



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Second Session

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

Sixty-third General Assembly

Second Session

1:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Suzanne Lohnes-Croft, Brendan Maguire

THE SPEAKER: Order, please.

Before we begin the daily routine, the honourable Official Opposition House Leader.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege.

Earlier today the Chair of the Law Amendments Committee violated the privilege of the Leader of the Opposition by attempting to silence him and stifle his freedom of speech as a member of this Legislature.

When Legislative Counsel advised the Chair of this error, he was not moved. Not only were the Chair's actions a breach of the long-established Rules of this House, but they also went against precedent.

The member for Pictou East was acting within the Rules and had his voice silenced. What the Chair did is really an affront to this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Pictou East had asked during the committee meeting to put off the Financial Measures (2020) Bill until after the bubble legislation because he had an amendment to make to the Financial Measures (2020) Act. There was no vote on the motion. The Chair agreed. The presenters then proceeded on the bubble legislation, but after only one speaker the member for Hants East, who was sitting on the committee, made a motion to advance the Financial Measures Act without amendment.

The member for Pictou East - the Leader of the Official Opposition - spoke for 10 minutes or so. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind people that people can speak in committee; there are no limits to members speaking in committee.

At that point, the member for Hants East raised a point of order and suggested there should be a vote on the Financial Measures (2020) Act. The Chair of the committee agreed with her, ignoring the advice of Legislative Counsel who was in the room at the time. A vote was conducted. Points of order were then attempted to be made by the member for Pictou East and also the member for Kings North; those points of order were ignored by the Chair.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, two points: the member for Pictou East didn't get to speak to his completion, which violated his freedom of speech; and secondly, he also didn't get to make his amendment to the bill. This is very concerning.

This has come up before in the Legislature. The Liberal Party raised this very issue in 2001, when Mr. Samson stated: They ran roughshod over the Rules of this House. Democracy was trampled over completely.

Mr. Speaker, back in 2001, the Law Amendments Committee was considering Bill No. 68, the Healthcare Services Continuation Act. It was a Progressive Conservative Speaker at the time, and Speaker Scott found in favour of the Liberals. His ruling, when he called the House back to order, said: "The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid rose on a point of personal privilege. After I have had an opportunity to review the facts, it is my ruling that the matter brought forward by the honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid that there is a prima facie case of privilege. I ask for the consent of the House that the matter be referred to the Internal Affairs Committee to deal with the matter."

Ultimately, the ruling found that it had to go to the Internal Affairs Committee, but the matter also had to go back to the Law Amendments Committee. The committee had to meet again to ensure members had their say and to make their amendments, as they have a full right to do here in this Legislature. No witnesses presented at the meeting, but members were permitted to do that. The matter was also seen as serious enough to warrant going to the Internal Affairs Committee, according to the Speaker.

I know that there are times when the Speaker cannot rule over business conducted by a committee. However, we have this precedent where Speaker Scott ruled in favour of the members who raised the point of privilege at that time.

I ask that the decision made this morning by the Law Amendments Committee, governed by the Chair of that committee, be reconsidered and be overturned.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I think everyone who was in the room today - members of the public, members of the Opposition, government members, everyone watching at home and in their various locations - saw this for what it was: this was a filibuster. We'll hear and we'll get a lecture that this is about democracy and all these different aspects of what happened. This was a direct attempt by the Opposition to drag out the Law Amendments Committee until 12:00 noon so the clock runs out and then we're out of time to debate these bills.

The Leader of the Official Opposition wasn't the first respondent for the PC Party for the budget and the FMA. He didn't speak at all about this on Opposition days; there are no Opposition bills directed to the budget. He didn't talk about the budget so far in Supply, which is an opportunity every single day to discuss the budget and the associated FMA. There are plenty of opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, we have Committee of the Whole House still pending, and we have third reading still pending on the budget; that is ample opportunity. The Leader of the Official Opposition has the floor for Question Period, and we have late debate; there are tremendous opportunities to talk about this particular FMA and the related budget.

This was about getting the clock to 12:00 noon today so that we couldn't continue the Law Amendments Committee, and then that throws out the schedule for everything else. (Interruptions)

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable Government House Leader has the floor.

GEOFF MACLELLAN: At every turn, one of the most difficult things for us on this side - and I know some members have felt this in their past and some hope to feel it in the future - when you're on the government side, it's nothing but a question of your integrity and your respect for the public. Yesterday, we took a bit of a roughing up - and I was on the Law Amendments Committee - about giving the public the time to speak, giving the public the opportunity to come and share their thoughts.

This morning, there were 12 people lined up to speak on the abortion bill from the NDP - 12 people. If the Leader of the Official Opposition had filibustered, which was

exactly the plan, we would have gone to 12:00 noon, and 12 people would have gone home without presenting to the Law Amendments Committee. One person in particular said she skipped school to be here to present today on the abortion legislation.

The members are going to talk about rights and privileges. I was on the Law Amendments Committee yesterday, I was there today, and this was the first time that I saw the Leader of the Official Opposition there. This was about coming to waste the time of the government, to waste the time of the House, to waste the time of the people and not allow this abortion bill to go through today, to push it off to another day. This is the business of the House; this was the focus of today. The attempt was to spend the clock and to get to the point where the schedule for the next rounds for these bills would be thrown off. That's what this is.

I would appreciate in your ruling that you consider the fact that this is what it is. There is no secret about what the Leader of the Official Opposition was trying to do here today. This was not about democracy. This was about filibustering our amendments to the legislation and our FMA that's going to move forward. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't aware that the government gets to dictate when members of the Opposition can speak. The fact of the matter is that we have a Law Amendments Committee in this province, and it is very unique to this province and it should be respected.

When the committee started, I asked for and received the permission of the Chair to have the presenters present in the order they were scheduled. I was very clear that my intent was to be respectful of the presenters. When I saw the schedule, I saw that the FMA was second and I said, Mr. Chair, how about we proceed with the schedule? Let all of the speakers who have taken their time to come to Province House to speak, and then we can revert back to the FMA because we have an amendment to table. The Chair granted that permission because he knew it was a reasonable request.

For the Government House Leader to suggest that it's up to him to determine whether I speak to a bill at second reading or going into Supply or at Law Amendments or at the Committee of the Whole House or at third reading - it is not the position of the Government House Leader to dictate when a member of the Opposition speaks to a bill.

We had an amendment to present. We had the agreement of the Chair to recall the Financial Measures (2020) Act after the presenters had presented. It was the Chair of that committee, aided by the member for Hants East, who reneged on that permission, and it was the Chair of that committee who broke with a long-standing precedent.

[1:15 p.m.]

That long-standing precedent - that has been here before me and before every member of this House and will remain after every member of this House - is that when a member of the Legislature is speaking at the Law Amendments Committee, it is their privilege to speak until they are finished. The Chair of that committee took it on himself, against the advice of Legislative Counsel, to overrule that precedent.

Now, we know what this government's motives are. We've seen what they've done to Public Accounts Committee. This is a government that does not want to be held accountable. We have a Law Amendments Committee in this province for a reason, and I take from the Government House Leader's words that he regrets it. I understand that this government does not like to be held accountable for their decisions.

I had received a number of comments from members of the public to present at the Law Amendments Committee. Of course we know, given the short timeline, that there is not ample opportunity for Nova Scotians to come to Province House to present at the Law Amendments Committee. We know that the government has a tool in their toolbox which is to shorten the notice period.

That doesn't mean that Nova Scotians don't have something to say about a piece of legislation. The legislation in question, that we're talking about, is the Financial Measures (2020) Act. The Act that dictates the spending of this Province in many respects - \$11 billion or \$12 billion of spending and of programming.

If that is the Act that this government wants to silence the Opposition on and silence the voices of Nova Scotians on, I think it is just more evidence that what we have is in fact the least open and the least transparent government in history.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you put all of that to the side and you look at the long-standing precedent, look at Speaker Scott's ruling, and uphold the tradition of this House: that a member of the Opposition is entitled to use their voice at the Law Amendments Committee. They are not meant to be dictated to about whether they use their voice at a time that is convenient to the government.

If the government wants to put a motion forward that dictates when certain members can speak about which bills at which stage, they have a majority government. They can do it. But right now that is not the case in this province, fortunately.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you see this for what it is, that you see the abuse of my privileges as an abuse of the privileges of every member in this House. There will come a time when every member in this House wants to speak at Law Amendments Committee. If we're fortunate enough to be here long enough, there will come a time when every member will want to speak at the Law Amendments Committee, and the precedent that was set this

morning by the Chair of that committee is such that it is not up to them when they speak. It is up to the government.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong. I urge you to return that bill to the Law Amendments Committee.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, to all members of the Legislature, I was chairing a committee meeting this morning and was faced with a difficult decision, which all Speakers and committee Chairs face at times at committees with respect to making the right decision.

I had a member of that committee openly declare that he was going to talk for hours. I had citizens sitting in the gallery who had taken time out of their day, time out of school, to present.

Law Amendments Committee is for the people. It's where the people speak. It is not where we speak. In fact, the day before, I instructed and asked quite firmly the member for Halifax Atlantic to stop with the three-minute preambles. We're here to hear from the public.

The Opposition Party brought forward an amendment - pre-written, drafted with Legislative Counsel, I believe - and the appropriate place to bring that forward is the Committee of the Whole. There is every opportunity at the Committee of the Whole where everyone in this House can debate that with 49 members who sit here today, not just 10 members.

Nova Scotians, and Canadians, are asking us as politicians to work together. They are pleading for us to stop this partisan bickering - and in the committee that is dedicated to the public, what did we have? Partisan bickering. I chose to make a decision to side with the public and respect the public interests with respect to the Law Amendments Act, knowing full well that all the privileges of the members of this House remain here in this House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Official Opposition House Leader.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I just listened to the comments of the member opposite. You know, the fact was that the member himself, as Chair, had agreed to let the people speak and then revert back to the Financial Measures (2020) Act, which is the legislation my colleague from Pictou East wished to speak on and also make an amendment to. So the Chair, himself, knows that. He agreed with it. He was sitting in the chair when he made the decision. He can't get away from that, Mr. Speaker.

He talked about the difficult role of the Chair, Mr. Speaker. I would say, if you are a good Chair, you follow the rules. If you are following the rules, you are taking all of your biases and your judgments and your political leanings out of it. You are following the rules and you are a good Chair. (Applause)

The member has said that he sides with the public. I would ask him, and you - I appeal to you as the Speaker of the House - please side with the Rules of this House. They are here for a reason. The government can pretty well do whatever it wants on anything - but it should not be able to avoid following the Rules. Rules should be followed out of pure respect for what we have here because if we can't respect the Rules in here any longer, what's the point of us coming here? (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: I'll take this point of privilege under advisement and come back to the House at my earliest possible convenience.

The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, today I rise on a point of order. I am new to this House, but I'm not new to life. Yesterday during Question Period, the Premier lost his composure and implied that the Leader of the Opposition was not a good human being, and later told the member to imagine your motive.

Mr. Speaker, the statement is simply not true, and the Premier knows, I suspect, it isn't true. The Leader of the Official Opposition is a dedicated public servant who works tirelessly on behalf of constituents and all Nova Scotians but, beyond that, hurling angry characterizations of this sort across the floor diminishes this place and all who serve in it.

