clergy, the fundraising committee, the planning and development committee, all groups and generous donors and partners, and especially the parishioners of our church who have continued the growth of our Maronite Catholic identity in Nova Scotia and helped bring this fantastic new structure to fruition.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**CLARKE, TRINA/LAIR, ALLISON:  
COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YR. - THANKS**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Trina Clarke and Allison Lair at the Cumberland YMCA for hosting the Coldest Night of the Year walk in support of the homeless.

This year, over 100 people participated in the walk, which took place on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Their goal was to raise \$20,000. The Cumberland YMCA and the Homelessness Prevention and Outreach Program have been working in our community to help those who are homeless and those at risk of being homeless.

Mr. Speaker, Trina and Allison's work helped bring both awareness and support for the community and are a great example of Cumberland North's giving hearts. I want to give special thanks to Allison Lair who works very closely with my constituency assistant, helping those find shelter that are in need in Cumberland North.

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

**HOLLAND RD. ELEM. - MUSIC COUNTS NTL. AWARD - CONGRATS.**

BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce the Holland Road Elementary School in Fletchers Lake is a recipient of a \$10,000 MusiCounts Canada National Award. The MusiCounts Band Aid Program provides \$900,000 in musical instruments and equipment to 90 schools across Canada. Holland Road Elementary received \$10,000, which will enable the school to grow their existing music program or to help build band new music programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in congratulating Holland Road on receiving this exciting and important contribution to the music program.

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

**CAREGIVERS N.S.: EXPANSION TO E. PASSAGE - WELCOME**

BARBARA ADAMS: I rise today to recognize Caregivers Nova Scotia for expanding their meetings to include Eastern Passage. The group facilitator, Catherine Parent, is a Caregiver Support Coordinator. The group offers a confidential setting where you can talk about your experiences with other caregivers, all while trying to meet their goals of empowering and supporting each other.

Caregivers Nova Scotia's main office is located in Halifax, and it offers many support groups around the province. Aside from the group settings, they also provide phone and email support as well as coordinate workshops and presentations.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in welcoming Caregivers Nova Scotia to Eastern Passage and thank them for all their community support.

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

**ALLEN, JENNIFER - MASTER MARINER:  
CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS - COMMEND**

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, women represent only 2 per cent of the world's 1.2 million seafarers, so today I rise to recognize Jennifer Allen. Jennifer is a certified master mariner and instructor at NSCC's Nautical Institute Strait Area Campus and a member of the Canadian Forces Coast Reserves.

Jennifer has spent the majority of her seagoing experience within the seismic industry as a watchkeeping mate and travelling to locations including Canada's east coast, the Arctic, the Gulf of Mexico, Brazil, and Angola as part of her employment in the marine industry. In addition to her civilian career, she has spent 10 years in the Canadian Naval Reserve and currently volunteers with two sea cadet units in Cape Breton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Jennifer on her achievements and share in my admiration of having such a valuable role model for women in our community. May the women she inspires follow Jennifer's example, confident they too can be successful in a male-dominated world.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

### **WIFE: BIRTHDAY WISHES**

HON. RANDY DELOREY: In the theme started by my colleague the member for Clare-Digby, I too, very quickly would like to wish his wife a very happy birthday today. In that theme, I would like to wish my wife a happy birthday as well.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, I need to let her and all members here know: in fact those flowers you received were not sent by the member for Fairview-Clayton Park; I did send those flowers to you today. It is now part of the official record in the province of Nova Scotia. They were flowers I sent, not the member for Fairview-Clayton Park. Happy birthday, and I'll see you when we get home this weekend.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

### **MACKAY, SHANNON: VOCAL PERFORMANCE - CONGRATS.**

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Shannon MacKay, of Lower Sackville.

Shannon MacKay is presently in her third year at Acadia University, in Wolfville, working towards her Bachelor of Music. Shannon is excelling in her studies and shares her beautiful singing voice at recitals, concerts and sporting events.

On March 3, 2020, Shannon was honoured to have been chosen to sing *O Canada* during the Canadian citizenship ceremony which took place at Acadia University. To her great surprise, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was the guest speaker. Following the ceremony, the Prime Minister made a special effort to personally thank her.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating Shannon MacKay for sharing her talents with Canada's newest citizens.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.



**SHAW WILDERNESS: NEW PARK - THANKS**

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the community of Halifax Atlantic and all of Halifax received a tremendous gift.

The Shaw Wilderness, a 379-acre park, the largest green space in HRM, was announced. Thanks to the hard-working people of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Purcell's Cove Backlands members, Mayor Savage, Councillor Steve Adams, the member for Timberlea-Prospect, and countless volunteers for the \$8 million raised to create the beautiful park.

Mr. Speaker, as both a youth and an adult, I have spent countless hours hiking, swimming, fishing, and exploring the Backlands. Now thanks to these hard-working forward-thinking individuals, my children and countless others will be able to enjoy and create memories. Thank you for conserving our green space and our wildlife.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**LEGION BR. 16: NEW EXEC. - CONGRATS.**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the new executive of Branch 16 of the Royal Canadian Legion Pictou.

Mike Murdock will serve as the new president, with Rob McNeill as First vice-president, and Mike Pidgeon as second vice-president. Cliff Bush will serve as secretary.

Royal Canadian Legions are an important part of the fabric of Nova Scotia, serving the needs of veterans since World War I. Legions are comprised of past and present Canadian Force members, as well as Canadians who wish to support veterans. The Pictou branch is not just busy on November 11<sup>th</sup>, it is active all year long with a variety of events and activities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the new executive of Branch 16 of the Royal Canadian Legion and in wishing them a successful year.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**ZINCK, BOB & MARLENE: XMAS VILLAGE - THANKS**

SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: I rise today to thank Bob Zinck, of Dayspring, for the joy he and his wife Marlene have brought to so many people with their Christmas village.

For the past 17 years, Bob and Marlene have created a two-acre Winter wonderland that lights up nightly throughout the Christmas period until the first day of the new year. Bob's display includes an animated Santa Claus, decorative polar bears, snowmen, igloos, nutcrackers, and candy canes. As well, there are several sections with individual themes. New additions are made every year.

Not only do local people visit, but also people from as far away as Pictou. Bob intends to continue putting up the display as long as he is able.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and the members of this House of Assembly please join me in thanking Bob Zinck for all the hard work he does to create the Christmas village that lights up Dayspring and is a tradition that is enjoyed by so many.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

### **LIVERPOOL PRIVATEERS: FUTURE GAMES - GOOD LUCK**

KIM MASLAND: The Liverpool Privateers head to East Hants on Friday night, tied at two games each in their best of seven Fred Fox Division series with the Penguins after a 9-8 overtime barnburner in Liverpool on Tuesday.

The Privateers are getting high-octane performances from Ian MacPhee and Cam Scott, who each have 4 goals and 12 points through four games. The team is back in Liverpool this Saturday night at 7 o'clock, and, as always, I expect our crowd to be the biggest and the loudest in the Nova Scotia Junior Hockey League.

I ask all members to join me in wishing the Liverpool Privateers all the best. Bring it home, boys!

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

### **BEDFORD BASIN FARMERS MARKET: RICH IN AMENITIES - CONGRATS.**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a local market in my riding that is offering a unique atmosphere.

The Bedford Basin Farmers Market is owned by a Greek entrepreneur, Peter Giannoulous. It opened in 2015 and has created a wonderful European feel in Clayton Park West. It is both a family- and a business-friendly destination.

It is located on the gorgeous Bedford Basin, overlooking the water, and it is home to my constituency office. I cannot tell you how many of my constituents I get to meet because of the bustling café next door. This market provides so many amenities - it is a

meeting place, a coffee shop, a lunch or a Sunday brunch spot. It also offers catering for parties and conferences in their Gala Room.

I ask that this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Bedford Basin Farmers Market on their entrepreneurial success and for enriching Clayton Park West.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **AMHERST ROYALS: FEATURED, CDN. STAMP - RECOG.**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Today I rise to recognize the Amherst Royals, who were recently featured on a stamp issued by Canada Post on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Amherst Royals were part of the Coloured Hockey League, which was based in the Maritimes, formed from Baptist church congregations and ran from 1895 to 1930.

This is an important part of Cumberland North's and Nova Scotia's history. I am proud to see the Amherst Royals get their recognition on this stamp. Many of the Amherst Royals have descendants in our community who love the game and can take pride in this part of our history.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much for those member statements. We'll enjoy a couple of moments of peace and quiet before Question Period. (Laughter)

[5:00 p.m.]

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

### **PREM. - MLA DUI: KNOWLEDGE OF - CLARIFY**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, recently *allNovaScotia* ran a report with respect to who knew what about the alleged DUI from November 2018. The report was a timeline of the Premier's comments on the situation.

On October 15, 2019, the Premier was asked in a scrum regarding the Thanksgiving DUI: Is this something you had no inkling of before? The Premier's response was, "I knew he was recovering, for sure." Last week the Premier stated that, ". . . I found out about his alcoholism when he was picked up for impaired driving."

First the Premier said he knew about the issues prior to Thanksgiving and then he claimed he didn't know prior to Thanksgiving. Mr. Speaker, both those statements can't be true.

I'd like to ask the Premier: Will he please explain why he gave one version of the events in 2019 and then a totally new version just last week?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to answer the honourable member's question. The reality is that I didn't give two answers. When the incident happened on Thanksgiving weekend of 2019, I was informed on Sunday morning that Mr. MacKay had been picked up. I was interviewed on the 15<sup>th</sup>, which is Tuesday of that week.

The first time that I heard, or my chief of staff or anyone heard, that Mr. MacKay was a recovering alcoholic was when he was picked up. Mr. Speaker, that is the first time I heard about it.

I want to tell the honourable member that I spoke to him on the 14<sup>th</sup> and I spoke to media on the 15<sup>th</sup>. When I spoke to him at that point, he told me he was in recovery and immediately upon hearing that he had been picked up, my chief of staff and the Clerk had him in treatment in 14 hours.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday of last week I asked the Premier if either his chief of staff or the Liberal caucus chair knew about the November 2018 incident. The Premier answered that the constituency president didn't notify the Premier, which isn't exactly an answer to the question.

The Premier then went outside this Chamber, into the lobby, and told the media that his chief of staff knew about the allegation. The next day I asked the Premier why he gave a non-answer to my question on the chief of staff, when he clearly had the information, but he responded by saying that he was one of the few Liberal provincial governments left. Mr. Speaker, not even close to an answer. Again, an inconsistency in his story.

Can the Premier explain why he thinks it's okay to tell one version in here and another version out there, as he travels the province saying one version of events to one group of people and another version to other people. Can the Premier explain why he thinks that's okay?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I say that someone is a bit sensitive. He doesn't like the fact that Nova Scotians have noticed that in one community he says one thing and in another community he says something else.

I've been consistent with Nova Scotians and sometimes they don't like the message, Mr. Speaker, but the reality of it is that we have to do what is right for the entire province

and every Nova Scotian and one of the things that the leader of this Province has to do is be up front and honest with our citizens and that's exactly what I have done, whether it's in this Chamber or outside, to the media. I have been factual every time when it came to this issue and every other issue.

TIM HOUSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems that a few more facts emerge the more questions you ask - that's the issue. We never seem to get the full story.

We know, though, that on November 6, 2019, a member of the Liberal caucus staff learned of an allegation detailing the dangerous events of November 2018. We have been told that the Premier's chief of staff received a phone call that made her aware of this incident. What we don't know is who made that call. I understand that it could very well have been the caucus chair, but we don't know who the caucus chair was that week.

On Wednesday last week, the Premier said he believed it was a staff member who received the email. On Thursday, the Premier identified that person as a party official. Again, the story is, shall we say, evolving.

My question to the Premier is: Will the Premier clearly answer for this House how many people in his government, both MLAs and staff, knew about the May incident prior to the email last week? I can guess that it is quite a few.

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the honourable member is going. In the beginning of his question he said that someone in my office, the chief of staff, knew in November. That is just simply not true. That is not factual at all.

The reality of it is that in May 2019 the allegation came forward, six months after the fact. Six months after the fact, Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff received a call. We addressed the issue, did not see the substance of it. There was no evidence. The honourable member has not presented a single shred of evidence in this House, not a single shred of evidence.

As a matter of fact, he blacked out the name of the author of the email. Why? If someone gives you an email, they're giving it to you to be able to use. The reality of (Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I would remind the honourable Leader of the Official Opposition no unsolicited comments, please. This will be the only warning for everybody.

THE PREMIER: The reality of it is, he blacked out that name when we have no reason to believe it was actually the author of the email that gave it to him. It could very well have been someone in his political Party looking for political cheap shots on the floor

of the Legislature instead of letting this thing be dealt with in the court of law, not here trying to get political points on the back of somebody suffering from an addiction.