During this very short session of the Legislature there have been a large number of rulings on parliamentary language. At one point you reminded us in the House that "to indicate that another member of this House has questionable integrity is unparliamentary."

Given your ruling, I find it strange that a statement that questions the goodness, the very character of a person, passed without comment. I note a recent Speaker's Ruling in the Canadian Senate about unparliamentary language which, I think, is instructive in this very situation. Speaker Furey ruled:

"To criticize a person's stand on an issue is fine, but to go behind that and start talking about the motivation or motives of an individual is really not parliamentary and is something that should be avoided. Any discussion on debate is, of course, fine - this is a debating chamber - but I would ask senators not to go beyond debating the topic or the legislation at hand and to avoid attributing motives for why people take a particular stand."

Being new to this Chamber, I was appalled yesterday at what I heard. I did not know what to do. This is what I'm doing. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you instruct the Premier to withdraw his ill-advised remarks and make appropriate apologies to this House and the Leader of the Official Opposition. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

HON. STEPHEN MCNEIL (The Premier): Mr. Speaker, I would encourage you to go to Hansard. The Leader of the Official Opposition asked a question yesterday, calling into question integrity of people who aren't in this House and calling into question the motives of a member of this House who's not here today. What I said yesterday in the House was directly the very steps that I took in dealing with the issue the honourable member had on the floor, and I said that's what good human beings do. That's exactly what I said.

Let me say on behalf of you and the members in this gallery, if anyone was offended by anything I said yesterday, I apologize to them. The reality is, I know exactly what I said. I said I know what good human beings do, and I laid out the steps of what people do. We had a member who's in crisis, who came before us as a caucus, and what we did is put in place the appropriate steps for them to receive treatment for an addiction. I said that's what good human beings do.

If in any way that offends anybody in this House, I want to apologize to them, but I want to reassure all of them that I will continue to tell all Nova Scotians that when they see a citizen in this province who is struggling, who needs support, whatever it happens to be, reach out and support them because that is what good human beings do. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

STEVE CRAIG: Good human beings help each other. There is no question about that. The comments and the back and forth that I witnessed yesterday went a little bit beyond talking about that particular issue. It came to an attack on, in my belief, a member, the Leader of the Official Opposition, by the Premier of Nova Scotia. I urge you not only to read Hansard but also to view the video of that exchange. I did, and my remarks stand. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: I'll take it under advisement.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

KEITH IRVING: I have a petition here. The wording is:

“Whereas the Government of Nova Scotia announced on December 5, 2019 that they would amend the Tobacco Access Regulations by repealing clause 8(b), effective on and after April 1, 2020.

Whereas this will result in a ban on the sale of flavoured e-cigarettes and juices and whereas this action will result in adult vapers returning to combustible tobacco or purchasing flavoured products on the black market.

Therefore, the people of Nova Scotia demand the Nova Scotia Government and all members of the House of Assembly amend the ban on flavoured e-cigarettes and juices as part of a comprehensive strategy to implement legislative changes to more effectively combat youth vaping.”

I have approximately 4,500 signatures and I affix my signature.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

LISA ROBERTS: I beg leave to table a petition. It reads:

“I the undersigned on behalf of Friends of Halifax Common do hereby petition Premier Stephen McNeil and members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to:

1. Make public all proposed plans for the entire expansion of the QE2 (sic) hospital (both the Halifax Infirmery and Victoria General) including its associated parking, power plant, and other encroachments, as well as all anticipated costs and then schedule a series of public consultations for the HRM area where citizen input is respected, recorded and responded to.
2. Keep all components of the QEII re-development to the land assembly currently held by the Province to the west side (hospital side) of Summer Street that includes the former Queen Elizabeth High School and CBC TV properties.
3. Produce and pass legislative protection for the Halifax Common such as is currently given to the Dartmouth Common.
4. In light of the very significant negative economic and environmental effects of demolition and rebuilding, revisit the plan to demolish the Halifax Infirmery’s Robie Street parking facility and retain it instead.”

There is one signature on this petition and electronically almost 3,000 signatures were collected. I have affixed my own.

[1:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: I'll take the petition under advisement and come back to you after I've had a chance to review it.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Chair of the Law Amendments Committee.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, it is Friday, let me bring a little bit of energy to the House. 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. 241 - Change of Name Act.

Bill No. 242 - Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Act.

Bill No. 243 - Financial Measures (2020) Act.

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

The committee recommends these bills to the favourable consideration of the House, without amendments.

THE SPEAKER: Just before we table that report, the honourable Official Opposition House Leader.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, there is a matter before you, a point of privilege that pertains specifically to the Financial Measures Act, Bill No. 243, which is part of the package the minister has just put forward to be tabled.

Respectfully, Mr. Speaker, we would say that until the point of privilege is ruled upon, that bill should not be reported back to this House.

THE SPEAKER: I've been advised by the Clerk that I will be able to accept the report from the Law Amendments Committee, under advisement. When I come back with a ruling on the point of privilege we can deal with those matters at the same time.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I'll try again to inject some positive energy on a Friday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, I hereby beg leave to table amendments to the Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Premier on an introduction.

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is International Women's Day. It is my privilege to recognize in the gallery women who work tirelessly and passionately to prevent gender-based violence in our communities, raise awareness and support survivors. It's important that we honour them on International Women's Day because of the tremendous work they do every day to support vulnerable Nova Scotians and to keep women and girls safe.

When I read your name I ask you to stand: Crystal John, President of the Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers; Karen Pictou, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; Karen Bernard, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator, the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; Ellen Marshall, Public Relations, the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association; Emma Halpern, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, Mainland Nova Scotia; and members from the YWCA, Sherrian Garcia, Ama Asuboteng - a good effort, wasn't it? - Donna Snair, Kerri Johnson and Krista Maynard.

I ask all members of this House to give this extraordinary group of women our thanks and a round of applause. (Standing Ovation)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I do see that one woman was missed and I would like her to rise and please receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

RESOLUTION NO. 1861

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

Whereas March 8th is International Women's Day, a day to recognize and celebrate women and girls in all our diversity and the difference we make to this world; and

Whereas advancing gender equality means addressing pressing and complex challenges like gender-based violence, economic insecurity, and under-representation in leadership; and

Whereas the theme for International Women's Day 2020, Each for Equal, is a call for each of us to work together to build a world where all women and girls have equal opportunity to thrive;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of this House of Assembly recognize International Women's Day as an opportunity to work together with community, government, and public and private institutions and enterprises to advance gender equality for all women and girls in 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.

The honourable Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 1862

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

Whereas A.F. Theriault & Son Ltd. is a boatyard based in Meteghan River, Nova Scotia; and

Whereas since their inception in 1938, they have built over 900 vessels for a wide range of uses and clients, and as one of the largest private boatyards in Atlantic Canada their modern and well-equipped facility can provide fishing boats, passenger vessels, commercial work boats, fire, patrol, and pilot boats, as well as luxury pleasure yachts; and

Whereas at the 2019 Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, A.F. Theriault shipyard won the Large Business of the Year Award, also their Managing Director Gilles Theriault, part of the third generation of Theriaults to work there, was honoured with an honourable mention for the Business Leader of the Year Award;

Therefore be it resolved that A.F. Theriault shipyard, along with its managing director has been recognized as an innovative business exporter that places a strong emphasis on construction quality and safety of the vessels they build.

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 responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the staff, the one staff member of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women who is with us today - because the rest of them are off at a Canadian conference on domestic violence - I would ask Pat to please rise. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

RESOLUTION NO. 1863

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

Whereas March 8th is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate women's achievements and reduce inequality; and

Whereas the staff at the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women endeavour on this day, and every day, to advance the rights of women and gender equality; and

Whereas the members of the Advisory Council give government advice and wise counsel on issues pertaining to gender equality in order to advance the economic and social condition of women;

Therefore be it resolved the members of this House of Assembly thank the staff and members of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and support them in the important work they do to advance the situation of women in this province.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Lands and Forestry.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, may I do an introduction before I read my Notice of Motion?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

IAIN RANKIN: In the East Gallery, we have with us today Mr. David Currie who has recently stepped down as the president of the Bird Society here in Nova Scotia. With him, he has his future son-in-law, Chris Surette, who is the head of A for Adventure, who also does tremendous work in conservation and recreation in our beautiful wilderness areas across the province. I ask them both to rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Lands and Forestry.

RESOLUTION NO. 1864

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

Whereas on November 16, 2019, David Currie retired as the President of the Nova Scotia Bird Society; and

Whereas he has personally welcomed almost every new member of the organization, inspired countless people to become involved, and connected many people with the joys of birding and conservation; and

Whereas through his love of birding, he has helped the organization achieve significant changes, including working to protect nine properties in Nova Scotia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly congratulate David Currie on 37 years with the Nova Scotia Bird Society and thank him for the significant contributions he has made over the years.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

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

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RANDY DELOREY: I'd like to direct members' attention to the East Gallery where we have joining us Cassidy Megan and her mother Angela McCarthy. If you would please rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

RESOLUTION NO. 1865

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

Whereas one of the goals of International Women's Day is to recognize achievement and Cassidy Megan began a movement in 2008 to create awareness globally to support epilepsy; and

Whereas Purple Day has now reached 100 countries and on March 26th, people will wear purple to raise awareness and help make a positive impact for those living with epilepsy, their families, friends, and community; and

Whereas on March 7th, the annual Purple Day Gala will take place at the Westin Nova Scotian with the theme, the Roaring Twenties/Great Gatsby/Old Hollywood because 100 years after 1920, one in 100 live with epilepsy;

Therefore be it resolved that I encourage all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to congratulate Cassidy Megan, the founder of Purple Day, on realizing her dream as Purple Day has gone around the world to raise awareness and support for those people living with epilepsy.

Mr. Speaker, I request waiver of notice.

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. 1866

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 North Bay Fishermen's Co-operative, Antigonish County has operated in various forms for 84 years; and

Whereas North Bay Fishermen's Co-operative has had their members voluntarily take the Lobster Quality Handling Course and have initiated vessel quality lobster grading; and

Whereas the North Bay Fishermen's Co-operative has signed on to both the Catch to Plate initiative and the Nova Scotia Live Lobster Quality Certification program;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House thank the North Bay Fishermen's Co-operative for their continued commitment to providing the highest quality seafood products for their clients.

[1:45 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.

SPEAKER'S RULING

**Petition bears only one written signature but multiple electronic signatures.
(Pt. of order by L. Roberts [Hansard p. 5915, 6 March 2020])**

Just before we move on to Introduction of Bills, I'll bring an easy ruling on the petition that was tabled earlier by the honourable member for Halifax Needham. We will accept the petition with one signature on it. Although, I should note that the note about the electronic signatures is irrelevant for our purposes here.

We will table that petition.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 250 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2019. The Sustainable Development Goals Act and Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1994-95. The Environment Act. (Gary Burrill)

Bill No. 251 - Entitled an Act Respecting Energy Efficiency. (Susan Leblanc)

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

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

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: In the East Gallery, we have with us two hard-working, intelligent young women who grew up in my riding. I'm delighted to read this member statement about their amazing journey that they've just embarked on.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

**DOBSON, SARAH/EVANS, GRACE: BOOK,
ON THEIR SHOULDERS - CONGRATS.**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: In honour of International Women's Day, I rise to recognize two young women who grew up in Clayton Park West. Sarah Dobson and Grace Evans are two Dalhousie University students who have embarked on an amazing journey together by writing a book that highlights all the women who have served in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The book is called *On Their Shoulders: The Women Who Have Paved the Way in Nova Scotia Politics*, and it is expected to be completed by late Spring or early Summer, I believe.