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

**PREM. - COVID-19 THREAT: ER ACCESS - RESPOND**

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier about vulnerabilities in our health care system in light of the growing likelihood that COVID-19 will spread to Nova Scotia.

Reliable access to emergency rooms will be vitally important if Nova Scotia experiences an outbreak of COVID-19. However, last year unscheduled ER closures more than doubled. In Cape Breton we have emergency rooms that are only open around one-third of the time.

Where will patients facing COVID-19 go for necessary treatment and testing with so many of our emergency rooms closed so much of the time?

THE PREMIER: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. Speaking with Dr. Strang today, he's been working with his partners across the country and the national government to ensure that we continue to provide standards from province to province to ensure we deal with this potential outbreak.

As a province, we have testing that takes place inside of our province where currently there has been ongoing testing for people who show up with the flu symptoms. Fortunately there have been no positive tests. If there is one, that test would then be sent to Winnipeg to be confirmed for a second time. There've been ongoing public announcements.

One thing Dr. Strang was very clear about is that people need to continue to do the normal, general hygiene, making sure you continue to wash your hands, keep your hands away from your face.

If anyone feels those symptoms, they need to first of all self-identify and then we can provide that test.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, what I'm asking about is the question of the readiness of our health care system. Nursing home employees have been reporting for some time that the funding cuts of 2015-16 had real negative significant implications for hygiene and cleaning operations. These are very important when it comes to the spread of infection.

In light of heightened concern for protecting this vulnerable population from the spread of infection, will the Premier restore the funding that his government took away over those two years from the nursing homes in Nova Scotia?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, we continue to increase the health care budget across the province. Every budget we've introduced had an increase in health care funding. The honourable member would know that we continue to make strategic investments working with our partners. As I said before, Dr. Strang and his team are working very hard to ensure that we continue to monitor and control if this infection arrives in our province.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, we have hospitals with entire floors of patients who are there only because they're waiting for a place in a nursing home. The fact that the government has still not opened up a single new nursing home means that there continues to be shortages of available, active hospital beds all across the province.

In this situation, how can the Premier be confident that our hospitals will actually have the capacity to receive expanded numbers of infected patients?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, we're building 60 new beds in New Waterford - I hope the honourable member doesn't vote against that. We're building 60 new beds in Northside - I hope the honourable member doesn't vote against that. We've announced building long-term care beds in Eskasoni. We introduced 30 new beds here. There's redevelopment taking place in Clare. I believe there are some additional beds associated with that as well as in Mahone Bay. There are additional beds associated with that redevelopment that's happening there.

We're continuing to make those investments across the province, and we want to thank all those health care workers who continue to work with us and the private sector who have also been working with us to help provide the care that Nova Scotians require.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

**PREM. - MLA DUI: SOURCE OF INFORMATION - CONFIRM**

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, one of the Premier's many versions of events is that his chief of staff spoke with only two individuals who had a personal stake in these allegations. We do know that the allegation was sent to a caucus outreach worker. We do know that that caucus outreach worker, and at least the Premier's chief of staff, had an unredacted version of that email, and we know they had it for almost a year.

Are we to expect that an outreach worker had a direct line to the chief of staff who was travelling with the Premier while they were Europe? Is it not more likely that the outreach worker went to her direct supervisor who then took it to their supervisor and so on? Is it not reasonable to assume that the caucus chair was aware?

Can the Premier confirm who the person is who actually realized that this information was important enough to call the chief of staff and advise her of the allegations?

THE PREMIER: Again, I want to thank the member for the question. As he knows, it's been well-talked about here and beyond. The fact of the matter is, since it happened in November of 2018, the allegations that are out there are before the court of law. We weren't notified until May, six months after. He's right that there are other issues associated with this incident - personal, private information associated with people who are involved, some of whom do not sit in this House.

One of the things that we did very quickly when we learned in October - the Thanksgiving weekend of 2019 - for the very first time that one of our colleagues had an addiction to alcohol, we put him in treatment. That's exactly what you should be doing with anyone you know - the very first thing you should do is giving them treatment associated.

Let me be clear: no one knew the member from Chester-St. Margaret's had an addiction to alcohol - myself or my chief of staff - until that October weekend. We did the right thing by having him in treatment, and now there are allegations and evidence that will be before the court. The court will deal with that.

TIM HOUSTON: We have a situation where you have two people who are both alleged to be part of a conspiracy, and then you have the chief of staff going to those two people and saying, hey, are you guys conspiring to do something? And they say, no, we're not conspiring. The chief of staff says good enough for me, case closed.

Is that the extent of the investigation? That's what we're being asked to believe the extent of the investigation was - to ask the conspirators if they were conspiring. Based on these facts, as they have been described by the Premier, I have serious concerns about the calibre of the investigation.

I'd like to ask the Premier: Would the Premier confirm that is in fact what he would have this House believe is the accurate description of the chief of staff's investigation?

THE PREMIER: I would have this House believe exactly what we've told them. There are other parts to this situation, personal and private information of individuals. That information is theirs, personal and private. Unlike the honourable member, I am not going to stand in this House and reveal information about individuals for cheap political points.

The honourable member standing in this House is taking advantage of someone who is suffering from an addiction. That's exactly what he's doing. Someone who has gone into treatment. There's an allegation that is before the courts, and I'm going to let the court



of law determine the innocence and guilt of everyone who stands before it. I'm not going to try to do it on the floor of this House.

Let me be very clear: my chief of staff did not, nor did anyone in my office, have any idea that Mr. MacKay had an addiction before Thanksgiving weekend of 2019. We will continue to ensure that he stays in treatment, whatever his political future may be. I can tell you for certain, no one in this caucus, under my leadership, will try to gain political points on someone else's suffering. That is just a reality. It's what is called being a good human being. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition, on a new question.

**PREM. - CHIEF OF STAFF: ADDITIONAL INFO NOT SOUGHT - EXPLAIN**

TIM HOUSTON: Yet, that's exactly what they did. The accusation clearly indicated that there was more evidence to support the claim - perhaps text messages, pictures, videos. Evidence that would either clearly support the accusation or would possibly quickly clear the member's name of any wrongdoing. The evidence was a simple phone call away, Mr. Speaker, but all indications are that that phone call was never made.

The evidence could have shown possibly what the Premier didn't want to know because he put his Party before a person and the rest of Nova Scotians. Can the Premier confirm if his chief of staff even bothered to ask for that additional evidence?

[5:15 p.m.]

THE PREMIER: Again, Mr. Speaker, we have been through this many times. There was no evidence presented that weekend, nor has there been any evidence presented on the floor of the Legislature by the honourable member, who has used up almost a week on this very topic.

He can't attack our government on policy, Mr. Speaker. He can't attack us on the things that are happening in Nova Scotia - the building of an economy, more young people staying here. He can't take us on, so what does he do? He attacks the reputation of someone who has an addiction.

TIM HOUSTON: Actually, I'm not sure if the Premier noticed, but it's his reputation that is being questioned. The Premier's constant response to many of my questions has been that it's before the courts, that there's no evidence, that it's up to someone else to take it to the police. This is the Premier's stance because he doesn't want to know what he didn't want to know. It speaks to a culture that I have referenced many times, that this Premier concerns himself with behaviour only once it has been caught. Once they have been caught, that is when the Premier is concerned.

Is it the Premier's stance that it is only a court conviction or a guilty plea that is the standard for ethical behaviour among his team?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, finally the honourable member has verbally identified his strategy - to attack people personally. He is talking about attacking me personally. He has not presented one single policy idea on the floor of the Legislature, not one. Yesterday, the Leader of the New Democratic Party put two on the floor.

He has not brought one idea to the floor of the Legislature about improving the lives of Nova Scotians. What he has attempted to do is try to tear down the reputations of others, people sitting on this side of the House or people who have challenging things in their lives. Imagine your motive. What goes through an individual's mind when you're going to build your own reputation on the backs of those who are suffering?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

### **EECD: ANTI-BULLYING COORDINATOR - DETAILS**

TIM HALMAN: My question is for the Minister of Early Education and Childhood Development. Last Spring, my colleague the member for Queens-Shelburne asked a question about the mandate and effectiveness of the Anti-Bullying Coordinator. During the course of that question, it became clear that the Task Force on Bullying and Cyberbullying and the minister had differing ideas about what the mandate of the Anti-Bullying Coordinator was.

The minister indicated there was continual evaluation of positions in the department and an appetite to adapt to meet the needs of students. My question for the minister is this: What changes and adaptations has he made to make sure that the Anti-Bullying Coordinator is as effective as possible as a student advocate?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: We have a serious incident that has happened recently. Our hearts and thoughts are obviously with the victim of that incident and those who might have been traumatized. The appropriate actions have been taken in terms of investigations, both by the Regional Centre for Education and the police in this particular matter, Mr. Speaker. We do trust the folks on the front lines to make the best decisions in the best interests of our students. The issues of this case will be ongoing.

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, this morning, one of the founders of Pink Shirt Day commented on that disturbing incident, which I know is on the minds of all of us today. That I know. He lamented that our province, which was the birthplace of the nation's largest anti-bullying movement, continues to experience high-profile incidents of bullying. This is a person who understands the issue, and he is recognized nationwide as an anti-bullying advocate. This is what he has to say about the Anti-Bullying Coordinator: no one has seen or heard from this person. I'll table that.

There isn't a parent in Nova Scotia at this moment who looks at those students in the video and the student who recorded it and says that enough is being done to curb bullying.

My question to the minister is this: Will the minister admit that the mandate of the Anti-Bullying Coordinator needs a review?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Of course this incident is extremely upsetting. One of these incidents is one too many. We all get tired of seeing these things when they happen, particularly when there are groups of people around who are filming this stuff, putting it online, and enhancing the harm and trauma associated with these things.

We have had some success in our anti-bullying strategy. We have seen the stats show that reported violent incidents have been decreasing steadily in Nova Scotia, but we want to keep that positive work going. We want kids to feel safe at school; we want them to be safe.

The investments we are making in mental health in SchoolsPlus, in putting child and youth care practitioners and behavioural experts in our system, the comprehensive approach we have to anti-bullying, from restorative practices to punitive actions, I think is having some success but, of course, we are reminded that we always have more work to do when an incident like this happens.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

### **SNS & INT. SERV.: RENT CONTROL - IMPLEMENT**

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, just this morning I received an email from a constituent. It reads: A friend is getting pushed out of her apartment because she cannot afford to pay the second annual \$100 increase to her rent. Come July 1<sup>st</sup>, her rent will have increased \$200 in two years, so she is forced out. Rent control in Nova Scotia is a problem; there is no control.

Mr. Speaker, it's so obvious that what would protect renters right now is rent control. Why is the Premier so opposed to enacting this protection for Nova Scotians?

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: I thank the member for the question. The purpose of Service Nova Scotia and the Residential Tenancies Act is to try and find a balance of fairness between landlords and renters. We are constantly looking at ways to make it more accessible for people to find safe, affordable housing, but also for people to just find housing, find places to rent.

We have looked at rent control within the department and we see the studies that show that it does not prove to be effective. That being said, we are always looking for new

ideas and looking at different cities to see where something could be put in place that would be effective for Nova Scotia.

LISA ROBERTS: Initially this government claimed that rent increases are not significant enough to warrant rent control. I think the story I shared speaks for itself but it's far from the worst story I've heard of dramatic rent increases. Then it declares that rent control doesn't work, but the government believes that rent control works well enough when it's the one paying the rent, and that's why it negotiates rent control into housing agreements with landlords.

Can the minister please clarify for the thousands of renters in precarious situations: Is it that rent control is not needed, is it that it doesn't work, or is it just that this government only listens to landlords?

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. This government is working with multiple partners. We've said that all along. We also have said that there are challenges. We know that with housing. We've made investments and we will continue to make those investments.

There are housing support workers who are out there working every day to assist people to find homes. We realize that, and we will continue to work within our communities right across this province, with our housing support workers and various other programs that have been enacted by this government that we will continue to support and grow and assist people to find housing.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

### **H&W: CANNABIS STUDIES - CONSULT**

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Cannabis legalization has resulted in a rise of reported cannabis use overall. With increased use from legalization, a study from May 2019 found the harms on mental health from cannabis use increased, as well, and I will table that.

Last month the head of the Nova Scotia Early Psychosis Program, Dr. Phil Tibbo, reported that 80 per cent of his patients had exposure to cannabis and 20 per cent to 25 per cent would meet the criteria for cannabis use disorder. I just tabled that.

The impact of cannabis on the brain is a matter that is still developing. It's more significant, as well. My question for the minister is: Has the government been consulting with studies like this to better understand the disorder and impacts of legalized cannabis?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for bringing this important question forward to the Legislature.