Proceeds from the book will go towards a new scholarship at Dalhousie University for young women who are entering political science. In order to accomplish their goal of \$20,000 for this scholarship, they have also launched an online fundraising campaign which can be found at projectdal.ca/project/womeninpolitics. I encourage all members of this House to donate to this wonderful cause.

I am so proud to have been a part of this book, which will hopefully inspire the future generation of elected women. I am so glad to know both Sarah and Grace - especially Grace, who was my Summer student in my constituency office last year. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House of Assembly join me in applauding Sarah and Grace for all their accomplishments. I know their journey to do many great things in life has just begun.

THE SPEAKER: To remind everybody, the time allotted for members' statements is one minute.

The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

MACIVER, BONNIE: RETIREMENT - BEST WISHES

KIM MASLAND: For the last 30 years, Bonnie MacIver of Liverpool has served as a beacon of community spirit in Queens County. This year will mark her thirtieth and final year working at the Do Re Mi Preschool in Liverpool, as she will be retiring.

Working with young children has been more than a job for Bonnie - it's a calling. Hundreds of Queens County children have had their lives forever marked by Bonnie's compassion, going beyond just academics and learning about community spirit and the joy of giving back through food bank drives, sending letters to troops at Christmas, working with the Salvation Army and other initiatives.

To those around her, she is a wonderful boss, teacher, friend and mentor. Bonnie's legacy will live on through the spirit of giving bestowed upon her students, to the enrichment of everyone in Queens County. Well done, Bonnie. You will be missed.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**IMMIGRANT MIGRANT WOMEN'S ASSOC.:
NEW INITIATIVES: BEST WISHES**

LISA ROBERTS: As we approach International Women's Day, I want to recognize the ongoing effort and accomplishments of the Immigrant Migrant Women's Association of Halifax.

This group has been providing support to immigrant and migrant women and girls since 2012. Its objectives are to bring their voice into larger movements aimed at improved well-being and progress of women in the Halifax Regional Municipality; to bring awareness of their concerns and do advocacy work; to research and assess situations affecting immigrant and migrant women and girls; and to showcase their projects, initiatives, and contributions to the community.

On Sunday, International Women's Day, the association is hosting an event featuring mothers and daughters reflecting on how their relationships are shaped by the immigrant experience. I ask that all members wish them well on International Women's Day and in their future and ongoing initiatives.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

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

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

LENA METLEGE DIAB: With us today in the East Gallery, we are joined by Kerry Copeland, Executive Director of Doctors Nova Scotia Healthy Tomorrow Foundation and Kids Run Club. She has served on the boards of Phoenix Youth Programs and Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, and is a past winner of the Progress Club of Greater Halifax Women of Excellence Award.

Today Kerry is joined by her husband Graham Packman, and Leah Jabbour, Kids Run Club Coordinator. Please rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

COPELAND, KERRY: KIDS RUN CLUB - THANKS

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, in recognition of International Women's Day, I rise today to highlight the work of Armdale's Kerry Copeland. Kerry began her career in social work and has a long-time passion for healthy living and helping children.

In 2004, Doctors Nova Scotia hired her to create and launch Kids Run Club, the first school-based, province-wide, free running program for children and youth in Nova Scotia. The program helps more than 16,000 Nova Scotia kids to embrace active, healthy living annually.

In 2018, Doctors Nova Scotia created a registered charity known as the DNS Healthy Tomorrow Foundation. Kerry became its first executive director and leads the Kids Run Club through that organization. She enjoys her work with volunteer teachers and regional representatives and every day sees the difference that fun physical activity makes for school communities.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating and thanking Kerry for the difference she makes in the lives of children and their families.

At the same time I also want to acknowledge the work of Dr. Alex Mitchell, who was supposed to be here today. He is the Chair of Doctors Nova Scotia Healthy Tomorrow Foundation and the Senior Medical Director of the QEII Foundation, who also works with Kerry.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

QUINAN WILD GAME EVENING: 13TH ANN. EVENT - CONGRATS.

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a unique event taking place in my home community this weekend: the 13th annual Quinan Wild Game Evening and Auction. On March 7th, Le Club des Audacieux de Quinan will host more than 300 people. Over the years, this event's popularity has grown and has welcomed people coming from as far away as British Columbia and the United States.

The tickets are highly coveted, and if you are lucky enough to get your hands on one you will be treated to an array of wild game dishes including a variety of rappie pies,

porcupine, ducks, beans and bear, deer ribs, moose cabbage rolls, rabbit soup - I could go on.

Hosting an event of this size could not happen without the many volunteers, donors, and the support from neighbouring communities.

I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in congratulating the organizers of this event and thank them for their hard work, making this event a success year after year.

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

WOMEN LDERS. IN MUNIC. GOVT.: MAKING AN IMPACT - THANKS

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, as the first woman elected as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, I would like to recognize women involved in all levels of politics and leadership roles in public and private enterprise. Women's progress is largely due to the sacrifices of the trailblazers who paved the way for other women throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, there are challenges to being a woman in the male-dominated world of politics, which is why I pay homage to the bold women who have served as members of the Richmond County Council: Madaline Libbus, Gail Johnson, Shirley McNamara, Margo Landry, Audrey Boudreau, Andréé Sampson, and Vera Doucette.

Mr. Speaker, municipal government has the power to influence positive change and impact the daily lives of the people within the communities they serve. These trailblazing women inspired others to come forward and serve at one of the most impactful levels of government in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and thank these women, and all women within my constituency, for their public service and recognize the advantages of encouraging diversity and equity at all levels of government.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member or Dartmouth South.

SPEAKERS AT LAW AMENDMENTS: REPRO. HEALTH SERVS. - THANKS

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bravery, courage, clarity and heart of all those who came today to speak in support of women's access to reproductive health services at Law Amendments Committee: Rebecca Rose, Gina Grattan, Megan Boudreau, Kev Corbett, Alec Stratford, Rebecca Fariah, Kevin Payne, and Dr. Melissa Brooks.

Thanks to each of you for taking meaningful action and engaging in the democratic process. We know there are many barriers to participation in the legislative process just as there are barriers to access to abortion services.

On the eve of International Women's Day and every day, our caucus deeply appreciates your support as we work to increase access to social, economic, and reproductive justice for all Nova Scotians.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, permission to make an introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

LABI KOUSOULIS: Today in our East Gallery we are joined by individuals from Alexander Keith's Brewery, and I would ask them to rise as I say their names: Wade Keller, Matt Miles, Veenesh Ramnarine, Derek Bernard, Jim Gallant, Karley Gilbert, Sean Adams, and Spencer McNaughton.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

KEITH'S BREWERY: 200TH ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Definitely a popular group, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize that 2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the opening of the iconic Alexander Keith's Brewery.

In 1820, Mr. Keith, who had immigrated to Halifax from Scotland, bought his first brewery and named it Alexander Keith's. After leaving his Argyle and Water Street locations, he built his new brewery which is still known today as Keith's Brewery Market and which sits within my own riding.

In addition to his brewing business, Mr. Keith was elected mayor of Halifax three times: 1843, 1853, and 1854. He was also appointed to the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia in 1843, where he was president of the council from 1867 until his death in 1873.

This year Alexander Keith's Brewery will have a number of celebrations and events to mark the anniversary. The actual date is July 7th. Please join me in congratulating Alexander Keith's Brewery on their success, which the entire city, province, and country can celebrate.

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

RCSCC MAGNIFICENT SEA CADETS: RICH EXPERIENCES - RECOG.

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to a great group of 12- to 18-year-olds: the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps 24 Magnificent. This fantastic group of youths meet in Shearwater where they learn sailing and leadership skills, and participate in parades, just to name a few of the activities.

The group is also offered the opportunity to participate in a marching band, rifle teams and marksmanship, and exchange travel opportunities. This year the senior cadets will travel to British Columbia to sail the *Pacific Grace*, a well-known tall ship.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing the RCSCC 24 Magnificent for their dedication to their own group, the entire group and our community and for their determination as they approach their 75th anniversary.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

UKRAINE AIRLINES FLIGHT 752: THOSE WHO DIED: REMEMBER

LISA ROBERTS: As we approach the two-month anniversary of a tragedy that affects countless individuals and families in Halifax, across Canada, and in Iran, I wish to take a moment to remember the victims of Ukrainian Airlines Flight 752 that was shot down on the outskirts of Tehran on January 8th. Of the 167 people who lost their lives, more than 130 were en route to Canada.

In Halifax, Dalhousie University engineering student Masoumeh Ghavi and her younger sister Mandieh were both on the plane, as were Maryam Malek and Fatemeh Mahmoodi, who were both in the Master of Financial Management program at Saint Mary's University.

Dr. Sharieh Faghihi, a Halifax dentist and faculty member at the School of Dentistry at Dalhousie, also died in the crash and leaves a large circle of family, friends, and faculty members in Halifax.

Though the tragedy is no longer on the front pages, I know that for so many the grief is fresh and keenly felt.

THE SPEAKER: I want to thank everybody for those members' statements.

[2:00 p.m.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

PREM. - HEALTH CARE SERV.: WAIT TIMES - IMPROVE ACCESS

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Department of Health and Wellness and the Nova Scotia Health Authority here in Halifax released their updated wait times for knee and hip replacements: a 433-day wait for a hip replacement, and 601 days for a knee replacement. The national benchmark is 80 days. When you layer in another 154-day wait just to get a consultation, these numbers get even worse.

My question for the Premier is: Based on these numbers, should Nova Scotians have confidence that the health care system is meeting their needs?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for bringing this important topic to the floor of the Legislature. In fact, a couple of years ago, we endorsed, supported, and invested in a proposal that came forward from front-line health care workers to advance a model of care, as well as an expansion of health care professionals - hired more, so an investment of money - to actually complete more orthopaedic surgeries. That has resulted in about 700 additional surgeries per year from when we first came into office.

We continue to invest and support the recommendations that come from the front line. We will continue to do that, to provide the care to Nova Scotians that they need and deserve.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, the issue is that without benchmarks, there's no accountability. That's probably the reason why the government had promised to meet the benchmark by the start of next month. They aren't even close. Six months is the benchmark, and we're looking at almost 15 months for hips, 20 months for knees, and another 5 months on top of that for a consult.

To make matters worse, the Nova Scotia Health Authority here in Halifax isn't even willing to offer a timeline to meet the benchmark. It's like the government is totally backing away from meeting that benchmark that they promised to meet. I would like to ask the Premier: Will he acknowledge that these types of wait times, these figures, and the completely missed deadline represent a failure on the part of the government?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Wellness.

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly encourage the member to go back to the announcement. We announced this program, this initiative, in the Fall of 2017. Let the record show that I did not commit to making those benchmarks. What I said was, this was a program designed to move us towards the benchmarks. That continues to be the objective and the guideline that we continue to pursue.

What we've seen, though, is that there are multiple variables at play. Certainly, the growing demand within the system, the work that we've done to get over 700 additional surgeries completed each year - that's a significant increase in the number of surgeries, based upon the recommendations. Clearly it works, but we have more work to do and we're committed to doing that work.

TIM HOUSTON: I think it is very clear that there is more work to be done. That's why this government is now backing away from the commitment to be held to a benchmark. We can all see why. It's the same reason the Premier didn't want to take responsibility for health care when he was asked that simple question last session.

It would be nice if the Premier put the same priority on replacing knees and hips as he puts on replacing hospitals. It's almost as if this government still believes that the solution to hallway medicine is better hallways. We know that's not the case. The Premier believes that buildings save lives when everyone else knows that it's actually doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other allied health care professionals that save lives.

The Premier still believes that his health care system isn't in crisis. I would like to ask the Premier: If his government couldn't meet this deadline and is now backing away from the benchmarks that they agreed to, why should Nova Scotians have faith that any health care improvements are on the horizon that will actually improve access to health care?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to be able to get a new contract with Doctors Nova Scotia to continue to make investments, not only in the men and women who deliver our services but, unlike the Progressive Conservative Party, we also know that we need to make investments in infrastructure, quite frankly. We're hearing from front-line health care workers who are telling us that we need to continue to make that investment.

It's the kind of thinking that the Leader of the Official Opposition is talking about in this House that has led us to this point - where infrastructure is falling down around us and health care providers are saying, we're not working there. Start to improve the health care infrastructure and you will be able to attract health care teams across the province. That's exactly what we're doing. When you're in government, you have to do more than just one thing: complain.

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

PREM. - RENEW. ENERGY: TARGETS - COMMITMENT

GARY BURRILL: My question is for the Premier. The former Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act contained a target of 40 per cent of our electricity generated by renewable sources by 2020, but since that Legislation was replaced last Fall we've been operating without any target. Our Party has called for a bold, forward-looking target to be put in place, but so far the Province is still without one. When will the Premier tell the people of the province what renewable energy targets his government will commit to?

THE PREMIER: The reality of it is we continue to lead the country with GHG reduction. We're currently 30 per cent below 2005 levels. The national government wanted us to achieve that by 2030, and we're there today. By 2030 we'll be 50 per cent below. We're working toward net zero.

As the honourable member knows, there is ongoing consultation right now with Nova Scotians when it comes to the renewable energy sector. He would also know, as we continue down this road, there are many opportunities, whether it is hydro out of Newfoundland and Labrador, hydro out of Quebec, the potential of our own Bay of Fundy, or more wind energy. Those opportunities will be there.

We're working with our sister provinces in Atlantic Canada to strengthen the energy transmission system so that we can maximize renewable energy here, not only for ourselves but for excess that we can sell into the marketplace and bring back capital to be spent in our own province.

GARY BURRILL: We also need bold and forward-looking targets for energy efficiency, as well as a strategic plan for putting those targets into place. A comprehensive energy efficiency strategy could create thousands of jobs and, at the same time, make so many people's homes more affordable and warmer. When will the Premier commit to aggressive energy efficiency targets as part of a comprehensive plan for combatting climate change?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: I would like to thank the member for the question and the dialogue that I had with his colleagues last night. In that conversation, I had a great opportunity to talk about how we've expanded every efficiency program past just electrically heated homes, which is allowing more Nova Scotians to utilize the programs. We just signed a first-in-Canada agreement with our Mi'kmaw leaders to retrofit 2,400 homes over the next 10 years.

Some important statistics that I've already said in regard to our energy efficiency and our green energy: energyhub.org in 2019 just ranked Nova Scotia number one in Canada in solar; Efficiency Canada has ranked Nova Scotia number one in efficiency programs; and Efficiency Canada has ranked Nova Scotia number one in efficiency workforce.

We're going to continue to invest in these programs to ensure that as many Nova Scotians as possible can utilize these programs.

GARY BURRILL: The mandated five-year Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act review is now more than three years past due. We're operating without the goals, without the targets, without the teeth that were in that piece of legislation. When will that review be put before the people of the province; when can we expect a comprehensive set of clear and precise targets for where on these fronts we're heading?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. GORDON WILSON: I appreciate the honourable member bringing up what we do. I feel very proud as a Nova Scotian - it's one of the most ambitious pieces of legislation in the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. In that Act, certainly there are foundational things, but we did also commit to going out to Nova Scotians and doing consultation. Also part of that Act is, as we mentioned, a report. In all respect, we did review that report with a round table. That report is ready to be tabled for the House after a final, little, last look, and it will be coming forthwith very soon.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

H&W - VETS. AFFS. CAN.: MENTAL HEALTH SERV. - ACCESS

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning the CBC revealed that an internal federal document described access to health care for veterans and their families as disjointed and irregular. I'll table that. Family members of veterans are reporting that they're being cut off from care funded by the federal government, as Veterans Affairs Canada tightened access to mental health programs. Mental health services for families, such as therapy, were identified as gaps as far back as the Summer and Fall of 2018 in these federal documents. This is, sadly, an echo of what we have heard throughout the Lionel Desmond inquiry. My concern is that health care services and communication between the federal and provincial levels are disjointed and irregular as well.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Did Veterans Affairs notify his department that they would be tightening access to their mental health programs?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for raising this important question, both in terms of the health topic as it pertains to mental health and wellness and also in regard to a very important population: our veterans serving and living here in the province.

We have a very good relationship with Veterans Affairs Canada. In fact, I've had several meetings with the ministers in that portfolio over the past almost three years that I've been in this role. We continue to discuss mental health and wellness, and other health service options, to meet the needs of veterans here in Nova Scotia. They've always been a topic of conversation with them.

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, as federal health care services are denied, Nova Scotia veterans and their families have to rely on our province's overloaded health care system. The CBC article I tabled describes the situation of Veronica Jones from Eastern Passage; her daughter Ruth's therapy for anxiety and OCD was cut off last September. The Jones family is currently on a wait-list and is paying \$600 per month out of pocket to continue the care Ruth needs and deserves.

My concern is the impact of these cuts to Nova Scotian veterans and their families, as well as the ability of the Province to accommodate them. What a fate to the men and women who selflessly served our country.

My question for the minister is: As Veterans Affairs downloads these services on the Province, can the Minister of Health and Wellness say how much the Province spends to backstop these services?

RANDY DELOREY: In our term in office, along with the federal government, there have been expanded services, including the OSI clinic for veterans' access to services. I think that is an example of a great collaborative initiative and supports that are delivered here in the province to support the health care needs of veterans.

As I've also indicated, we continue to have open conversations and dialogue with Veterans Affairs Canada on a number of fronts as they relate to providing health services to veterans who happen to also be Nova Scotians.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

TIR - ABOITEAU BRIDGE (PARRSBORO): 5-YR. PLAN - REMOVAL

TORY RUSHTON: My question is for the Minister of TIR. Back in September 2018, I invited the minister to visit with me in the beautiful area of Parrsboro. In Parrsboro there's an aboiteau bridge. I was so happy last night to hear the minister state in Estimates that he's fluent in the language of aboiteau. (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, this bridge leads to a tourist destination, the Fundy Geological Museum, that sees thousands of visitors each year, and to the beautiful golf course; but mainly it's a route to many residents of the Parrsboro area on the Two Islands Road.

Since we heard last evening that the minister is fluent in aboiteau, I'm wondering: Why has this bridge disappeared off the five-year plan?

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, yes, we're very familiar with aboiteau in the department.

Not all of the structures are the direct responsibility of TIR, and I suspect that's probably the case in that particular situation. We are in the process of spending approximately \$50 million on overall repairs for the aboiteaux across the province. I'll certainly check to see what the status of that one is.

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, the minister is quite right that the aboiteau may not fall under his responsibility, but the bridge does.

The high tides of the Bay of Fundy regularly cover the road leading to this bridge and off the bridge. The municipality and locals and I are very pleased to be working on a plan to replace the aboiteau at the same time as the bridge replacement.

My question for the minister is: By pushing this project out of the five-year plan, is he just expecting the Fundy tides to wash away this bridge?

LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, as I've said many times in the House, we have 4,200 bridges in the province. Many of them are more than 50 years old and require repair or replacement. We are constantly monitoring those bridges; decisions are being made based on the results of the testing that's done annually and, depending on where the priority is for any particular bridge, that determines where the money is going to be spent for bridges.

We are at a process in the department of trying to increase the amount of money that we dedicate to bridges, and we're actually taking a proactive approach this year to augment the funds that we have for bridge replacement in the province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

H&W: ISOTONITAZENE - PREPAREDNESS

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. Last February, Halifax police seized 1,900 tablets of an unknown drug after a two-week long drug trafficking investigation. That drug has since been identified as isotonitazene, a synthetic opioid stronger than fentanyl. I will table that.

This was Halifax police's first seizure of that drug. Now it has been found in New Brunswick for the first time. My concern is that it will not be the last we see of this drug in Atlantic Canada.

[2:15 p.m.]

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: How well equipped is Nova Scotia to deal with the new synthetic drug now coming into our province?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. I'd like to thank all those law enforcement officials who work to address the illegal contraband marketplace, who do their part in addressing those challenges, as well as the health care professionals who respond to the unfortunate consequences of these products.

Of course this is relatively new, but I'd like to advise the member and all members of the House that our efforts and our investments to help curb the impacts of opioid misuse disorder within the province has been very effective. We'll continue to make those investments and support those health care providers supporting those in need.

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, isotonitazene is not only more potent than fentanyl but is also disguised as another drug. The risk of overdose with a disguised drug more potent than fentanyl is obviously higher. In fact, it is said that multiple doses of naloxone may be required in order to be effective. I'll table that.

My concern is that the ability of first responders to respond to this will be a larger factor with this new drug.

My question for the minister is: With the recent cut of \$7.549 million to ambulance services, how will this affect the ability of first responders to treat cases of overdosing with this new drug?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, it will not have any impact. The budget, as discussed in our 20 hours of discussions about the health care budget, made it very clear that, in fact, the investments to cover the operational costs of our ambulance services remain committed and directed, and that will continue.

We also redirected funds to support patient access and flow to help support not just the ambulance off-loading of patients into hospitals but also patients throughout the hospital, Mr. Speaker. That's where those funds went, to support not just our ambulance services, and that was an innovative investment fund. A reallocation is what took place.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

MUN. AFFS. & HOUSING: HEALTH CARE NEEDS - CONSIDERATION

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I'd like to speak to the sad story of 57-year-old Mr. Leonard Bonnar. He was living in a bachelor apartment that was not at all suitable to his needs. He couldn't walk up steps. He wasn't able to cook because there was no stove. He couldn't shower because there was no shower or tub. There was also no running hot water.

In January 2019 a letter was sent to the applications supervisor of Cape Breton Island Housing Authority to do a site visit. After a follow-up from my office in August, I was informed that Mr. Bonnar would be offered the next unit that became available, but that never occurred, as he was continually bumped down the list.

Mr. Bonnar, as a result, could not receive the continuing care prescribed by his doctor, as his accommodations lacked the proper bathroom facilities.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: What considerations or exceptions are made for individuals like Mr. Bonnar that would have enabled him to get the appropriate housing so that he could receive the health services he so desperately needed?