The fact is that the department and our partners who deliver health care services, including mental health and addictions services, the clinical health care providers - the professionals on the front line - continue to stay up-to-date on information as part of their professional development, as well as policy development. So, information, as it's developed, whether it's here in the province or from other sources - national or international - is exactly the type of information that's used to help inform the evolution of care delivery services.

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the minister for the answer. The potency of cannabis products can vary among underground market and legal sources. A Statistics Canada report examining changes since cannabis was legalized found that the people who consume the most cannabis are more likely to purchase from illegal sources, and excess consumption is linked to cannabis use disorders. That means the people at the highest risk of cannabis disorders are more likely to consume cannabis in excess from illegal sources and have less contact with health information provided through legal sources.

My question to the minister is: Have we seen a rise in cannabis psychosis since legalization?

RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. He raises a very important point about the additional harms presented by the consumption of illegal and unregulated products - in this case, specifically as it relates to cannabis products and the unique challenges that the continued existence of black market illicit products pose to the health and safety of Nova Scotians. That's why departments, including the Justice Department and law officials, work to close down the illicit market, and my health officials continue to work to provide appropriate addiction services to support those in need.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

### **H&W: STATS COLLECTION - NATIONAL NUMBERS**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. The Commonwealth Fund, International Health Policy Center survey results were released at the end of January 2020. This edition focuses on primary care doctors and how well primary care is delivered.

Across Canada, only 4 out of 10 doctors coordinate care with social services; additionally, 36 per cent of doctors say they do not know about all the social services within their communities. I can table that document. My concern is that this information is reflective of Nova Scotia as well.

My question to the minister is: Does his department collect similar stats? How would they fare relative to the national numbers just presented?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for bringing that information to the floor of the Legislature. In fact, I think what the member is highlighting is exactly support for the policy position that this government took under the leadership of the former Minister of Health and Wellness, the current Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, which saw us as a government focus on expanding collaborative care practices - which bring in social workers as part of the health team and other allied health professionals - to help support and meet community needs.

I believe during Estimates I provided a specific example that was brought to my attention about a collaborative practice that was established in Cape Breton. That highlights the very point that the member brought about the value that social workers can provide to medical practices.

KARLA MACFARLANE: I support anything this government can do to get more doctors in Nova Scotia.

The survey also reports the number of hours doctors work each week, and 60 per cent of doctors in Nova Scotia reported working 45 hours or more - the second highest percentage across Canada and well above the Canadian average of 55 per cent. That was just tabled in that report as well.

Doctors in Nova Scotia work more hours per week than most in Canada, and yet this report tells us that they are the most dissatisfied in the health care system: 57 per cent say that the health care system has actually become worse compared to three years ago. The Canadian average for this response is 25 per cent.

I would like to know: Can the minister explain why Nova Scotia lags behind in so many of these measures?

RANDY DELOREY: I'm not sure that was referenced in the information, but she mentioned that she had tabled it, so I'll take a look at that. Although the report was released in January of this year, when did the data collection take place? The timing in which that information was collected and reported perhaps doesn't take into account many of the steps that we've taken more recently to help support many of those concerns that have been brought forward.

Since I came into this role as Minister of Health and Wellness, we've taken several steps, including the most recent contract established, which was supported by over 90 per cent of physicians, just this past Fall.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

[5:30 p.m.]

**EECD - INCL. EDUC. INVEST.: STUDENT NEEDS - MEET**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. In May of last year, the minister indicated to reporters that the way money for inclusive education was spent would be geared toward student needs, saying: “It’s not just about how much money is being spent; it’s about how we’re spending it, and we are working diligently to do it in a way that better helps the system meet the needs of our kids.” I’ll table that.

During Estimates, the minister indicated that there were no real specific outcomes for the investments in inclusion, and the aspirational goal was expressed that we want our kids to do better. Mr. Speaker, I won’t dispute that. I know we all want our kids to do better.

My question to the minister is: How can the minister know if funding for inclusive education is helping the system meet the needs of our students if there are no specific outcomes to measure?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, when the Hansard record is available, I would ask the member to review that, because we were very explicit on what the outcomes are. We talked about achievement outcomes that are collected in the classroom and well-being outcomes that are collected during student surveys. Every single year these outcomes are actually reported.

These are specifically the things we’re looking at. I made that very clear to the member in Estimates; I’ll make it very clear to him right now. We’ve now invested over \$45 million into inclusive education. Now we are able, under the new governance model, to direct these funds where we know the greatest needs are.

We’re also conducting independent third-party evaluations to ensure that we’re achieving the goals that we set out to do, and that’s to help our kids do better in school, get higher grades, and feel better and more supported while they’re there.

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, everyone supports more resources for inclusive education. We want to give students all the supports they need to reach their full potential and achieve their goals. Parents want to know that the funding is being used in the most effective way.

My question is: Will the minister commit to increasing accountability by measuring the effectiveness of funding for inclusive education and make those findings public?

ZACH CHURCHILL: The member says he supports increased funding for inclusive education. He has voted against every single budget that has increased our Education and Early Childhood Development budget by about 35 per cent.

We've put an additional \$370 million into this education system. The member voted against every single one of them. He said he supports investments in students. He voted against pre-Primary and argued against it, and he still argues that we should delay the implementation of pre-Primary.

I'm sorry, but actions speak louder than words in this Chamber. The fact is that we are engaged in one of the most transformative moments in the history of our education system, one where we take accountability very seriously because we want to achieve the ends that we're seeking to achieve. That's why we have a third party that's going to be evaluating this and providing an independent report to the public. That's why we're working with Inclusive Education Canada as we roll out this program. That's why we'll keep improving our approach every single year to make sure that we're doing the very best for our kids.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**H&W - ROSEWAY MANOR (SHELBURNE): REPLACE - TIME LINE**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Roseway Manor in Shelburne was built 44 years ago, and I'm sad to say that the facility is showing its age. The staff at Roseway do everything they can to make residents feel safe and well cared for, but the building is letting staff and residents down.

Recently staff from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and the Department of Health and Wellness joined me on a tour of Roseway, and we saw conditions that are alarming: black mould, holes in the ceiling, leaky roof, to name a few. Roseway Manor does not have a single bed that either works properly or has the bedrails that are within Health Canada's recommended guidelines.

My question to the minister is: Does the minister believe that conditions at Roseway Manor are appropriate for seniors and vulnerable Nova Scotians?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, as the member noted, senior staff in both my department and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal visited the facility. I assume the member, being active in her community, would be aware that there are several changes taking place within that facility.

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, the former NDP government stated that they would begin planning to replace Roseway Manor in 2015, and the former Health and Wellness



Minister said the Liberal government would honour that commitment. Sadly, the residents and staff are still waiting.

When will the minister put an end to the deplorable conditions at Roseway and start building a replacement?

RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. I believe the member would be aware that government continues, and for a number of years has continued to provide funding to that facility for appropriate maintenance and facility upgrades to get work done there. We continue to support the capital improvements and maintenance through the funding programs that we have, just like we do with facilities right across this province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

### **ENVIRON. - DARTMOUTH LAKES: PROTECTION - UPDATE**

SUSAN LEBLANC: My question is for the Minister of Environment. It's easy to forget through the Winter months that next Summer will be another Summer when Dartmouth lakes are plagued by invasive weeds and algae blooms. Winter is the time when we need to be planning ahead. Despite a hopeful first meeting with the minister and staff last year, recent attempts to follow up with the minister on community demands for the Dartmouth Lakes have been met with silence.

Can the minister please provide an update on his department's work to protect Dartmouth Lakes?

HON. GORDON WILSON: Certainly, these urban lakes are under pressure; there's no question. Any time we have the development that we see in HRM and these beautiful watercourses coinciding, there are challenges. Obviously, with invasive species, which by the way is mainly under the auspices of Lands and Forestry, we do take this seriously. I appreciate the work that has been done by the member for not only Dartmouth South but Dartmouth North in bringing this to our attention. There's a multi-jurisdictional approach that we have here. It's not just Environment, it's not just Lands and Forestry, but also HRM, and we do have a watercourse advisory group that, I think, represents that area to look into what we can do to make things better.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Hundreds of community members came out on a Summer evening last year to share their thoughts and concerns about Dartmouth's urban lakes. The lakes have tremendous ecological, economical, and recreational value. They are part of Dartmouth's identity. The challenges facing the lakes are complex, with multiple contributing issues, governing policies, and cross-jurisdictional responsibility. The resonant ask from the community was that an urban lakes commission be convened to work collaboratively towards solutions.

Will the minister commit to establishing an urban lakes commission, as requested by the community?

GORDON WILSON: I appreciate the passion and the work that has been done by the members for Dartmouth North and Dartmouth South. I have met with one of the councillors for that area, Councillor Mancini, and I believe I also sat with the member of Parliament for that area and talked about it. My commitment will be, as I have outstretched my arms before, I certainly would love to sit down with the members across the floor as soon as we possibly can to work on how we can find collaborative ways to work together on solving this problem.

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

### **ENERGY & MINES - ALTON GAS DEV.: ENVIRON. ASSESS. - STATUS**

LARRY HARRISON: My question is for the Minister of Energy and Mines. Many constituents in Colchester-Musquodoboit are concerned about the development of natural gas storage. The media is reporting that there are documents indicating that the salinity of the water released into the Shubenacadie River will violate federal fisheries regulations. The Department of Environment has authorized an extension until May 2021 for the company to obtain environmental assessment approval.

My question is: Could the minister provide an update on the status of environmental assessments on the proposed Alton Gas development?

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have a conversation with the member to provide an update at any time. I know they're going through that environmental process. I can say to the member, and any member, with any project that happens within the province, whether it's the Alton project or not, these decisions will be based on science to ensure that not only are we accessing economic opportunities, but at the same time protecting our environment.

LARRY HARRISON: People are reaching out to me for answers because they don't seem to be informed or feel they are being informed. Does the minister have community consultation opportunities that are being planned for now?

DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Any decision provincially to go forward with a project would, of course, require the federal law to be followed. I'm happy to meet with the member and discuss the project with him if he's looking for additional information on where it stands at this point. It is going through the proper environmental assessments. As with any project, we ensure that the balance is struck between the economic opportunity and the environment.

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

**ENVIRON.: MERCURY COLLECTION PROG. - CONTINUE**

BRAD JOHNS: My question today is for the Minister of Environment. Mercury is a toxic pollutant requiring only 22 milligrams of contaminant to contaminate 22,000 litres of water. In 2015, in partnership with Nova Scotia Power, Efficiency Nova Scotia launched the mercury collection program, which offered a free-of-charge recycling and mercury collection business to the businesses and the residents of Nova Scotia.

This program was forecast to run for 15 years. Suddenly the program was abruptly cancelled without notice after the targets that were set by Nova Scotia Power were reached within only 4.5 years. A constituent of mine has called and has suggested that the recycling fee is so high - it's approximately \$2,000 for a half-ton of mercury - he's worried that contractors will be looking at disposing of these illegally.

My question to the minister is: Will the minister commit to continuing this program to ensure the protection of public safety and to protect jobs for Nova Scotians?

HON. GORDON WILSON: I thank the member for raising the conversation around mercury. We heard it last week from the members opposite with the NDP. It is certainly something that might surprise a lot of Nova Scotians to know that there still is mercury floating around and what concerns we have with it.

He is right in pointing out that Nova Scotia Power has cancelled their mercury diversion program, which was one that was brought forward by them. I want to note that we do have other ways of disposing of mercury. There are ways for thermostats to be collected. Also, our HHWs - household hazardous waste depots with municipal units - still do it. I would encourage all Nova Scotians that if they have them, reach out to their municipal counterparts to find out how to dispose of them.

BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that members from the NDP brought this up last week, but because I'm concerned about the impacts of mercury getting into the water system, the answers that the minister gave last week just didn't seem to be really good answers, so I wanted to bring them up here again today and ask again.

I recognize you are saying that there are a few alternative places, but I really think that this program needs to be reinstated. It was working. I won't ask a question, but I will just state that from what I've heard from the minister, the government is not willing to reinstate this program.

GORDON WILSON: I would like to emphasize again that it is important to raise the awareness of mercury. I would like to note that mercury is being banned, and with fluorescents, we are seeing it is a practice that is stopping. Efficiency Nova Scotia is another one that collects appliance light switches. There is a group called the Heating,

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada that also collects. There are several ways that mercury can be collected.

I would encourage all Nova Scotians not to throw them in landfills, but they should contact their municipal units to make sure they are disposed of properly.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

### **EECD - ÉCOLE WEDGEPORT: REPLACE. PROJ. - STATUS**

COLTON LEBLANC: Monsieur le Président, en octobre dernier, j'ai posé une question au ministre de l'Éducation et du Développement de la petite enfance à l'égard du projet d'école Wedgeport qu'on anticipe d'avoir complété en 2021 ou 2022.

Mr. Speaker, last October I asked the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development regarding the École Wedgeport replacement project, which is anticipated to be completed in 2021-22.

[5:45 p.m.]

I want to reiterate the group of parents' strong desire to have this project be the greenest school in the province, if not in the country, with renewable energy involved. My question for the minister is: When will the residents of Wedgeport find out the location and construction start date for the new school?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: In fact, I think it has been communicated to the community that land adjacent to the current site has been chosen. I believe the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is in the process of trying to reach a purchase agreement with the private landowner. The feedback I have received from the community thus far has been positive for that location. CSAP is supportive.

I know the community is very interested in making sure that this project is as green as it can be. We share that objective. We do have green standards built into our procurement process. If there's any additional projects related to creating green space in that school, I know the Minister of Energy and Mines has been very keen to be involved in that conversation.

COLTON LEBLANC: Students deserve to learn in an environment that's safe and healthy and provides all modern amenities of education. Parents are wondering about the design and consultation that was promised by the minister.

My question for the minister is: Will he commit to working with me to host open community consultations for the residents of Wedgeport and area to discuss the design and construction of the new school?

ZACH CHURCHILL: In fact, I have been meeting with members of that community, members of the SAC, including its chair. What I have heard is that that school community actually really likes the design of the new Bible Hill elementary school. If that is indeed that case - CSAP has confirmed that with me as well - that will actually shave some months off the design process, and we'll get that school built hopefully sooner than we hoped.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

### **H&W - ABERDEEN HOSP.: LACK OF BEDS - JUSTIFY**

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, in the first month of 2020, the Aberdeen Hospital had more surgery cancellations than the total cancellations in 2019. This is all due to the lack of beds. The hospital recently lost 4 of their 10 ICU beds. These cancellations are certainly getting out of control.

Just yesterday, I received a call from a gentleman who waited four hours for knee surgery to have it cancelled, after waiting for two years. This is just unacceptable, and it doesn't have to be like this. The system is broken. It's causing chaos between patients and staff.

How does the minister justify these cuts to beds which then cause surgery cancellations and drastically compromise the safety and proper care of patients and staff?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member raising this question. It provides me with the opportunity to clarify exactly what happened with the bed reconfiguration at Aberdeen.

As I understand it, the Nova Scotia Health Authority has not closed beds within that facility. What was happening was that the cardiac monitoring or telemetry services were being provided in the ICU. That was a process that was taking place only at that hospital. It was the only regional hospital that was having that service provided in the ICU.

What they did was reconfigure the facility to have that service provided in another area of the hospital to be consistent with all other hospitals within the province.

KARLA MACFARLANE: The reality is, there's not enough beds. Here's the letter from the doctors and the staff with their concerns. I hope the minister will take a chance and read them. Recently, the ER at the Aberdeen Hospital was in severe overcapacity. That's because of the loss of four beds as stated in that letter.

Yesterday, I received a letter, which is tabled as well, indicating that there is a high rate of flu-like symptoms throughout Glen Haven Manor, causing temporary closures to

visitors. However, the issue is, if one of the residents needs to go to the ER, say for a broken toe, they can't go back home.

My question is simple: Where do these seniors go?

RANDY DELOREY: As I noted, the Health Authority has explained the situation, that telemetry services for cardiac monitoring were taking place in the ICU. That service was moved. No beds were closed. The services are still being provided but have been reconfigured to be consistent with all other regional hospitals within the health system in the province.

As it relates to nursing home facilities, the nursing home providers and the hospital administrators work together . . .

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

### **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. 246.

### **Bill No. 246 - Opioid Damages and Health-care Costs Recovery Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I move that Bill No. 246, the Opioid Damages and Health-care Costs Recovery Act, be now read a second time.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the members, I think it's important to understand the driving force behind this piece of legislation. We all know that over the past two decades, the use and misuse of prescription opioids has become a growing problem in many jurisdictions. Nova Scotia may not have seen the same number of overdose deaths as some other provinces, but an average of 60 Nova Scotians die every year from confirmed and probable opioid-related overdose.

There's no question that this has taken a personal toll on many Nova Scotians and their families. It's also a significant strain on our health care system. Opioid overdoses needlessly take lives, place stress on communities, and can overwhelm our first responders and emergency departments.

Opioid misuse has also taken a financial toll on our Province, Mr. Speaker. We continue to invest millions of dollars every year to treat opioid use disorder, provide Naloxone kits for overdose reversal, and train health care providers. Our government believes that opioid manufacturers and distributors need to be held accountable for the harmful impact of their drugs.

The Opioid Damages and Health-care Costs Recovery Act will ensure that Nova Scotia has an option to proceed with action against opioid manufacturers and distributors. This means that this action may include supporting British Columbia's class action lawsuit or taking legal action of our own to recover health care costs and other direct costs incurred due to opioid-related disease, injury, and illness. The bill will also simplify the procedure for proving damages caused by opioid manufacturers and distributors by allowing the use of aggregate health data instead of individual health records.

That, in essence, is what this bill performs, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing from my colleagues as this bill proceeds.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

JOHN LOHR: It is a privilege to say a few words on Bill No. 246. I recognize that the minister has covered most of the facts on the bill.

We realize that this is being modelled on Alberta's legislation and with the potential, as the minister stated, of the Province joining in on B.C.'s class action lawsuit or maybe doing it ourselves.

We recognize that the human cost of the opioid crisis has been incalculable. The dollar cost is calculable and is also immense and ongoing. If there is opportunity for the Province to have recourse with the manufacturers - if it can be demonstrated that the manufacturers were culpable and maybe didn't explain or that they knew what they were selling and didn't give adequate warning - then certainly the PC caucus would endorse the bill and the intent of the government on this one.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: We in the NDP believe that opioid addiction is an insidious issue facing our province. In essence, opioids are a prescribed version of heroin. That includes fentanyl and pain relievers such as OxyContin and Vicodin, among others.

We support the ability to acknowledge damage and recover costs when a product is made available without adequate warnings, knowledge, or protections. As such, we support the legal right of the government to sue with the view to recover health care costs incurred for opioid-related disease, injury, and illness.

While this bill highlights the opioid crisis, in principle and in the way this legislation works, it is in direct opposition to the Financial Measures (2020) Act, in which it is asserted that the government cannot be sued for damages incurred for gambling-related problems.

We agree that the government should be able to sue to recover health care costs related to opioids. Similarly, we feel that the population should be able to sue the government for losses associated with gambling - another dangerous addiction about which much is known. We feel that we need to invest in supports for all those who are living with addiction and also strive to protect people from addiction when it is in our ability to do so.

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 from my colleagues and look forward to this bill proceeding through the rest of the legislative process. With that, I move to close debate on Bill No. 246.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 246. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

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 on Supply unto Her Majesty.



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

LARRY HARRISON: I just want to take a few moments. I told this story when I was elected in 2013. Some of the new members may not have heard it. It's a story of one of the classes in the Brookfield Elementary. The teacher had a session on the election - how it was conducted and the various folks who were going to be running.

One young man listened very, very carefully. His grandmother came to pick him up from school, and while they were driving home, he had a few questions. He asked, is Mr. Harrison going to be running in the election? She said, yes he is. He asked, isn't he a minister of the church? She said, yes he is. He looked at her and said, isn't that a sin?

I thought about those words often and just how people look at us as politicians. I'm sure that, to this day, many people feel exactly the same way as that young boy.

It was and still is my vision for all of us to put issues on the table and for every one of us to commit to listening to each other and then finding the best possible solution to some of the issues. For me, without the vision, I don't think I could move ahead very much. We're going to react to situations that are before us, and we're going to spin wheels sometimes. It's my vision that if we are at our best when we're in here, I really believe that we can change the culture of how we do our job in the House. I think we'll find that people will look at us through a different lens, none of which is going to happen if we don't have a vision to work towards.

We have a budget before us. The budget has to touch so many areas in this province. We see the holes, and then we try to plug the holes up the best we can. In the budget itself, it is plugging up the holes with money. If we put more money into the areas of concern, we will arrive at our destination - at least that's the belief. My vision is not to just look at the monies that we've put into the programs. My dream goes far beyond just the budget coming in.

We have an education budget. This budget has to look at facilities, busing, teachers and administrators, and school programs for our youth. We try to create a budget that's going to meet the needs of our education. Having all these things is a part of a vision, no question.

The other part has to do with the culture of education to supplement what the budget puts forth. Part of my vision is to have the teachers and administrators tell us what is needed in order to teach to the best of their abilities. I believe that if the teachers and administrators are tuned into the vision, then they're going to look forward to going to the classroom, and the students are going to look forward to the learning process. Right now, in many areas that culture is really not in place. I would like to help create a different environment in that.

[6:00 p.m.]

There's a budget for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. We put more money in the budget but we're still behind the 8-ball in having our roads safe and smooth. There are many reasons for this, and it goes beyond putting dollars and dollars into the system. There's a culture in place where work is not being maximized to its full potential. There's a culture in place where we don't get the most from our machinery.

My vision is to look at each area, decide on the areas of most importance, have their workers go out on their day activities with the attitude of doing what they can to make our roads safe. It's a culture of having a vision to make this province safe and comfortable to drive in. If the department from the top down buys into the vision, there could be a new culture in play that will get the work done, and the public will support even if it can't be done in one fell swoop. We have good people - there's no question - in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, but we have to get the best out of the resources that we have to give them. That's going to be a major part of the vision.

There's a budget for Health and Wellness. This is a huge budget, and it does cover so many areas. It's about putting facilities in place; it's about having doctors and nurses and other competent technicians to tend to the physical and mental needs of the people in this province. The budget tries to address a lot of these needs but is nowhere close to meeting all of the needs. We need to have a vision of how we approach the health care system in this province. It's going to be a matter of being very creative in what we do.

To me, the vision is having those who do the day-to-day work give us the ideas of how we can make our system better. I believe there is that desire on the behalf of doctors and nurses, pharmacists, technicians, and so many more, to point us in the right direction. We will not go in the right direction until we have a vision of where we want to be.

There's a budget for Community Services. So many folks in this province are struggling in so many different ways. Many do not have jobs and they rely on social service programs to live. Many do have jobs, but they don't make enough to meet the demands on their income. Many people struggle with addictions and therefore do not have the resources needed for what is of benefit to them. There are folks who are homeless, those who live in inadequate housing, seniors on limited incomes and, of course, I could go on and on with a variety of folks who find living from day to day a huge struggle. We do try to create a budget that will address the needs of as many people as possible. It's a huge task and it's very difficult to achieve. Part of my vision is to have the resources available to meet the needs but, again, the vision goes far beyond the budget.

There are no two people with identical circumstances. I would like to see some flexibility in meeting the needs of the people before us, but in order to do this we're going to need staff in Community Services who are totally knowledgeable on all the programs to

help people navigate the programs. We need that staff to be compassionate and empathetic with the people who come through the doors.

You know, it's amazing how people respond to someone who seems to care about them and what they're going through. I'm not saying these people are not in place now; I'm not saying that at all. They are, but the system does not always lend for the workers to do their job properly. I do support what is trying to be put in place by government, but that's only part of what is needed. We need to have people deal with people in a respectful and compassionate way. To have this is a mantra in how we manage the budget, and I believe we will pay great dividends.

I know that what I'm saying is a dream, that the workings of the Province are more complicated than what I am proposing. Yes, we do need a budget, but we do need to have a vision of how to accomplish that budget.

I have been in this House for seven years. I know we are a long way from accomplishing the dream but what has taken place will not take my dream away because without it I couldn't function here. We have to be in an environment that is going to work for all of us. Sometimes it's caring, sometimes it's toxic but I have my vision and I'm not going to allow reality to take that vision away from me.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I am pleased to rise today to speak and use a bit of this allotted time to talk about an aspect of the 2020-21 budget that is sorely lacking, in both dollar amounts and in vision.

In my community of Dartmouth North, and in many other parts of the province, there is a housing crisis. This is something that I have mentioned many times, my colleagues have mentioned many times, and even other members have mentioned many times in this House but unfortunately this issue bears repeating.

I wanted to use some of this time right now to remind the House about some of what is happening in Dartmouth North, and I dare say that in Dartmouth North we may be a canary in a coal mine, as it were. Our community is, in a way, a canary in a coal mine when it comes to this crisis. I have been talking about it for many months and it seems to be spreading now.