HON. CHUCK PORTER: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for the question raising the issue. Although I can't speak to any specific individual's case I will say there are a number of programs that we offer out there. We certainly will prioritize cases when we're aware; we do it on a regular basis. We believe that that should be the case. Those who are most vulnerable should be looked after, we believe that wholeheartedly.

If the honourable member wants to see me afterwards, we can talk more with regard to that case. There would be waivers and such that would be signed, but I'd be more than happy to look into that for him.

MURRAY RYAN: Just to follow up, I'd like to thank the minister for his answer.

Christena Bonnar, Leonard's sister, tried the best she could to get help for Leonard. On her own, she found empty units that seemed vacant for months and she had made inquiries about their status. Although there were numerous calls from Christena and my office, there was no movement on Mr. Bonnar's file.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bonnar passed away this past February of a heart attack. He was found by his sister, alone in his one-room unit. One wonders if he had gotten the housing that he needed and the continuing care that he needed, if he'd still be with us.

Mr. Speaker, Leonard's sister is understandably distraught over her brother's untimely death. She wants improvements to the system. She also wants something good to come from his passing. I'm glad that the minister has agreed to sit down and chat with me

so that I can update him on this file. That is what Christena wants - she wants something positive to come out of the sad experience of her family.

CHUCK PORTER: Again, I thank the honourable member for raising the issue. Not being able to speak to that specific file, I will commit once again - I would be happy to sit down with that member and have a look at what transpired there.

We all, I think, in this House want to continue. That's why we invest to continue to see improvements in the system as we go along day after day after day. We're here on behalf of all Nova Scotians, Mr. Speaker. The folks working in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing want to do the very best we can to serve those needs.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

H&W: 811 NEED A FAMILY PRACTICE REG. - IMPROVE

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, I receive communications from frustrated constituents about the 811 Need a Family Practice system on a regular basis.

I'll table this document. It's an email from a constituent that says: I've called 811 at least five times and have waited over one hour each time but to no avail. I've tried the website numerous times and the registration part of the Need a Family Practice does not work now for over two weeks.

A sad situation, for sure, that not only can a person not get a family doctor, but the registration process does not work either. My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness: What measures is he taking now to improve the 811 service for those citizens who need a family doctor and are trying to register?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I appreciate the member raising this particular issue that her constituent has had. I'll certainly take a look into that when the House rises. I'll engage staff to take a look and see what may be contributing. Obviously, I'd assume technological challenges that may have caused the concerns they've had.

In some cases, especially with website technology, sometimes it's on the system end and sometimes it's on the client's end. It might be something we have to delve into to get the personal information so we can follow up directly if it may be something on the other side of the system.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Another example, Mr. Speaker, is a woman who placed her name on the 811 list in 2013. I'll read part of her message:

“It is now 2020 and I have been in Amherst for almost 7 years and I still do not have a family dr. I have waited patiently thinking I must be getting close??? Now I hear that Dr. Brian Ferguson’s former patients are getting new doctors already??? I am very frustrated as I am a 42 year old woman who has not had a check up in 7 years. I do not plan on going to emergency room for routine, yearly check ups??? I last talked to 811 and they said I am still on the list. So long they cannot conform (sic) when?? Said they have me updating my information as of 2017. . . Will I ever get a family doctor? Who knows?” I’ll table that document.

Mr. Speaker, we know preventive care makes a difference in health outcomes and in health equity. My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Will he acknowledge that the lack of primary caregivers in places like Cumberland North are contributing to poor health outcomes?

RANDY DELOREY: I think it’s great when members of this Legislature can come to consensus. Of course, the member can look at our government’s platform when we came into government in 2017. It very clearly highlighted primary care as a priority and a very important policy position for us to take. That’s why we continue to make investments in new programs and training opportunities. Add to that, in fact, to address the access to care. We recognize that a significant necessity is increasing the supply of primary care providers. That’s why we’ve expanded the residency program, of which 20 per cent is allocated to the Amherst region.

We’re investing, supporting, and expanding, and we’re seeing success; 20 per cent fewer Nova Scotians registered in need of a primary care provider since about the last 14 months.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

PREM. - ALTON GAS: REGS. - CONCERN

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Recently, released documents show that Alton Gas has met numerous times with federal bodies. The discussion appears to have been how to help the company bend federal fisheries regulations to their advantage.

Does the Premier condone the level of sway that this private corporation appears to have over our regulating bodies?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I’m not sure that I understand the question. I don’t know what sway this company has over anyone. I want to tell you that this project has gone

through the same environmental assessment that other projects have done. I've said in this House many times that this province has a duty to consult and we believe we've met that.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, the response from the provincial government appears to be that because the company has not dumped any brine into the river yet, there is no cause for concern. But this cannot be the approach of an effective regulator.

What is the role that the government has in proactive and forward-looking protection of our environment over reactionary scrambling once the mess has already been made?

HON. GORDON WILSON: Mr. Speaker, with regard to Alton Gas, let's be clear that Alton Gas went through an environmental assessment and currently has an industrial approval. They've also expanded that industrial approval to include communications with the First Nations in that area. There is also a judicial review that's going on before that.

As far as the federal work goes, clearly there is legislation that falls under the federal purview that we have no control over that will affect that project. It's up to the proponent to move through that area.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

EECD - PRE-PRIM. PROG.: PRIVATE CHILD CARE - LOSS

ALLAN MACMASTER: My question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. I've learned that the director of the Whycomomagh day care is stepping down in June; that would leave only one Level 2 educator, which means the day care will close due to the ratio. They've been trying to hire for two years with no luck.

A closure affects many families. The day care in Whycomomagh has been a success story; it opened a few years back and has since expanded. Everyone was happy. Then came the pre-Primary program. Wages and benefits went up for anyone who went to work in the pre-Primary system, which caused many workers to leave private child care - market disruption caused by the good intentions of the government.

Pre-Primary has been around for years now, Mr. Speaker. Why does the government continue to ignore the risk of lost private child care for the families who depend on it?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: In fact, we have been working with the regulated child care sector; we have more than doubled government subsidy in the regulated child care sector. That sector has grown at the same time as pre-Primary by approximately 2,200 spaces across this province in areas where child care did not exist before.

We realize that when you create 630 new jobs with good wages, good pensions and good benefits, that creates labour pressure. We're responding by training more early childhood educators. We're recruiting more. We have an immigration stream to also diversify that workforce. We have bursaries for African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaw learners who want to pursue that degree. For the first time ever, we actually have a wait-list of people trying to get into an early childhood learning program. These are positive benefits to the people of this province.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Despite all those measures, they've been trying for two years; they're not able to get anybody, and this was not a problem before. I think what has happened is the government has essentially increased the cost of child care with the introduction of pre-Primary. These private centres could increase the fees the parents are paying to provide the higher wages needed to attract people, or the minister could further increase the operating subsidies he has referred to, to do the same.

Do the minister's actions suggest that this government believes private centres like the one in Whycomagh should raise their fees for parents who need child care for children who are not old enough to go to pre-Primary?

[2:30 p.m.]

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: The member should be aware that private centers are not allowed to raise their fees. We invest in subsidizing affordable child care for people in this province. We know that it is needed for families and kids from one end of this province to the other. We have a vested interest in the success of the regulated child care sector. We invest \$80 million a year. That's \$30 million more than we invest in our own pre-Primary program.

We help every single center that is having a recruitment issue. We do our best to help fill positions. We have a working group right now, that I met with this week, that said how happy they were with the support they're getting from the government. This working group is made up of ECEs and business owners from one end of this province to the other. We are on the verge of transforming early childhood education in this province, going from a situation where only one-in-four families could access this to one where every single family will have access to high quality child care. I wish this Party could get onboard.

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

H&W - NURSING HOMES: FUNDING SHORTCHANGE - CLARIFY

BARBARA ADAMS: Nursing homes are an important option for people who have difficulty performing everyday tasks such as dressing, bathing and toileting. It is shameful that the McNeil Government has essentially cut funding . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I'd like to remind the honourable member not to refer to the government by the proper name of the Premier.

The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage.

BARBARA ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for clarifying that. It's sometimes difficult to know what to say.

It is shameful that this government has essentially cut funding for long-term care facilities every year for the past five years. This has led to a staffing and infrastructure crisis and a lack of beds. Due to it being a leap year, I've learned that the Treasury Board is shortchanging these long-term care facilities once again by refusing to pay the long-term care facility for February 29th.

My question is simple: Would the Minister of Health and Wellness inform this House why the Nova Scotia Treasury Board is reaching into the pockets of seniors and taking out \$110 from 7,800 residents in . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I'd like to remind the honourable member the phrase "reaching into the pockets" is an unparliamentary term, well documented in this House.

BARBARA ADAMS: Can the Minister of Health and Wellness tell me why the Treasury Board is collecting \$110, using whatever means at their disposal, from 7,800 residents in long-term care for February 29, 2020, but not forwarding that money on to the long-term care facilities that are trying their best to look after these seniors? (Applause)

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I'm not sure exactly how to respond to a question I responded to just a few days ago - I think it might even have been raised by the exact same member. Within our 20 hours of debate, I guess it can be excused if they don't remember everything I said at that time.

I made it very clear it had been communicated to long-term care providers that, in fact, the leap year day was being covered, as it would be expected to be. I believe this is the third time this question has come up - once to myself on Estimates, once to the Minister of Seniors, and again here today. I don't know how many times we have to answer the same question on the floor of the Legislature or in committees. Let me be abundantly clear - that funding is being provided as previously communicated to the member. (Applause)

BARBARA ADAMS: Well, Mr. Speaker, this is probably the first time in my sessions in the Legislature that something I've asked got an actual answer, that actually resulted in the right thing being done.

Mr. Speaker, I did raise this during Estimates with the Minister of Seniors and I can't recall the exact words he said, but he said, yes, I heard you mention this before, so the heat - or the volume of something - has been turned up. Can I ask the Minister of Health and Wellness why it took me raising this in the Legislature (Interruption) Really?

Let me address my questions through the Speaker . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I'd like to remind the honourable member to address your questions through the Chair.

BARBARA ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate you clarifying how I behave in the House. Can I ask the minister exactly when that approximately \$858,000 that was collected from seniors is going to be returned to the nursing homes? Can I ask when the cheque's going to be written?

RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, again I am happy to clarify, as I did during Estimates, when I believe it was that member who raised this question. In fact, this information was communicated to the industry I believe sometime in early or mid-February, so long before we took our seats here this sitting to advance questions.

Again, I appreciate the member's interest and support of government's decisions but our decisions, when they are the right decisions, are not necessarily informed by the position that the member takes.

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

CCH - LIBRARY FUNDING: CURRENT MODEL - INADEQUATE

KEITH BAIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, it must be Friday afternoon. My question is to the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

The Cape Breton Regional Library services have evolved over the years by providing access to technology and supporting digital literacy. They preserve and promote culture and creativity, as well as safe physical spaces that encourage community involvement.

Libraries need to have a strategic plan to address funding challenges, like rural population decline, rising operation costs and changing roles of libraries in communities.

My question for the minister: Does he agree that the current funding model is not meeting the requirements and evolving needs of Nova Scotia's libraries and users?