To remind you, since August the number one reason that folks have been coming to my office for help - my very busy office, I will say - is because they are facing eviction, or they are living in unsafe or unstable situations. They can't find anywhere to move to, or they've been told that their rent will be getting raised by an amount they simply cannot pay. Therefore, they will have to move, or face eviction when they start getting behind in

their rent. Of course, when someone faces eviction or is evicted because of rental arrears, that puts a mark on their record and it is extremely difficult to find any other place to live.

The other reason that people are coming in to my office is to get access to the Heating Assistance Rebate Program applications. That points to a very high level of energy poverty in my area, which is another thing that this budget doesn't do a whole lot to help but maybe we'll talk about that later, in Estimates.

So, why are people getting evicted? Rising rents, uncontrolled raises in rents, uncontrolled rent increases. They are also being evicted because of renovations, mass evictions because of renovations. Currently in Dartmouth North, that I know of, there is one building in which all the tenants are being told they must leave, and many of them have already gone, in order that the building can be totally renovated. Of course, they will be the first to know when they can apply for new units, so they haven't even been given a first right of refusal for the renovated units, but they will be told first when they can start applying. Mr. Speaker, the rents will be raised at least \$200 from what the people are paying now.

When you are on a fixed income and making very little money, if you are a senior on CPP or you are on income assistance, a \$200 rent increase is impossible. That is one building that I know of. There are at least three others that I know of where the tenants have been told by landlords - new landlords, I might add - that this exact thing is coming down the pike in two or three weeks, once they get their permits in place and everyone will be out. That is how they've been told. That is happening.

The other reasons people are getting evicted - weird, strange and unlikely reasons. This was not really happening, we didn't see this happening before the low vacancy rate in HRM, but I had a person come into my office one day who had been a model tenant for 11 years and then all of a sudden was told she was being loud and abusive. I don't think that happens out of the blue, Mr. Speaker, and there are many other examples like that. People getting evicted for strange reasons.

What happens when someone gets evicted? Well, first thing is they basically are homeless because there's nowhere else to move to; they can't find a new place to live. Dartmouth North has always been a place where you can get a cheap apartment - that's not the case anymore.

Dartmouth Housing Help - which is the best place to go, the place that we navigate people to - they help people who are looking for affordable rentals, but they are no longer accepting new clients. In a release last week, they said that Dartmouth North is now saturated, and they are unable to help. That means saturated in terms of no vacancies, and they are not able to help until something shifts, until they can help the people who they are already involved with. They will, just for the record, still have some drop-in hours where

people can get help filling out forms for housing and rent supplements, but that is all they are able to do for new clients.

So, what happens when people get evicted? Many are going to shelters but the shelters fill up very quickly. So, when someone comes to me and says I've been evicted, we call the shelters and the shelters are full; if they are connected with DCS, we give them a call, sometimes they get put in a hotel. Well, we all know, based on news stories for the last several weeks, what that situation is: it's not tenable, it's not sustainable, there are families with children living in hotel rooms; it is impossible. It's an impossible situation.

So, I guess the other option is, well, like what happened to one of my constituents in the Summer when it was a little bit warmer out, I guess the end of Summer, she was told by her worker that DCS would buy her a tent. So, I guess when the weather's a little warmer, we could start a tent city. You could live in a hotel with your family of young children; you could couch surf; you could go back to a housing situation which is wholly unsafe for you. Basically, those are the options, Mr. Speaker.

So, why can't people find places to live? The vacancy rate is at 1 per cent. This is an all-time low; this is lower than large cities in Canada and North America. In Dartmouth North or in Dartmouth, the vacancy rate is thought to be 0.5 per cent. Landlords are able to be choosy over who they rent to now.

People who rely on income assistance or child benefit or who need a rent supplement - the rent supplement, by the way, we all know this government loves to talk about rent supplements; well, they don't do any good if there's nowhere to live. They also don't do good when a landlord has 30 people lined up for a unit. Landlords are not going to choose to house people who use rent supplements because they are administratively burdensome. Why would they do it if they can just get a regular old cheque from someone who can pay the rent?

By the way, it is illegal for landlords to discriminate based on source of income, Mr. Speaker, but it doesn't seem to be stopping many of the landlords in HRM and in Nova Scotia right now.

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission has put out information releases about this situation and yet we still see ads on Kijiji for adults only; or people who are getting, basically, refused because they are on income assistance or the child benefit, which is, frankly, a good source of income and can pay fairly high rents with the child benefit. They're getting refused. We also know that there's a wait-list of thousands for public housing and for rent supplements.

I've already outlined a little bit of what happens when someone can't find a place to live: tents, shelters - but shelters are always full - hotels; people are couch surfing or staying with friends or former partners in very, or potentially, dangerous situations.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that I want to point out right now is that this is not just a problem for poor people. It is a very bad problem for poor people - for people who don't have a lot of money to make ends meet, it is definitely the big issue - but I also know of a retired teacher in Dartmouth North who lives in a very nice apartment building but is on a fixed income and is extremely worried about the rates at which his rents are rising.

I know of someone who has a unionized job that pays a living wage for Halifax whose awesome apartment that was perfect for their family, their life, is now in question because the building is being sold and the landlord may change the rental agreement or raise the rents to an amount they cannot afford.

[6:15 p.m.]

We know that most people are \$200 away from not being able to make ends meet, so what happens when a rent gets increased by \$300? We are seeing this happening all the time.

And so, who cares? Why is this even a problem? Well, it's obvious. Stress and fear about not having a place to live make people sick. Living in crappy conditions makes people sick. Living outside makes people sick. For people who have mental health conditions or illnesses, stable housing is the first requirement for getting or staying well, Mr. Speaker.

If people are spending all their money on rent, there's nothing else for healthy food - or not-healthy food, for that matter. There's no money to spend on anything that would resemble a social life at all. There's no money to go out for coffee with a friend. There's no money to go to a movie. If people are spending all their money on rent, they're not contributing to the local economy. They're not going to restaurants. They're not going to consume an art piece. They're not going to the theatre. They're not going to go see a professional basketball game or the Thunderbirds. They're not going to do any of those things. They're not going to buy new clothes. They can't.

I feel like we've talked about this so much in this House that possibly people are becoming deadened to this issue. I'm not really sure how else to paint a picture of how bad this situation actually is. I do know that daily we have families coming into my office, families with young children, who are being evicted and don't know where to go. It's bad.

Rent control exists. These are things - oh, sorry. I forgot my final heading.

What can we do to solve the problem? Rent control. Rent control exists and works in many other jurisdictions in Canada - and also here. It did exist. (Interruption) Oh yeah, I'm getting to that part. It's an important part, actually.

It does exist in many other jurisdictions, so when I hear the government say it doesn't work, it's simply not true. It's simply not true. The government already uses rent control for its own contracts and rent supplements, and also the renovation program. When the government gives money to buildings that are going to be renovated, part of the contract for that money is that they can only raise rents that are indexed to the CPI.

Sounds like a good plan. If it's good enough for the government for its own contracts, it should be good enough for all Nova Scotians. When we ask about this, we get no answers from the government, which is frankly infuriating. We get talking points over and over again that don't actually address the questions. We get fluff.

We also know that co-op and not-for-profit housing work. We need to see significant investments in those things, not a little bit of money thrown over from this budget. I'm glad to see that the Premier was actually using the words "co-ops" and "not-for-profits." That's an improvement. That's progress, but we need to go a lot further. We also need inclusionary zoning, and we need to strengthen the Residential Tenancies Act so that the landlords are more accountable to tenants and are penalized for intimidation.

Rent supplements are fine in certain situations if you're okay with the government spending public money to prop up private for-profit investment REITs, but the solution offered in this budget - 560 new rent supplements - will not work in the environment we are currently in. There is nowhere to use them, Mr. Speaker, and I am personally not fine with the government using public money to prop up private for-profit investment REITs, by the way.

The housing units announced in this budget are fine, too. Great - 39 houses. That's awesome but not nearly enough. Also, I have to say I'll believe it when I see it, because this government announced funding for small options homes in the last two budgets - or actually, three budgets. Since I was elected, they've announced funding every year, and so far we've seen four open and four more being built at some point and will open soon.

People are suffering. The poorest people are suffering. Seniors on fixed incomes are suffering. Middle-income people are suffering. There are solutions at our fingertips. Not one solution, not one great solution, but many that work together. The government needs to show leadership on this issue and admit there are solutions that it is ignoring or even refusing to take a look at. The government owes it to Nova Scotians to tell us why it refuses to collaborate in this way, and it needs to address this issue before it gets any worse.

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

**HON. PAT DUNN:** Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to speak on the Supply motion. There's an old expression that a budget is a moment where science students finally admire commerce students.

I want to begin by thanking everyone involved in the preparation of this year's budget. It does address several concerns facing our province. Perhaps I'll start off with a couple of positive points - cutting the corporate tax rate from 16 per cent to 14 per cent is positive and saving businesses \$17.5 million, and the small business tax credit, 0.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent.

However, Mr. Speaker, while the government is claiming a balanced budget, I wonder where we would be if we were not receiving approximately \$393 million in transfer payments. That certainly makes a difference in the final line. It appears that the sources of revenue are going down while federal assistance is increasing.

Mr. Speaker, it depends on what Nova Scotian you talk to if they think this year's budget is a good one or if it falls short. The ordinary middle-class person wants to know how the budget is actually going to change their life. They look at the projected \$33 million surplus and suggest numerous places where that can help the lives of people in need. I realize we need extra dollars for unexpected circumstances; however, Nova Scotians are faced with many obstacles.

Mr. Speaker, looking at the extension to the Film Tax Credit. I've had a number of people ask me if the amount of money the government is providing to the film industry is greater or equal to what the industry was originally receiving, before the tax credit was cut. If you look back at that period of time and what has happened, there was a great deal of chaos - lost several employees, employees selling their homes, employees moving, forced to move. Again, I'm not sure if we were to do an audit and compare the money that they were getting in the first place compared to now, there might be a discrepancy.

Mr. Speaker, approximately \$30 billion has been spent towards our health budget since 2013. Two of the most glaring needs are the tens of thousands needing a family doctor and, secondly, the families' frustrations they face when attempting to obtain proper help for a loved one suffering mental health issues - \$550,000 extra for mental health is a major disappointment. This does not even come close to addressing the demand for improved accessibility to adequate mental health care. In fact, \$550,000 works out to approximately 55 cents per Nova Scotian.

Mr. Speaker, we have several visits to our office of people seeking help. We desperately need more mental health services. However, it is more than that. We have to address the root causes. Residents suffering from stress, anxiety, depression and the cost of living is certainly a factor to rising rates of these mental struggles. We need a clinic in Pictou County.

Mr. Speaker, there is no shortage of pressures in our province - the highest income tax rates in the country, 358 vacancies in the health sector, unemployment rising within the forestry sector, shortages of space in many schools attempting to accommodate pre-Primary students. The list goes on and on.



Mr. Speaker, the province's budget will increase our net debt by \$2.7 billion over the next four years. That is a concern for the next government-in-waiting. Net debt is ready to begin in the new fiscal year at \$15.18 billion. Record capital spending will add \$535 million to the debt in the coming year. Fiscal planned projects will see bigger debt increase in 2021 of approximately \$727 million. Our net debt is scheduled to continue rising during the next two years, reaching a record of \$17.866 billion.

Middle-class Nova Scotians are still waiting for the income tax part of the budget speech. We all know that the middle class are the backbone of our economy. They were hoping for some significant changes in that area. Needless to say, they were disappointed. Our community needs-assessment identifies the struggles and resources available in the community to meet the needs of everyone - children, youth, homeless, families, seniors.

Every day, constituents visit or call my office. The following are some of the issues they would like to see addressed in the government's budget, and I want to be in the position as their representative to give them hope. What's important to constituents living in Pictou Centre, and I am sure elsewhere - what are the important issues? What answers do they require?

For example, a resident is wondering why he cannot receive gas money for taking an income assistance recipient to Truro to the methadone rehab clinic. Residents requiring dialysis assistance - it's an ongoing concern when you have an 87-year-old gentleman in your office telling you that under no circumstances can he drive to Antigonish or Truro because of a waiting list at the hospital in Pictou.

The industry landscape has changed in Pictou County. You look at the Trenton rail car plant - as we speak, Nova Scotia Lands is completing tearing down several more buildings, I believe leaving probably two buildings on the 120-acre site. We have Maritime Steel now that is an empty lot. Northern Pulp has closed. With the rail car plant in Trenton closing down, it was a financial tax blow to the Town of Trenton.

Residents are searching for better health care. We have fantastic health care workers - doctors, nurses, primary care workers - but do we have enough? Residents are worried about hospital closures. They're concerned the budget did not address dollars for additional nursing homes. They want a positive economic climate in rural Nova Scotia. They want an efficient road system and that includes paving and gravel for our roads. They want a commitment to environmental protection. They often talk about an efficient transit system.

There's a wide variety of issues arriving at our constituency office. We may have a parent who has lost custody of their child, feeling helpless in attempts to acquire their child from Child Protection Services; what a gridlock. Dealing with CPS is similar to a traffic jam affecting the whole network of intersecting streets. Then there's lack of enough CAAs in our nursing homes. Constituents experience hunger, drug use, poverty. Constituents do not get a fair shake with Workers' Compensation Board - denial after denial after denial. I

have personal experience in that, Mr. Speaker. Imagine them not accountable for their decisions. If you are appealing, you must provide new evidence. We have constituents come into our office complaining about the cost of fuel, that they're relying on vehicles due to the lack of transit opportunities and the lack of transportation options. Also, long waits to acquire access to specialized medical care.

It's not uncommon to have a young, single mother with a child coming in pleading for food, pleading for money to purchase food. Another resident will come in telling us they need help because their electricity is going to be cut off by the provider. They cannot afford to buy food and essential medicine and have enough dollars to pay the power bill.

[6:30 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, we have people in crisis who are unable to get medical forms completed because they don't have a doctor. Often these forms are to have this particular constituent suffering mental health issues transferred to Truro. We have seniors on fixed incomes calling us who are finding it difficult to purchase medicine, groceries, home heating. Everything to them is getting more expensive.

Many of them are worried about the wait-times in ERs, lack of enough hospital beds. As my colleague from Pictou West just mentioned today, I have constituents coming into my office saying that they were at the hospital at 6 o'clock in the morning waiting to have surgery and having it cancelled because there are no beds.

These are the things important to my constituents - and most Nova Scotians. They do not see this help in the budget; they feel they will have to keep struggling. I've witnessed too many times where the health system has failed our constituents, whether it is the person whose addiction was treated as a crime instead of an illness or the parent pleading for help because her child needs to be referred to a psychiatrist, but this cannot happen because they have no family doctor to refer them.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, an area with 46,000 people and our mental health clinic was closed at the Aberdeen Hospital. We don't have a psychiatrist working there. I believe there is an answer for this growing problem of not being able to obtain a doctor in order to get referral papers filled out and passed on. Perhaps we should have a clinic available specifically for Nova Scotians who have no family doctor, where they can go and get a prescription or a referral.

Other pressing problems for many Nova Scotians, Mr. Speaker, are limited housing options, wait-lists for rentals. Affordable housing is a major concern. It is difficult to find appropriate places to rent. Seniors want to stay in their homes - I believe we make it difficult for them. You basically have to be living in poverty to stay in your home. My understanding is someone with a household income in Pictou Centre of over \$2,700, the

cap which prevents eligibility for our residents to repair windows, shingle a roof, or replace a furnace.

The above issues, I'm sure, are facing every MLA in this Chamber. These are the everyday issues that many Nova Scotians are facing. While the budget may be balanced, the increase in debt is concerning. More disciplined fiscal prudence will be required to tackle future challenges. When you look at personal and business taxes, competitiveness continues to be a huge problem for Nova Scotians. Without question I am sure my colleague the member for Northside-Westmount would agree that high personal and business income taxes cast a very negative dark cloud on economic growth. High taxes will always be a deterrent to retaining businesses in this province.

Mr. Speaker, this budget showed no relief in personal income taxes. As we begin year 2020, this province had the highest top combined federal and provincial personal income tax rate - 54 per cent - of any province or state in North America. Numerous constituents look at the highlights of the budget, the big increase in capital spending, over \$1 billion.

Many residents in my community have asked the following: Is the government attempting to curb the economic fallout by the closing of Northern Pulp? Compare the \$50 million transition fund to the annual salaries of Northern Pulp which were approximately \$40 million. One can examine the spending during the past three budgets and compare that with this current budget and make your own conclusion.

Common sense would indicate that the closing of Northern Pulp will harm our growth, and our province's GDP will show that at year's end. Mr. Speaker, the current virus that has temporarily halted many exports, including a percentage of fish products, and railway blockages across our country, was not factored into this year's budget numbers.

I would like to finish with my opening comments. My biggest disappointment is the lack of urgency towards addressing the mental health crisis. The need for our mental health clinic at the Aberdeen Hospital is critical. A place close to families where they can be there to support their family member. We have too many constituents visiting our office because they are not getting any results elsewhere. They are often at a critical stage, and it is nerve-racking thinking of what the possible outcomes could be if the help is not available. Someone in crisis cannot wait for an appointment weeks and months away; they need immediate attention.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

[6:35 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CW on Supply with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[10:41 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 has made some considerable progress and begs leave to sit again.

THE SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

### **PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 220.

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

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 220, entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Labour Standards Code, Respecting Leave, be now read a third time and do pass.

The proposed amendments we put forward will provide our reservists of the Canadian Armed Forces with better job protection. Mr. Speaker, reservists put their lives on hold and make significant sacrifices for us, and they deserve to be protected. These amendments are a step in the right direction. They will ensure that our reservists have the ability to take the necessary leave for training and deployment and have the comfort of knowing that they have a job to come home to.

I would also like to note that these changes will align us with recent changes made to the federal government's reservists leave. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that all of the feedback we have received has been reviewed and considered in our decision. At the end of the day, we need to make sure our reservists have the training and protection they need to serve our country and succeed. These changes are positive.

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

BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for introducing this piece of legislation. Nothing new to add - the PC caucus will support this bill.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few short words on this bill. We all know that reservists are important for the protection of Nova Scotia and Canada, and their leave should be protected. The interests of their employer should also be protected, as the reservists' leave can have an impact on businesses, namely small businesses. Along with the provision of support for more components of the service process - including all deployment training, travel time, and treatment - the broadening of the definition of service, specifically in terms of including mental health, is an important and welcome change in this bill.

We also wanted to highlight that the bill highlights the ongoing issue of women's reproductive rights within the workforce, and pregnancy should not be a reason for a woman to be punished.

With those few short words, I will express my support for the bill and take my seat.

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

The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Thank you, everyone, for your comments and for your support of the bill. I rise to close third reading on Bill No. 220.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 220. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 221.

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

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

[10:45 p.m.]

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 221, an Act to Amend the Labour Standards Code, be now read a third time and do pass.

The proposed changes to the Labour Standards Code will help address Nova Scotia's gender wage gap. Mr. Speaker, women play a vital role in our economic growth; however, the gender wage gap remains a major issue facing women. On average, women are being paid less than men in their jobs, in every sector, and this is unacceptable.

The proposed amendments brought forward will prohibit employers from asking job applicants and current employees about their previous salaries. They'll also prohibit employers from banning employees from discussing or disclosing their own wages or other employees' wages.

Mr. Speaker, these changes will help bring more transparency to the salary of both women and men and ensure that employees are paid a wage that reflects their qualifications, experience, and value. Additionally, these changes will expand the equal pay provisions currently in the Labour Standards Code to employees who do not identify exclusively, or at all, as men or women.

They will also allow government to expand, through regulation, equal pay provisions to employees who possess certain characteristics such as those related to race or ethnicity. These are important steps to ensure our regulations reflect our diverse workforce. These amendments further allow government to establish, through regulations, administrative penalties; these amendments set the foundation for a stronger, fair, and just workforce in Nova Scotia.

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

BRIAN COMER: I think this legislation is a great step forward in reducing the gender wage gap in this province. I'm looking forward to what regulations bring. The PC caucus will support this.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I hate to disappoint the House, but I'm going to say a few slightly longer words on this one.

Yes, it is important that significant changes are made to the Labour Standards Code that address the gender wage gap. The Code must be updated to be meet contemporary needs and demands. We know that the wage gap is remarkably high in Nova Scotia - 73 cents on the dollar - and strong legislation is needed in order to change this.

Systemic issues impact the wage gap in Nova Scotia, including gender biases and racism, which need a comprehensive and pointed approach from this government. While this bill establishes penalties for non-compliance, it does not change the systemic issue of wage inequality we face. The bill does not propel any meaningful changes associated to institutionalized patriarchal values, which clearly and conclusively impact women's wages.

Why is the gender wage gap so wide in Nova Scotia, and why is this a problem? Because of patriarchy. Patriarchy and misogyny are alive and well and living in Nova Scotia. Mr. Speaker, it begs pointing out that some of the leaders in - many of the leaders fighting gender wage gaps are labour unions. In many ways, it is the labour movement that has addressed systemic issues that affect women.

Another way we could address this issue is by strengthening our Trade Union Act; we could respect collective bargaining processes; and we could address labour laws that make it difficult for workers to form unions in the first place. These are places we have to go to address this issue.

International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, is only a few days away. This is the ideal time to illuminate the struggles faced by women, particularly racialized women, in regard to the systemic and insidious issue of wage inequality. While this bill represents a small step forward, the work remaining in this area remains significant.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. KELLY REGAN: And the Status of Women, Mr. Speaker. It's in that particular role that I'll be making my remarks here today.

I would like to note that since we introduced this bill I've had the opportunity to meet with a number of women, particularly at some International Women's Day events throughout this week. I have attended quite a few this week.

I told the story at one of them about Engineers Nova Scotia which, several years ago, actually posted the median wages of engineers at every year along their career path; they posted them for men, and they posted them for women. At every single stage along the way, women made less than men. The minute they got out of university, no matter what their marks were, no matter how successful they were, women were making less than men.

What Engineers Nova Scotia found was that as a result of posting these salaries, when women went in for job interviews, they could say - and this is what we were hearing was happening - yes, I'd like to work for you, but I want the male salary, not the women's salary.

I believe this bill has value. I want to thank my honourable colleague for bringing it forward. I believe it is one way that we can help narrow that gender wage gap.

When we look at all employees in Nova Scotia, Mr. Speaker, women make 73 cents on the dollar. When we look at full-time employees, the gap is much smaller, but there is still a gap. It can't be explained by things like experience or education. It may, in fact, be explained by patriarchy. It may be explained by unconscious bias. We assume men are competent. Experience would show that's not always the case. (Applause) I've had so much fun this week, I have to say.

There's a competence bias in favour of men. There's a compassion bias in favour of women, and women aren't always compassionate either. I will just say that on behalf of my sex.

What I will say is that this is one step down the road. We know that employers can choose to hire based on what they're willing to pay rather than saying, what did you make in your last job? This bill helps move us along this way.

I'd like to thank my honourable colleague for introducing the bill. I'd like to thank those of my colleagues in the House who are going to support it. I'd like to thank my colleagues on this side of the House for supporting it as well.

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

The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Hard to follow up on that one. I would agree with pretty much everything she said, especially the term about competence. I think there's always incompetence wherever you are, and the goal is to have less of it. Being in this place sometimes we witness it, and we feel it ourselves after these long hours.

With those few words, I rise to close third reading on Bill No. 221.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 221. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 223.



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

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: I move that Bill No. 223 - an Act to Amend the University Foundations Act - be now read a third time and do pass.

This is a housekeeping bill. Every university in the province is legislated to have a university foundation. When this was put in place many decades ago, it was actually due to the tax laws in Canada, and the foundations gave preferential tax treatment to our universities.

Those laws are no longer in place, so there's no preferential treatment to the university foundations versus the universities. Approximately seven of the ten universities have expressed their desire to dissolve their foundations and all the reporting requirements with it. Three of them have expressed the desire to keep their foundations.

What we've done in this bill is leave the option up to the universities. If they'd like to keep the foundations, it's their call.

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

BRIAN COMER: I spoke to the stakeholders that will be impacted by this legislation, who are all supportive. Our caucus will support this.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to stand and speak to Bill No. 223. It's a logical change and we're happy to support it. However, I am compelled to take this opportunity to raise a number of issues related to our universities.

Most students have deregulated tuition fees which can rise by any amount. This is coupled with only a 1 per cent increase in university funding, which effectively amounts to a cut. Nova Scotian students are now facing the highest tuition fees in the country. Tuition has increased more than 20 per cent since this government came into power. This is disappointing and we will continue to push for better in Nova Scotia.

That being said, we support this bill. Thank you.

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

The honourable Minister of Labour and Advanced Education.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, thank you for all the comments. Universities are very important for this government. In this current budget, there was actually a 6 per cent increase for this year given to universities to address their deferred maintenance. Universities have many buildings, many assets, and in terms of a cost pressure, it's very high, and that 6 per cent equates to \$20 million. The MOU actually has a 2 per cent increase - 1 per cent to operating and 1 per cent is targeted to sexual violence and mental health. Those are two very key areas on campus.

In last year's budget, we brought in great supports in our universities for low-income Nova Scotians. We made university tuition in terms of when you get your Nova Scotia Student Loan fully forgivable which is up to \$7,200 per year, and this year we're extending that to the Nova Scotia Community Colleges.