HON. LEO GLAVINE: I am pleased to stand in my place today and say that we have responded to librarians, to the two boards that administer the library system across

the province, and we have come up with a formula that includes both population as well as the needs of certain areas because the per capita funding was not working. In fact, the new system is designed by librarians across Nova Scotia.

KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, libraries across the province are places where we can meet real people face to face and hold books in our hands. Library programs such as Storytime, book clubs, classes and more foster real friendships between people and bring the community together.

The current model for funding libraries is not meeting the requirements and evolving needs of the Cape Breton Regional Library and users in my constituency. My question to the minister: Since the Cape Breton Regional Library system is the second largest library system in the province, will he commit to more equitable funding for that particular system?

LEO GLAVINE: The member opposite is exactly right. (Applause) Our libraries across the province have become hubs, welcoming centres, truly the community centre for many of our small communities in particular.

What I am pleased to tell the House and all Nova Scotians is that the new formula is weighted to support Cape Breton that had a major loss and decline in population - until recent years, until recent years (Applause) but the monies in the budget this year, a little over \$2 million plus \$0.5 million for innovative projects, in fact will give Cape Breton an opportunity for additional money.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

TIR - WINTER TIRES: ACCIDENT DATA - COLLECT

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

As the minister knows, Winter driving can be treacherous in Nova Scotia and having Winter tires on your car does give better traction. I believe it is safer to have Winter tires, but we don't know exactly how much it helps because we don't collect data on tire type and condition in accident data - the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is responsible for that data.

My question for the minister: Will the minister commit to changing the accident data forms to collect tire data in accidents?

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for the very relevant question. Though we don't actually formally collect that information, it is noted

on the reports that are submitted by the relevant police authority involved at the event, the accident. The condition of the tires on the vehicle is recorded in that report that we get.

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister said yes and no in that answer, actually. I'm not clear, but I hope we are collecting the data, and I hope that it is good data that we can use to formulate decisions maybe sometime in the future.

Last year we passed the Traffic Safety Act, but now we are waiting for the regulations. It does seem like a long wait. It would be worth waiting if there were better accident reporting forms in that.

My question to the minister: When will we see the Traffic Safety Act regulations, and will there be the opportunity to have public consultations on the regulations?

LLOYD HINES: I thank the member opposite for the question. It is great to see him recognize the value of the change in legislation when we abandoned the old Motor Vehicle Act, which was dated from the 1920s, and came up with the Traffic Safety Act.

As I am sure the House can appreciate, that is a significant change that was made. The Act is very comprehensive and we have a team of people who have been working steadily on the regulations. It's our target that we will have those regulations available for enactment in the Fall of this particular upcoming, current year.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

H&W: OUT-OF-PROVINCE TREATMENTS - BUDGET NUMBER

STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness.

With her encouragement and consent: Cynthia Cochrane-Smith is a 49-year-old resident of Sackville-Cobequid. She has acute asthma, exacerbated by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and has been unable to work since February 2019. She travelled to Hamilton twice to receive specialized MRIs and was told in a letter, which I will table, that she would be reimbursed for her travel expenses. As you can imagine, the financial hardship of these trips would be difficult without the assistance of MSI. With costs totalling nearly \$4,000, to date she has only received \$1,200 toward reimbursement.

My question to the minister is: Will the minister tell me when Ms. Cochrane-Smith will receive the full amount of her travel costs, including hotel and transit from Toronto to Hamilton, as she was promised by MSI?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I appreciate the member bringing the question to the floor of the Legislature. As the member would know, I'm not in a position to speak directly.

The member may have a waiver, but I do not. I'm not able to disclose additional information. I hope he can respect that.

In a broad sense, I want members to know that MSI does have a very clear process. We do provide out-of-province travel for medically necessary treatments that are not available within the province. In fact, under a year ago we expanded our travel program here in Nova Scotia to make it one of the best out-of-province travel programs because we listen to feedback. When people have input on these initiatives, we continue to take it under advisement and review to make appropriate decisions.

STEVE CRAIG: Thank you to the minister for that response. I am sure Ms. Cochrane-Smith would be pleased to get a letter of consent for you to talk about that here.

Canada has a great system of reciprocal billing between provinces for health care. It is an important piece of our health care system that citizens are guaranteed access to the best treatment options available in this country. What is clear, however, is that when travel to another province is necessary, it is because our health care system cannot provide the necessary treatments here at home.

Can the minister tell me how much money is budgeted this year for Nova Scotians to travel to obtain treatments that are not available in this province?

RANDY DELOREY: I thank the member for the question. I don't have my budget document here in front of me, so I don't have the number on the table. Unfortunately, in the 20 hours we did discuss the health care budget, this is not a question that came from members opposite, but if the member is interested, I will look it up and track that down for him.

That said, as I've mentioned, we extended the program last year, which means further investment. In addition to that, when we provide care, whether it is inside or outside of the province, I want members to know that these are clinical decisions, not political decisions, that are being made to ensure that Nova Scotians get the care they need.

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

H&W - C.B. REG. HOSP.: LEADERSHIP - CHANGE

BRIAN COMER: A well-respected general surgeon, Dr. Phil Smith, spoke out about his reason for leaving the Cape Breton Regional Hospital in Sydney. Dr. Smith was recovering from two orthopaedic surgeries and requested a modest leave of four weeks but was denied. Now he practises elsewhere.

He spoke out because the Cape Breton Medical Staff Association is demanding that this province's Health Authority change the leadership at the Cape Breton Regional

Hospital. The association says the leadership direction is directly affecting the delivery of patient care. As the MLA for the area, I know all too well that we are suffering from a doctor-shortage crisis. This is only made much worse by incompetent leadership.

My question for the minister is: Why did it take a doctor leaving to get the NSHA's attention in leadership in Cape Breton?

[2:45 p.m.]

HON. RANDY DELOREY: I think the Nova Scotia Health Authority has, through the leadership of the volunteers that sit on the board of directors - many volunteers, including physicians, retired physicians, and retired nurses - provided direction and advice to the executive leadership team, to set the direction and the operational work of the Health Authority.

I think the member would know, being in the community, that there are a number of executive changes throughout that organization, including Cape Breton, and I don't believe that the two are necessarily directly connected.

BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, this government has let Cape Bretoners down. We have seen the results of their inaction with emergency room closures and lack of family physicians. The Eastern Zone vice-president position has been vacant for some time, and no local doctors are even willing to apply.

Dr. Smith's story is not an isolated incident. I've heard from many local doctors who say they have little faith in the current bureaucracy and its strategic or policy direction.

Mr. Speaker, you can have the most state-of-the-art medical facilities, but if you have no doctors and no nurses, that is not going to help my constituents.

My question for the minister is: How does he propose to restore confidence and faith among health care professionals in Cape Breton?

RANDY DELOREY: Not just within Cape Breton but across this province, I believe the actions and the directions taken by this government and our partners at the Health Authority illustrate how we listen to the front lines, adjust and evolve as an organization. That can be seen at the top levels. In fact, we hear from people in Cape Breton on the front lines and in the community, in particular, that we need more local voices. That's exactly what's happening within the Health Authority. An announcement was made back in the Fall to get more opportunity out in the communities.

Cape Breton says we need more voice. Well, the new Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness who will be starting in April is a physician from Cape Breton. The new CEO of the Nova Scotia Health Authority is a physician. (Applause)

We are listening to front-line health care workers and bringing them into the senior leadership roles to help make those decisions. I hope that builds the confidence for those members.

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

STATUS OF WOMEN - PROGRESS: LACK - REASON

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, several groups, both publicly and privately funded, offer support and training to women who are interested in entering male-dominated fields and industries. I was a graduate of the Nova Scotia Campaign School for Women in 2009, so I am a big believer in these programs.

We have seen growth in the number of women seeking and obtaining leadership roles. However, women continue to be under-represented in political and professional positions, even though women make up over half of the Canadian population. I have to ask myself, why are there not more women sitting in this House?

I would like to ask the minister - yes, she is here: Why does she believe that we're not yielding better results, given the amount of funding that we're investing in these front-line programs?

HON. KELLY REGAN: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. I would actually say that I reject the premise of her question. I think that we have seen tremendous growth in the number of women in recent elections. (Applause) In fact, in the last provincial election, 17 of 51 members in this House who were elected were women. We've had some resignations since that time, but I would like to say that it puts us up over the all-important 30 per cent mark.

At 30 per cent in organizations, when you see a population that has been under-represented previously, when you see women getting over that 30 per cent mark you start to see change. I would say that the debate we had in this House this past week is absolute proof of that.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, may I make an introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Permission granted.

GEOFF MACLELLAN: I draw the members' attention to the East Gallery where we have a friend and a great Nova Scotia leader in terms of economic development and innovation, Mr. Jeff McKinnon. He is VP of Operations and CFO with TruLeaf Sustainable Agriculture.

If you don't know anything about TruLeaf and Jeff, do a quick Google search. It's a pretty remarkable story - really a continental leader in terms of leafy greens, organic development, a grape grow-op that's happening in Truro at Perennia Park. All the international grocers are flocking to Jeff's operations and finding ways in which TruLeaf can be part of the complement. It's a great company, TruLeaf - Nova Scotia-built.

With the indulgence of the House, let's welcome Jeff here - a great Nova Scotian.
(Applause)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for this opportunity to stand and share a few words from the voice of Cumberland South on the presented budget. The title of the budget is Better Together. There are some good points and some good line items in this budget, but I've heard throughout the Estimates and, more importantly, in public opinion over the last few weeks: Where has this budget been for the last five or six years? Where has this budget been when Opposition has been the voice of Nova Scotians looking for issues like things that are covered in this budget?

Better Together - I would agree if this was, in fact, true of this government's whole reign over this province.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to remind everybody that the honourable member for Cumberland South has the floor. If we could make our best effort to keep the chatter to a very low whisper, that would be much appreciated.

The honourable member for Cumberland South has the floor.

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, for far too long, promises were made, and people have been forgotten. I want to speak more locally for Cumberland South on some issues within this budget.

Health care: we still continuously, on a daily basis, have our ERs closed. We still have one of the highest rates without family doctors and unacceptable wait times for mental health services. We see cuts to the line of EHS. Even more importantly for a remote area in my constituency, Advocate, we see people retiring and those positions not being filled. Something that's different in my constituency: we have empty long-term care beds that we can be utilizing to offset some of those beds that are being utilized in hospitals.

Roads and bridges: I'm not sure if I'm the only MLA who had a bridge actually disappear off the whole long-term five-year plan. Two other areas in my constituency have bridges out for nearly two years. I'm not talking about the rainbow bridge with the pot of gold at the end of it. Finally, after two years - I do give credit where credit is due - it is finally replaced.

Mr. Speaker, the effects of having that bridge out have taken their toll on the Nappan Road where not just local traffic - all traffic - had to pass over. I have questioned people locally, and I'm making it official here on the floor of the Legislature: this road needs repair ASAP.

For that matter, there are many roads in my constituency, along with others. I would like to take this opportunity to name just a few, but not all of them, obviously: Wyndham Hill, Apple River, West Brook, South Brook, Greenville, Ripley Loop, Rosslyn, and I could go on and on with a list - Wentworth Collingwood Road.

Schools: I'd like to recognize the fact that a school in Springhill has been promised three times over 10 years, and taken away twice. Now, credit where credit is due, there is an open dialogue between the minister and me, and the minister has spoken locally and committed to the date of 2021. I can say that I have been informed by TIR that there is a lot of land in the Springhill area that is going to see geotechnical testing as early as next week.

Mr. Speaker, we look at the business plan for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, or the capital plan, where it states 2023-24 for this school. Although the minister and I have been verbally committed in local media and to residents to 2021 - we've had that open dialogue - all the people of Springhill want to see is the

shovel in the ground, for the date 2021 to come, where the kids can go and deserve a safe and enjoyable education.

Mr. Speaker, this is the government that promised a doctor for every Nova Scotian. That box is still unchecked. They also promised to break the Nova Scotia Power monopoly; another box, arguably, still unchecked. A film tax credit to exist for five years was just taken away.

There are some boxes that are checked off. The extinction of local school boards: tick. Dismissal of local health authorities: tick. Depletion of the rural population in my area: tick. All these things were taken away, the local voice of rural Nova Scotia. It has taken away the voice of Cumberland South and centralized it in a decision-making place somewhere in the world of HRM.

Mr. Speaker, we can travel the rural roads of Nova Scotia, and it takes hours. For me to drive from one end of my constituency to the other - I can be in HRM quicker. There's a big world out there, and we've taken away the local decision making from rural Nova Scotia.

It's our job as Opposition to be the voice of Nova Scotians who feel unheard or missed. I hold that job very near and dear to my heart. I'm very proud to be standing here, Mr. Speaker. It's our job to hold government to account on decisions. It's our job to hold government to account on their budget. As we've heard even here during Question Period, it's not government's decision when we as Opposition ask questions.

There's Question Period. There's Law Amendments Committee. There's Estimates. We as Opposition have a right, through our legislative process, to ask questions, to hold this government to account, and by golly that's what we'll do in Opposition. We'll speak. We've been accused of holding the middle class as a target for this budget. We'll speak for everybody - the ones in need, seniors, youth, middle class - whatever it needs be, we will be the voice for them because that's our job as Opposition.

Many of these issues in this budget, any government would do. Roads, health care - any government would work under these processes. A responsible government would understand that this budget is being made possible because of federal transfer payments, and not because of what we're hearing the Premier say, that the economy is doing so well here in Nova Scotia. Federal transfer payments.

There are some good things in this budget, Mr. Speaker, I can't deny that. I can't deny that but there are also some bad things in the budget. I go right back to an issue of a bridge missing for Parrsboro that's been promised year after year. A school that has been promised in 2021 now we see go to 2023-24.

As Opposition we don't have a choice to decide which line items in that budget we speak on or vote on and approve or disapprove. We have to pass or disapprove of a budget, vote for or vote against, the whole thing or nothing at all. Mr. Speaker, these issues for Cumberland South are why I can't support this budget.

I'm very proud of the job that I've been elected to do. It's very near and dear to my heart. I'm very proud to be the voice for Cumberland South. It's a very, very rewarding job. But as I spoke to business owners and some residents on the weekend, sitting in a local Tim Hortons, the question did come up of this government's budget, Better Together. The question that those business people were asking was: Is it truly better together, or are we just hearing a better together theme on the eve of this government looking for something from voters? Mr. Speaker, Better Together should have a subtitle, Better Together after Years of Separation.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

[3:00 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CW on Supply with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[7:23 p.m. CW on Supply rose and the House reconvened with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

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

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

[7:23 p.m. The House resolved into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

[7:39 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened with Deputy Speaker Suzanne Lohnes-Croft in the Chair.]

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

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

Bill No. 234 - House of Assembly Act.

Bill No. 238 - Insurance Act.

each without amendment; and

Bill No. 236 - Railways Act.

with certain amendments;

The Chair has been instructed to recommend these bills to the favourable consideration of the House.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Madam Speaker, can I ask for a short recess?

THE SPEAKER: We will now take a short recess.

[7:40 p.m. The House recessed.]

[9:11 p.m. The House reconvened.]

SPEAKER'S RULING:

Procedure in committee stifled debate.

(Pt. of privilege by A. MacMaster [Hansard p.5907, 6 March 2020])

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. Good Friday evening to all.

Earlier today the Official Opposition House Leader rose on a point of privilege relating to the proceedings before the Law Amendments Committee. I have taken extensive time and reviewed the video of the proceedings, and I will now deliver my ruling.

At the very beginning of the Law Amendments Committee meeting earlier today the Leader of the Official Opposition made a motion to defer the consideration of his proposed amendment to Bill No. 243 until after the hearing from all the scheduled witnesses on all of the bills on the committee's agenda. The Chair of the committee agreed but did not put the motion to a vote or seek the consent of the committee.

After the sole witness of Bill No. 243 made her presentation, the Chair recognized the member for Hants East who put forth a motion for Bill No. 243 to be reported to the House without amendments. Some debate ensued.

At the request of the member for Hants East on a point of order, the Chair immediately put the motion to a vote without further debate, and the motion was passed. The Leader of the Official Opposition and the member for Kings North attempted to raise points of order but were not recognized by the Chair, who proceeded to hear the witnesses on the next bills.

Under normal circumstances the Speakers in this House have ruled that committees are masters of their own domain. In the committee, procedural matters are to be dealt with by the committee. Having said that, there is a precedent in this House of a similar case from June 21, 2001, when Speaker Scott was faced with a similar situation, and that ruling has guided me today.

I want to caution this House that matters such as this would, and normally should, be dealt with by the committee itself. However, Speaker Gosse in his ruling of November 8, 2012, when referring to the 2001 decision of Speaker Scott, stated: "Clearly there could be exceptional and extreme circumstances that could warrant consideration of a point of privilege arising from a committee, raised by an individual member."

I find this case before me today to be an exceptional and extreme circumstance. I therefore find that in this case there is a prima facie breach of privilege. I remind all members of the House that it is not for me to decide whether the incident would constitute a breach of privilege; that is for this House to decide. Normally in raising a point of privilege the member doing so proposes a resolution referring the matter to a committee. In our House that would normally be the Internal Affairs Committee. However, the remedy sought in this case by the Official Opposition House Leader is in effect to refer the bill back to the Law Amendments Committee.

The motion before the House is to refer the bill back to the Law Amendments Committee. Would all those in favour of the motion please say Aye. Contrary minded, Nay.

There has been a request for a recorded vote.

We'll ring the bells until the Whips are satisfied.

[9:14 p.m.]

[The Division bells were rung.]

THE SPEAKER: Are the Whips satisfied?

Before we proceed with the recorded vote, I'll just remind all members to remain completely silent while the Clerks record your vote. I'll remind all members to stand up with a simple "yea" or "nay."

[The Clerk calls the roll.]

[10:14 p.m.]

YEAS

Mr. Dunn
Mr. Bain
Ms. Masland
Ms. MacFarlane
Mr. Houston
Mr. MacMaster
Ms. Chender
Mr. Burrill
Ms. Roberts
Ms. Susan Leblanc
Ms. Adams
Mr. Lohr
Mr. Halman
Mr. Rushton
Mr. Craig
Ms. Smith-McCrossin
Mr. Johns
Mr. Comer
Mr. Colton LeBlanc
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Harrison
Ms. Paon

NAYS

Mr. Churchill
Mr. Furey
Ms. Regan
Mr. MacLellan
Mr. McNeil
Ms. Casey
Mr. Wilson
Mr. Delorey
Mr. Colwell
Mr. Glavine
Mr. Kousoulis
Ms. Miller
Mr. Porter
Mr. Hines
Ms. Metlege Diab
Mr. Ince
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Mombourquette
Mr. Horne
Mr. Jessome
Mr. Maguire
Ms. Lohnes-Croft
Ms. DiCostanzo
Mr. Irving

THE CLERK: For, 22. Against, 24.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is defeated.

Just before I go to the Government House Leader, I will present the ruling on the tabling of the bills from Law Amendments Committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING:

**Reporting back to the House a bill that is the subject of a point of privilege.
(Pt. of order by A. MacMaster [Hansard p.5907, 6 March 2020])**

Earlier today when the Chair of the Law Amendments Committee reported the bills back to the House, I took the matter under advisement. Given the outcome of the motion seconds ago, I now accept the report and refer those bills to the Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, that concludes the government business for today. I move the House now rise to meet again on Monday, March 9, 2020 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Following the daily routine, business will include the continuation of the Committee of the Whole on Supply, the Committee of the Whole House on Bills for Bill Nos. 233, 240, 241, 242, 243 and 246. I would also note for the House that the Committee on Private and Local Bills will meet at 10:00 a.m.

THE SPEAKER: There has been a call for a recorded vote.

Ring the bells. Call in the members.

[10:18 p.m.]

[The Division bells were rung.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. Are the Whips satisfied?

Before we proceed with the recorded vote, I'll just remind all members to remain silent while the Clerks record your vote. I'll remind all members to stand up with a simple "yea" or "nay".

[The Clerk calls the roll.]

[11:18 p.m.]

YEAS

Mr. Churchill
Mr. Furey
Ms. Regan
Mr. MacLellan

NAYS

Mr. Dunn
Mr. Bain
Ms. Masland
Ms. MacFarlane

Mr. McNeil	Mr. Houston
Ms. Casey	Ms. Adams
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Lohr
Mr. Delorey	Mr. Halman
Mr. Colwell	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Glavine	Mr. Craig
Mr. Kousoulis	Ms. Smith-McCrossin
Ms. Miller	Mr. Johns
Mr. Porter	Mr. Comer
Mr. Hines	Mr. Colton LeBlanc
Ms. Metlege Diab	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Ince	Mr. Harrison
Mr. Rankin	
Mr. Mombourquette	
Mr. Horne	
Mr. Jessome	
Mr. Maguire	
Ms. Lohnes-Croft	
Ms. DiCostanzo	
Mr. Irving	
Mr. Burrill	
Ms. Paon	

THE CLERK: For, 26. Against, 16.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

The House stands adjourned until Monday, March 9th, at 11:00 a.m.

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

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 1867**

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association hosted the Tom Saunders Memorial Hockey Tournament this past December 2019, with participating teams of 8-to 10-year-old boys from across Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Halifax Hawks Atom AA Dixon team members Andrew Brooks, Austin Pickrem, Cohen Laing, Declan Kennedy, Ethan Jiang, Ian Fredericks, Jack Brady, Jax Ginnish, Keaton Smith, Kyrkos Theoharopoulos, Mason Auld, Oliver Mann, Preston Phillips, River Welsh, Scott Corkum, Stepan Tikhomirov, and Sullivan Sherry played a great game; and

Whereas the team won the tournament in an exciting quadruple overtime against Acadia Atom AA, with the winning goal scored by River Welsh;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates Halifax Hawks Atom AA Dixon on their hard-won victory and for doing a great job representing Halifax.