With those few words, I rise to close third reading on Bill No. 223.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 223. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 225.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 225 be read a third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, thank you. I think I spoke enough at length on second reading. I did raise the possibility of an election. I always like to look at people's eyes to see if they can give something away when I say that.

I will be supporting this bill. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise and speak to Bill No. 225. We will also be supporting this bill. As we noted on second reading, it does cover most of the requests made by Elections Nova Scotia.

I would be remiss if I didn't note that it does not in fact enshrine fixed election dates into law, something which I respectfully disagree with the minister on. I would say it does work, but we can continue to have that debate as the days and months wear on.

I do think it would do a service to Nova Scotians to have more certainty around when they head to the polls. I also think it would do a service to government to not have every move of theirs constantly speculated upon and to always have people wondering whether it's a political stunt or real policy.

We in the NDP caucus will continue to push for fixed election dates, but beyond that we are pleased with this bill and we're happy to support it.

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

The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments and support of my colleagues. With those few comments, I rise to close debate on Bill No. 225.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 225. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

[11:00 p.m.]

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 226.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 226, the Companies Act, be read a third time and do pass.

The amendments we're making to the Companies Act speak to our commitment to protect and promote Nova Scotia as a province where people can safely work and succeed. We're amending the Companies Act to put appropriate safeguards in place that will increase transparency and help to prevent the misuse of Nova Scotia companies for illegal activities such as tax evasion, money laundering, corruption, and the financing of terrorist activities.

Introducing these legislative changes is part of a commitment that was made by the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers and means that companies incorporated in our province will be required to collect, maintain, and update information about who owns, controls, or benefits from a company and the income it generates. Law enforcement and tax authorities will then be able to access this information from the company to help counter illegal activity.

Similar amendments are already in effect federally and in Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. Helping to prevent companies operating in our province from being used for illegal activity will protect our citizens and support a strong economy.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I can say that we support the legislation, and we hope that it works.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: Ditto.

THE SPEAKER: A great debate here in the Legislature this evening. (Laughter)

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

The honourable Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Mr. Speaker, I'm totally printing off the Hansard for tonight and framing it in my office somewhere. (Laughter)

With that, I rise to close third reading of Bill No. 226.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 226. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 227.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 227 - an Act to Amend Chapter 252 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Legal Aid Act - be read a third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, we are pleased to support the changes contained in Bill No. 227 to modernize the Legal Aid Act. I thank the minister and his department for bringing this forth and the consultation they had with the Legal Aid Commission.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak to Bill No. 227, the Legal Aid Act. The NDP caucus also supports these changes.

I want to thank the staff who worked on this and the Legal Aid Commission for their hard work. We believe that this Act not only modernizes the legislation, which it needed to do, but also gives the commission more latitude to do the good work that they are doing.

We also want to thank the government for bringing in the amendment asked for by the commission, which will allow their chair to stay on a little bit longer and delay the coming into force of one of the provisions in the Act. With those few words, I'll take my seat.

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

The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: I rise to close debate on Bill No. 227.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 227. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 228.

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

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

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move third reading of Bill No. 228, the Housing Nova Scotia Act.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: I thank the minister for bringing this forward. We on the Progressive Conservative side of the House do support this bill.

What we're really looking forward to - although this is an enabler to make monies flow to those who need it and to improve the housing in Nova Scotia, it's one of those things that you now have the capacity and you have the ability to do. We're looking forward to seeing what happens next week when we talk about the budget. I'd like to really see an explanation as to what that money is going to do and how it's going to do it. The fact that now we have this is good.

Now, we do support this, and I look forward to the very few words from the NDP.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to stand tonight and speak to Bill No. 228, an Act to Amend the Housing Nova Scotia Act. We've spoken at length in this House about the crisis that we are witnessing in our constituency offices and in our communities in regard to housing.

I do not object to the government adding this particular tool of portable rent supplements to its toolbox, but I would argue that it is a variation on the tool that they have used over and over and over again, despite much evidence that other measures and other strategies are required to actually make a difference in our housing market.

For so many Nova Scotians who are truly struggling to have housing stability and just stability in their financial lives and in their family lives as unpredictable rent increases

and renovations are making it difficult for them to maintain a roof over their heads, I would say that I think that this government has been slow to really capture and comprehend the scale and the depth of the housing crisis that many Nova Scotians are experiencing.

I look forward to the - I don't know what I look forward to. I look forward to . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Adjournment.

LISA ROBERTS: Adjournment might be it. I look forward to late but adequate action in the face of the situation that we are actually in. This bill is not it, but I don't object to it.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: I would thank my honourable colleagues for their comments, although I would respectfully disagree with the previous comments that were just made with regard to us moving slowly.

Mr. Speaker, I want all Nova Scotians to know, and all members of this House to know, that we've stood many times in this House and talked about the challenges around housing. That's why this government is making the investments that they are making and have not just started making them. This government has been investing in housing for years to the tune of millions and millions of dollars. We will continue that.

We are working hard every single day. Staff work hard every single day in this province to do better by the people who are looking for affordable housing and options in this province. We will continue to do that. I think it's important to make that point clear. This isn't something we just started today. We've been working at it and we will continue to work at it.

With those few comments tonight, I will move to close debate on Bill No. 228.  
(Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The enthusiastic motion is for third reading of Bill No. 228. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 230.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 230.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: We, the Progressive Conservatives, absolutely support anything that is a process improvement eliminating waste. You don't need two ministers' signatures when one will do. Also, there's still auditability with the municipality of HRM. They have a \$500,000 spending limit. When you put that over a couple of years, there's audit procedures in the municipality that will look at that, so you don't need the minister to continuously look at that, nor with the non-HRM municipalities where it's \$100,000 spending limit over a couple of years - you don't need another signature to do that.

One of the other aspects of this was where two departments are required and you have to sign off one department, why do you need the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to sign off as well? It improves it and saves everybody time. It's a good thing.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: Yes, this is a processing improvement and a relatively modest change to both the Municipal Government Act and also to the HRM Charter.

I will note that we have on the order paper numerous other relatively modest amendments to both of those Acts that had been requested by municipalities including, for example, an Act that would give permanent residents the right to vote in municipal elections. We're coming up on one of those in the Fall. It has been three years since Halifax asked for that amendment to the HRM Charter. It's unfortunate that the government has not chosen to open up these bills a few more times in response to very reasonable, well-reasoned, and well-researched requests from the Halifax municipality and other municipalities. Inclusive zoning is the one that I talked about the other day.

Anyhow, we'll see it here another time, and maybe we'll see both of these Acts opened up for more robust purposes. I'm glad to see it happened once.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



HON. CHUCK PORTER: With a little less enthusiasm, I'll move to close debate on third reading of Bill No. 230.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 230. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 232.

**Bill No. 232 - Electricity Act**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: I think they heard enough in Estimates tonight. I move that Bill No. 232 be read for a third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, we were doing so well, but I can assure you, this is not an Opposition that's just going to roll over. (Laughter)

I don't have enough information on this bill and what it's doing to put my support behind it. A number of things I raised on second reading. Renewable energy can be a wonderful thing, but my concern here is with one-offs and with governments. In this case, I'm not looking directly at this government, but I'm looking at the federal government with one-offs.

My concern is that sometimes governments are more concerned with looking good than doing the greatest good for the greatest number of people - and in this case, for the environment. I would use, as an example from the past, the COMFIT program. Look at the pricing for wind power versus large wind farms - much more affordable renewable power. Any which way you look at it, it would have been cheaper, or you could have added more renewable power on the grid for the same price.

So that's my concern with this bill. I think about when renewable energy is added to the grid. If it's management of coal plants, we know they produce a lot of emissions. If they're not running as efficiently as they should be, that could be causing more pollution.

[11:15 p.m.]

I don't have enough information to support this bill.

I'll close with this, Mr. Speaker - I don't know what to make of the fellow running the country up in Ottawa. If I may borrow a quote from the late Malcolm MacEachern, in *Judique* - and I think he was referring to the Tories at the time - I think they have gone clear, clean, clip to the dogs. (Laughter)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I am really glad to stand up and speak to this bill today, an Act to Amend the Electricity Act. I have been talking all night, Mr. Speaker, about electricity and about energy efficiency, and I'm going to keep doing it for a few more minutes.

We are glad to see this program in place. It's a really good start, though we believe that there is a vast array of improvements that need to be made to our energy regime to address the climate crisis. Without details or targets about this program, it's difficult to say what impact it will have on the province's emissions. As wind and solar energy become more cost competitive and as storage technology advances, it will be more and more possible to continue to add renewable energy to the grid. We need to make sure that our regulatory regime enables the shift.

As I said in second reading, it would be great if the provincial government would lead the way by making use of the procurement pathway for its own buildings and fleets. We need to also make it easier for communities and individuals to generate their own renewable energy.

We talked about virtual net metering; we talked about it in Estimates a little bit. The minister says it's coming. It's one way that we can enable this, as we heard about at the Law Amendments Committee from the Canadian Solar Industries Association. It sounds like a great idea, especially given the fact that we have heard from the minister tonight that one of the priorities for the department is people who live with low incomes. It would allow for accessible and affordable renewable energy by allowing people to subscribe to a community solar or wind farm.

These programs exist in other parts of the world. They make a lot of sense. We can build on them and expand on them.

At the same time, we need to be vigilant to signals from Nova Scotia Power that they are attempting to limit net metering programs for individuals who generate their own renewable electricity. We should be encouraging this, making it as accessible as possible, and not allowing Nova Scotia Power to limit community generation.

We also, Mr. Speaker, need a total energy strategy that considers the generation and use of all kinds of energy for heating, transportation, and electricity.

Of course, I couldn't sit down without mentioning targets. The NDP has advocated for aggressive targets for renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, system-wide building retrofits, and electrification of transportation. We need to transition away from coal and oil. All of this is underpinned by the need for more aggressive greenhouse gas emissions targets. That is why the NDP has pushed for 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030 - Nova Scotia's fair share of what's required to keep global warming below catastrophic levels. I recognize that we are leaders in the country, but we need to do more.

No doubt this program is a good start, Mr. Speaker, but we can, and we must, do much more, which is why we in the NDP are pushing at every chance we get for meaningful substantial action on climate change and renewable energy growth.

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

The honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for the comments. This is green choice. They will pay a premium rate for this. This will not impact rates. This will result in tens of millions of dollars of green construction in the province. This is a good bill moving forward.

I appreciate everybody's comments, and with that I rise to close debate on Bill No. 232.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 232. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Deputy Government House Leader.

KEITH IRVING: Everybody still having fun? Want to continue?

That concludes government business for today. The House will meet again tomorrow, Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. Following the daily routine and Question Period, business will include Committee of the Whole House on Bills, Bill Nos. 191, 233, 234, 236, 238, and 240. Also note that the Committee on Law

Amendments will be meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to consider Bill Nos. 242, 243, and 241.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House do now rise to meet again tomorrow, March 6<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, Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.

[The House rose at 11:21 p.m.]

**NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)****RESOLUTION NO. 1802**

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Colchester North)

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

Whereas Lisa Patton from North River, Colchester North, and daughter of the late Ed Lorraine grew up on a cattle farm in Onslow and was a member of the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club taking part in goat, horse and beef programs; and

Whereas when her own children began to participate in 4-H, Lisa became involved again as a leader and today there are 75 members in the North River Club; and

Whereas 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 and received her award at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa recently;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Lisa for receiving such a prestigious award and for believing in a phrase coined by her late father: 4-H members today, community leaders tomorrow.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1803**

By: Hon. Karen Casey (Colchester North)

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

Whereas the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 64, in Tatamagouche sponsored a writing contest for Remembrance Day, which is an excellent way to keep our young people interested and aware of the role that veterans have played in our history and the sacrifices they have made to ensure our safety and our way of life; and

Whereas 15-year-old Emily Esau from the Tatamagouche Regional Academy wrote a poem about remembrance that won her a first-place certificate from the Legion; and

Whereas she was delighted to receive the accolade, especially since she knows most of the Legion members personally and was encouraged by their pride in her work;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates Emily on her win and hopes she will continue her writing as a great way to express her feelings.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1804**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas on January 7th of this year, Brooklyn Power sought to commemorate 2,500 employee safe days through a donation to a worthy cause; and

Whereas the Queens County Hospital Foundation supports Queens General, and any community health entities within Queens County, providing health care services to and or improving the health of Queens County residents; and

Whereas the employees of Brooklyn Power donated a cheque worth \$2,500 to the Queens County Hospital Foundation;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and salute the generosity of Brooklyn Power and it's employees, recognizing their service is a shining example of corporate outreach and integration into the community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1805**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas the Queens Florist has been serving Queens County since opening their doors in August 2019 in Liverpool; and

Whereas owner Jacqueline Duck offers a broad range of exceptional customer service including client consultation, online ordering, deliveries, in a unique and quaint atmosphere; and

Whereas the Queens Florist will officially be opening their already operating botanical gardens late Spring 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Jacqueline for choosing to open this delightful business in Queens County and enhancing Liverpool.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1806**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Shawn Seaboyer is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Shawn for his selfless, and dedicated, 20-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1807**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Brian Camp is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Long Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Brian for his selfless, and dedicated, 25-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1808**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Trevor Marriott is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Long Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Trevor for his selfless, and dedicated, 25-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1809**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Allen Allison is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Long Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Allen for his selfless, and dedicated, 25-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1810**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Derek James MacKenzie is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Long Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Derek for his selfless, and dedicated, 25-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1811**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department is composed of individuals who show their dedication to the community by contributing hard work, skills, frequently risking their lives and dealing with great trauma; and

Whereas long service volunteers are the lifeblood of the community; and

Whereas Firefighter Wes DesChamp is a recipient of the 2019 Fire Services Long Service Medal;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Wes for his selfless, and dedicated, 25-years service to the Town and people of Shelburne.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1812**

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 the Riverside Education Centre girl's soccer team exemplified athleticism and excellent coaching to become the Tier 2 Regional Champions; and

Whereas this marks the first time in REC history the girls' soccer team has accomplished this feat; and

Whereas Leighann Fraser was a key, participating player on the REC team;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Leighann Fraser and her REC soccer team on their victorious season.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1813**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas George Prest has volunteered with the East Hants Curling Association since its beginning, holding the positions of vice president and director of the board and was instrumental in bringing curling to the East Hants Sportsplex;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking George for his tremendous commitment to his community and in congratulating him on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1814**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas George Searle has given countless hours to the Shubenacadie Community Development Association using his engineering background and also using his own equipment on several projects;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking George for his tremendous commitment to his community and in congratulating him on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1815**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Clara Vroegh gives countless hours as a member of the fire auxiliary, 4-H Club Leader and the Sunday School Superintendent where she teaches the biggest Sunday school class in our area;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Clara for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1816**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Lisa Hubley is a volunteer of all trades, helping with Rawdon Home and School, chair of SAC, Rawdon 2-way 4-H and helps fundraise for the East Hants Karate Club;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Lisa for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1817**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Sandra MacQuillan has been a volunteer for the past 20 years helping with Milford Rec Association, East Hants Sting Rays, Coordinator for Milford Heart and Stroke Foundation, and member of the Faith Community Church Council and Hospitality Committee;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Sandra for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1818**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Janice Prest has been a volunteer with the East Hants Curling Association and is the president of the East Hants Fine Arts Association and coordinator of an Annual East Hants Artist Sale attracting artists from as far as Ontario;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Janice for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1819**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Paula MacLellan has been a long-standing member of the Noel United Church holding various positions including Board of Stewards member, nominating committee co-chair, Sunday school teacher and ministry and personnel committee member;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Paula for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1820**

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 volunteers make a positive impact on their community by giving selflessly of themselves; and

Whereas the Municipality of East Hants recognized the contributions and commitments of volunteers during their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; and

Whereas Jackie Dobbin has been the treasurer with the Tri-County Girl Guides for 11 years and is instrumental in helping fundraise for events and trips for all Girl Guide Troops;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Jackie for her tremendous commitment to her community and congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Municipality of East Hants Shining Star Award.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1821**

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 Ingrid Boutilier 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 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 Ingrid Boutilier having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1822**

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 Harry Alfred Sampson of Lower 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 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 Harry Alfred Sampson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1823**

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 Gerald James Barrett 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 Gerald James Barrett having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1824**

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 Elizabeth (Jane) Landry 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 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 Elizabeth (Jane) Landry having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1825**

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 Gracie Annie Mae 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 Gracie Annie Mae Sampson having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1826**

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 Gail Beryl Newfield-Armstrong 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 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 Gail Beryl Newfield-Armstrong having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1827**

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 George Lewis Cook 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 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 George Lewis Cook having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1828**

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 George Joseph "Joe" MacNeil of Barra Head 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 George Joseph "Joe" MacNeil having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1829**

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 Gerald Matthews of Dundee 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 Gerald Matthews having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1830**

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 Felix Joseph Samson 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 Felix Joseph Samson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1831**

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 Elizabeth (Liz) Margaret (Mountain) Sampson of St. Peters, formerly of Grand Greve, 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 Elizabeth (Liz) Margaret (Mountain) Sampson having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1832**

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 Inez Evelyn Smith 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 Inez Evelyn Smith having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1833**

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 Golda Ilene Noseworthy Stride 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 Golda Ilene Noseworthy Stride having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1834**

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 Greta Gladys Forrest of Pondville 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 Greta Gladys Forrest having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1835**

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 Edmund Gordon MacLean 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 Edmund Gordon MacLean having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1836**

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 Gordon James Stone of Lower 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 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 Gordon James Stone having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1837**

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 Herman Joseph Samson 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 Herman Joseph Samson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1838**

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 Francis Victor Clayton 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 Francis Victor Clayton having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1839**

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 Effie MacDonald of Loch Lomond 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 Effie MacDonald having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1840**

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 Edward Howard “Eddy” Greencorn 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 Edward Howard “Eddy” Greencorn having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1841**

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 Isabell Jean MacDonnell of Kempt Road 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 Isabell Jean MacDonnell having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1842**

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 Gertrude Lillian “Gertie” Coffin Ryan 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 Gertrude Lillian “Gertie” Coffin Ryan having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1843**

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 Eldora “Dora” Cecile Britten of St. Peters/Poulamon 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 Eldora “Dora” Cecile Britten having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1844**

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 Herman Joseph Martell of Pondville 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 Herman Joseph Martell having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1845**

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 Francis Joseph LeBlanc 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 Francis Joseph LeBlanc having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1846**

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 Eric Howard Winsor 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 Eric Howard Winsor having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1847**

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 birthdays are a special and momentous occasion for family and friends to gather and celebrate the joy and beginning of someone's life; and

Whereas Constance Evelyn Slaunwhite, a resident of Terence Bay, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 10, 2019, with family and friends at an open house hosted by her family at the Terence Bay Community Hall; and

Whereas to have reached 90 years of age and continue to be healthy, active, and engaging, and share the cherished memories and experiences gathered over a lifetime;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Constance on reaching this milestone in her life and wish her many more years of good health and happiness.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1848**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Dan Monk started a professional renovation company called Monk Renovations, from the ground up, now proudly employing 14 people; and

Whereas Monk Renovations' reputation has grown and the business has received the prestigious Renovator of the Year award at the Canadian Home Builders Association, the Nova Scotia Peter Kohler Peak Award; and

Whereas Dan is the only renovation company owner in Nova Scotia who is a professional engineer and a Red Seal Carpenter - a true testament to his craft;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dan Monk on the success of Monk Renovations and the well-deserved accolades and thank him for his many contributions to his community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1849**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Sheena Russell's Made with Local business was recently honoured by winning gold for Small Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas Sheena has transformed Made with Local from a small farmers' market stall into a growing national brand with more than 800 retailers across Canada; and

Whereas Sheena's mission is to run a business in a responsible, sustainable way, employing extensive social and environmental standards;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Sheen Russell on winning gold for Small Business of the Year and wish her every success with Made with Local.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1850**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Derek Martin brought the Halifax Wanderers Football Club, an exciting professional sports franchise, to our province; and

Whereas the Wanderers won gold for New Business of the Year at the recent Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas the Wanderers regularly attract 6,000 people to matches and generate revenue and excitement in our capital city;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Derek Martin on receiving well-deserved recognition from the Halifax Business Awards and wish the Wanderers success in the upcoming season.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1851**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Debbie Hartlen's Flag Shop was recently named a finalist for Small Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas Debbie established the Flag Shop in 1993 while maintaining her career as a registered nurse and earning her master of nursing degree; and

Whereas Debbie's many contributions to the community include volunteering as director of a children's choir and at Feed Others of Dartmouth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Debbie for her many contributions to our province and congratulate her on the Flag Shop's designation as a finalist for Small Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1852**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Joshua Svec was recently honoured when his company Air Realty won bronze in the Innovative Business of the Year category at the 2020 Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas Air Realty is a company that eases the process of listing a home; and

Whereas Air Realty established a scholarship fund called Opening Doors which covers the cost of the salesperson licensing course and awards the winner with \$1,500 towards their business start-up costs;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Joshua Svec on his bronze medal win and wish him every success with Air Realty in the future.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1853**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Anne-Althea Brace-Lavoie and her husband Jenner Cormier opened Bar Kismet seafood restaurant in 2017, which is a finalist for New Business of the Year at the 2020 Halifax Business Award; and

Whereas Bar Kismet was recently named one of *enRoute* magazine's best new restaurants in Canada; and

Whereas Anne-Althea has transformed her passion for cooking into a top-tier family-run restaurant and business;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Anne-Althea Brace-Lavoie for having Bar Kismet named a finalist for New Business of the Year and send best wishes for her ongoing success.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1854**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Gamal A. Bin Eshaq's company, G.M. Applied Technologies Canada, is a finalist in the category of Export Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards 2020; and

Whereas Mr. Bin Eshaq established his business in Halifax because of its advantageous location; and

Whereas in 32 years with Mr. Bin Eshaq at the helm, G.M. Applied Technologies Canada has won many accolades and awards, including being a finalist for International Business of the Year for the Halifax Business Awards in 2016;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Gamal A. Bin Eshaq on being named a finalist in the category of Export Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards 2020 and for more than three decades of successful business in our province.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1855**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Marie-Claire Chartrand's Greywave Senior Care Consulting was a finalist for New Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas Marie-Claire has devoted her life to others by earning a degree in social development studies and pursuing a career in social work and as an entrepreneur; and

Whereas Greywave Senior Care Consulting ensures seniors are cared for through strategic planning of appropriate services, funding and helping them access and navigate the services and funding available through government programs, community resources, and private companies;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Marie-Claire Chartrand on becoming a finalist for New Business of the Year and thank her for her many contributions to her community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1856**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Paul Empey's business, Precision Biologic, recently won gold in the Innovative Business of the Year category at the 2020 Halifax Business Awards; and

Whereas Precision Biologic has donated a multitude of equipment to the University Teaching Hospital in Cameroon and was the first diagnostics company to support the World Federation of Hemophilia's Humanitarian Aid Program; and

Whereas Paul's contributions to the medical field in manufacturing of products for diagnosing coagulation disorders cannot be ignored;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Paul Empey for winning the Innovative Business of the Year and thank him for his many contributions to the medical field.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1857**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Kerr Group, a telecommunications support and workforce optimization company, was founded by Rod Kerr; and

Whereas Northern Business Intelligence is within the Kerr portfolio and is a Halifax Business Awards Export Business of the Year gold-winning company which was so successful that it expanded nationwide; and

Whereas among the previous awards earned by the Kerr Group is the prestigious Exporter of the Year under \$5 million award;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Rod Kerr and the Kerr Group on the company's well-deserved recognition and wish him every success in the future.



**RESOLUTION NO. 1858**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Carolyn Laybolt started Preserving Traditions almost four years ago and has already achieved success as one of three finalists for New Business of the Year by the Nova Scotia Association of Community Business as well Bronze for Small Business of the Year through the Halifax Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas Carolyn routinely supports fundraising initiatives throughout the year and hosts many workshops for artists and craftspeople, allowing them to demonstrate their talents; and

Whereas Preserving Traditions is a small business that supports other small business and builds a stronger community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Carolyn Laybolt on the well-deserved accolades she has earned through her successful business, Preserving Traditions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1859**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Mitchell Hollohan is the founder of Site2020, a business with a focus on increasing traffic safety; and

Whereas Site2020 was selected as a Zone Winner for the I-3 Technology Startup Competition, winning a \$100,000 cash award in 2016, and recently won bronze at this year's Halifax Business Awards for Export Business of the year; and

Whereas Site2020 has grown significantly and now sees team members working with organizations all across North America, relying on trusted advisors in the construction and engineering industries;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Mitch Hollohan and everyone at Site2020 for their recognition at the Halifax Business Awards for Export Business and with them continued success.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 1860**

By: Tim Houston (Pictou East)

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

Whereas Dr. Kevin Spencer is a full-time Emergency Room physician at Dartmouth General Hospital who helps future doctors as Director of Simulation Education, as well as Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine at Dalhousie; and

Whereas Dr. Spencer has found international success through Ring Rescue, a company that sells a non-destructive ring removal device which has saved many priceless rings from being cut; and

Whereas the innovative ring removal system earned Ring Rescue the silver for New Business of the Year at the 2020 Halifax Business Awards.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dr. Spencer for his well-deserved award and thank him for his contributions to the health care system in Nova Scotia.