RESOLUTION NO. 1868

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Ms. Barb Pate, a graduate of Mount Allison University with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in music, served as the Terry Fox Foundation Provincial Director for over 14 years; and

Whereas she directs the church choir at Hope United Church in Halifax as well as being active in the Rotary Club of Halifax where she participates in a harmony group; and

Whereas she and her husband Glen own and operate the Red Mahone Bay Bed and Breakfast;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Ms. Barb Pate for her valuable contributions to the community and church and wish her every success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 1869

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Carolann Dixon of North Preston operated her own business “CA Nature of Things” for 8 years on Portland Street in Dartmouth, N.S selling Celtic Sea Salt, herbal products and bath sea salt; and

Whereas she now sells the same wonderful products from her home which affords her time to work on her next project, opening a senior’s residence in North Preston; and

Whereas she is an active member in the Saint Thomas Baptist Church, where she sings in the choir, does some sermons and went to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Hammonds Plains to study to become a lay pastor;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Ms. Carolann Dixon for her contributions to the community and church and wish her every success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 1870

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas a Men’s Brotherhood Group was founded in 1944 under the auspices of the Cherry Brook United Baptist church to assist men through ministry, currently with 20 members ages 20 to 80; and

Whereas this group of men meet monthly and deliver workshops on aspects of men’s health, healthy eating, and partner with the Southern Health Board; and

Whereas on the celebration of their 75th anniversary, they are compiling a history of the laymen’s group and launching their book at a banquet on April 25, 2020 at the Dartmouth Seniors Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate the Cherry Brook United Baptist church Men's Brotherhood Group on their ongoing efforts to address issues of men's health.

RESOLUTION NO. 1871

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Dr. John Smith, MD of Mineville, Nova Scotia graduated in 1978 with his medical degree thus beginning many years of service as a family doctor, surgeon and medical examiner; and

Whereas Dr. Smith served as base surgeon Stadacona; Deputy Command Surgeon, Atlantic Canada; Commanding Officer Canadian Forces Hospital, Halifax and Medical Examiner; and

Whereas he provided exemplary medical care to the residents of Lake Echo, Mineville, Preston and other communities culminating in the establishment of the Mineville Health Centre in 2012;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Dr. John Smith on his stellar career and for providing excellent medical care to the residents of our communities.

RESOLUTION NO. 1872

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Ethen Firth, a resident of Porters Lake is a 13-year-old student at Gaetz Brook in the French Immersion Program; and

Whereas he, as a member of Orenda Canoe Club in Lake Echo, is talented in the kayak coming 3rd in the 16-year-old category in the National 6 km K1 race held in Winnipeg; and

Whereas he, in addition to his talent in kayaking also plays hockey, was nominated and won the Atlantic Division "Top Male Athlete of the Year";

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Ethen Firth for his outstanding achievements and wish him every success in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 1873

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Cst. Justin Simmonds is the first African Nova Scotian born in North Preston to work in the community as a policeman; and

Whereas he learned the value of hard work from his grandfather and his grandmother taught him karma “that what you put out into the world, good or bad, you get back”; and

Whereas he is a regular presence at the local community centre and school trying to engage with the children in a positive way to effect change;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Cst. Justin Simmonds for serving as a positive role model and for his ongoing commitment to the children of the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 1874

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Trevor Silver of North Preston, a third-year management student at Dalhousie University was awarded the Best Fashion Designer by The Coast Halifax; and

Whereas the name of his business tREv stands for trust, Respect, Educate and value has become a well-known brand in Halifax’s fashion industry; and

Whereas he was inspired by his mother to pursue fashion and his grandfather instilled the values of hard work and the importance of providing for your family;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Trevor Silver on his success and for his contributions to the economy of Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 1875

By: Hon. Keith Colwell (Preston-Dartmouth)

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

Whereas Ms. Olivia Alspach of Mineville is a member of the U12 Eastern Shore “Gold Diggers” Girls Softball team; and

Whereas she and her fellow teammates, after Hurricane Dorian destroyed the home dugout at the Lawrencetown Community Centre, spent the next 10 days completing all necessary repairs; and

Whereas the unselfish work of this group of fine girls ensured that the Metro Minor Girls Softball Association playoffs were a first-class event demonstrating the determination of this group of girls;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and congratulate Olivia Alspach and the entire U12 Eastern Shore “Gold Diggers” Girls Softball team on their positive contribution to the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 1876

By: John Lohr (Kings North)

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

Whereas the Kings Branch 006, Royal Canadian Legion, known as the Kentville Legion hosts many events for members and the community, including dances with live music, crib tournaments, dart nights, flea markets and more; and

Whereas the Kentville Legion has served as a meeting place for those who have served in the Armed Forces and their descendants and families; and

Whereas the Kentville Legion manages the Legion Poppy Campaign as well as the annual November 11th Remembrance Day ceremonies in Kentville;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the Kings Legion Branch 006 for all their hard work and service to the community. Special thanks to all the Legion officers including President Mike Samson, 1st Vice President Helen Balsor, 2nd Vice President Bill Townsend, Sergeant at Arms Sam Adams, Service Officer, Ambrose Ivany, Padre Gerrit VanAmerogen, Secretary/ Treasurer

Kerri Vaughn, House Chairman Paul Bennett, Ways and Means Chair Julia Lee, Bar Chairman Leo Murphy, Sick and Visiting Chair Frank Stevens, Public Relations Jeff Graves, Sports Chair Donna Hannam, Entertainment Chair Caroline Stevens, Membership Chair Christine Hannam, Poppy Campaign Chair Juanita Blenus, and Youth Chair Mike L'Oiseau.

RESOLUTION NO. 1877

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas students from Liverpool Regional High School raised funds for the Queens County Community Food Bank through the "We Scare Hunger Campaign" held at the end of 2019; and

Whereas "We Scare Hunger Campaign" strives to raise awareness on the issue of food insecurity, by encouraging youth to collect food for local food banks; and

Whereas the participating Liverpool Regional High School students raised \$400.00 for the Queens County Community Food Bank through collection of donations from local businesses, caregivers and friends;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates and thanks these young students for their charitable and selfless act, and thereby serving as an example for others to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 1878

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Dennis McCann, a student at Shelburne Regional High School wanted to give back to his community and raise funds for the Shelburne Lions Club; and

Whereas Dennis McCann had a novel idea when exploring a trail near the school; and

Whereas Dennis McCann collected small trees along the trail and sold them as miniature Christmas trees, collecting \$128.00 over three lunch hours;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates and thanks Dennis for his entrepreneurial and charitable spirit, and setting an example for all young Nova Scotians to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 1879

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas many students and their families have to depend on food banks to assist with their everyday needs; and

Whereas in November, Hillcrest Academy in Shelburne launched the Free Store to provide a helping hand with food, clothing, personal hygiene products and school supplies; and

Whereas the Free Store operates on a confidential and discreet basis, enabling recipients to focus on their studies, free of concern;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates and thanks school counsellor Shannon Davis, project initiator, Principal John Roscoe, and all who have sponsored and the supported the Free Store for their caring and charitable endeavour.

RESOLUTION NO. 1880

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Kiefer Huskins, a 15-year-old player from the Liverpool Privateer Junior B Hockey Club who, having endured the trauma of his own cancer treatment and having received good news after surgery and chemo; and

Whereas Kiefer decided that funds raised by his club's game on November 22nd should go to 15-year-old Aja from Fredericton who he met while at the IWK; and

Whereas Aja, who was diagnosed with the same cancer as Kiefer and subsequently suffered a leg amputation;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulates and thanks Kiefer for his heartfelt generosity and positive spirit he displayed throughout this ordeal.

RESOLUTION NO. 1881

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 The Halifax County United U17 AAA girls team became the champions by participating in the league playoffs that began in early July and ended on August 11, 2019; and

Whereas The playoffs consisted of three rounds which required the team to play two games in each of the quarter and semi finals and a final game for the title; and

Whereas The HCU girls finished the playoffs with a 4-0-1 record to win the championship and represent Nova Scotia at the Club Nationals in Charlottetown, PEI in October;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Allie Martin, Rylie Skinner, Ally Wilton, Becca Hurlbert, Carley Birrell, Dana MacDonald, Emma Phelan Gabrielle Laaoun, Grace Eisonor, Haley Baker, Katherine Merlin, Kenadie Wagg, Leah Pynn, Megan Ellis, Millie Bhaskara, Morgan Gillis, Paige Meagher, Taylor Nolan, and Virginia Boone on their hard work and commitment, their exciting soccer season and the honour to represent Nova Scotia at the Nationals.

RESOLUTION NO. 1882

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas James Albert LeBlanc of Arichat deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of James Albert LeBlanc having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1883

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Michael Clement Marchand, formerly of Petit de Grat, 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 Joseph Michael Clement Marchand having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1884

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Janet Marie MacIntyre 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 Janet Marie MacIntyre having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1885

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas J. Conrad Linloff of Port Hawkesbury, formerly 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 J. Conrad Linloff having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1886

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Wayne Masters of Gracieville 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 John Wayne Masters having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1887

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Ranald MacKinnon of Rock Elm 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 John Ranald MacKinnon having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1888

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Michael O'Brien 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 John Michael O'Brien having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1889

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas James Edward "Jim" Holloran 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 James Edward "Jim" Holloran having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1890

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John F. Green 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 John F. Green having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1891

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Gerald (Jerry) Doiron of Arichat deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Joseph Gerald (Jerry) Doiron having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1892

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Joseph (Johnny) Breau of St. Peter's 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 John Joseph (Johnny) Breau having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1893

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Judith Louise (Judy) Kawaja Proctor 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 Judith Louise (Judy) Kawaja Proctor having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1894

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Jessie Ann MacKinnon of Evanston 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 Jessie Ann MacKinnon having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1895

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Jenny Agnes George of Janvrin's Island 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 Jenny Agnes George having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1896

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Alexander "Tye" Marchand of Little Anse 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 Joseph Alexander "Tye" Marchand having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1897

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Edwin "Joe" Decoste of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on 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 Joseph Edwin "Joe" Decoste having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1898

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas James "Jimmy" Nicholas Benoit of St. Peters/Cape Auget 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 James "Jimmy" Nicholas Benoit having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1899

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas James Arthur Desmond 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 James Arthur Desmond having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1900

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Thilmond Landry of Petit de Grat 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 Joseph Thilmond Landry having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1901

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Alfred Martell 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 Joseph Alfred Martell having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1902

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Etienne Sampson of Louisdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1903

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Philip Cotie 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 John Philip Cotie having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1904

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Edward MacIntosh 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 John Edward MacIntosh having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1905

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Alexander Doyle of Whiteside deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on 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 Joseph Alexander Doyle having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1906

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Robert "Robie" MacDonnell of formerly 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 John Robert "Robie" MacDonnell having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1907

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Ovide Samson of Petit de Grat 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 Joseph Ovide Samson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1908

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Roy Richard of Arichat deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Joseph Roy Richard having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1909

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Rudolph Boudreau of Petit de Grat 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 Joseph Rudolph Boudreau, having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1910

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Joseph Ulysse Doiron of Grand Anse 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 John Joseph Ulysse Doiron having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1911

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Cornelius Marchand of Port Hawkesbury/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 Joseph Cornelius Marchand, having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1912

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas John Clifford "Jackie" Boudreau of Boudreauville deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on 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 John Clifford "Jackie" Boudreau, having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1913

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Helaire Marchand 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 Joseph Helaire Marchand, having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1914

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Justin VJ "Pooze" Sampson of Louisdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Justin VJ "Pooze" Sampson, having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 1915

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 departs upon family and friends feelings of emptiness and loneliness; and

Whereas Joseph Edwin "Joe" Decoste of Port Hawkesbury deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on 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 Joseph Edwin "Joe" Decoste having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.