



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Third Session

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021

Sixty-third General Assembly

Third Session

1:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Keith Bain, Susan Leblanc

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. We will begin the daily routine.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

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

Bill No. 4 - Biodiversity Act.

Bill No. 23 - Adoption Records Act.

and the committee recommends these bills to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments.

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

Bill No. 1 - Police Identity Management Act.

Bill No. 9 - Crown Lands Act.

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

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

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

THE SPEAKER: As Speaker of the House of Assembly, pursuant to Section 33(7) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 4(3) of the Privacy Review Officer Act, and Section 93(b) of the Personal Health Information Act, I am pleased to table the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia 2019-20 Annual Report.

The report is tabled.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

RESOLUTION NO. 282

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

Whereas the Nova Scotia Legal Aid team and African Nova Scotian practitioners developed Impact of Race and Culture Assessments, which are reports to assist judges in making sentencing decisions based on the unique racial circumstances of convicted offenders; and

Whereas Impact of Race and Culture Assessments provide judges with the history of systemic racism and discrimination in Nova Scotia, family testimonials, criminal past, issues of poverty or socioeconomic status, and/or life experiences of convicted offenders; and

Whereas as announced in Fall 2020, the federal government is adopting the Nova Scotia program and plans to spend a total of \$8.2 million to fund reports called Impact of Race and Culture Assessments to help Canadian judges consider how systemic racism contributes to people's interactions with the justice system;

Therefore be it resolved that members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Nova Scotia Legal Aid team and African Nova Scotian practitioners in creating impact of race and culture assessments to help ensure racialized convicted offenders receive a fair sentence in criminal court.

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.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Seniors.

RESOLUTION NO. 283

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

Whereas many groups, individuals, and organizations have rallied around older African Nova Scotians to ensure they receive their continued support during the past year; and

Whereas the Association of Black Social Workers and the Health Association of African Canadians recently won a Nova Scotia Human Rights Award for their response during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring seniors and elders of African descent received required support during the pandemic; and

Whereas the Association of Black Social Workers and the Health Association of African Canadians sought partners who could help provide province-wide services to create awareness, mitigate the spread of COVID-19, address local needs as they arose, and assist in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in African Nova Scotian communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House congratulate the Association of Black Social Workers and the Health Association of African Canadians for their commitment to African Nova Scotians.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 284

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

Whereas due to COVID-19 health protocols, the 23rd annual Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister's Conference, in partnership with the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia Seafarmers Conference, has been changed to a digital series consisting of six free-to-participate seminars taking place between February 25 and April 15, 2021; and

Whereas the digital series coordinated in partnership with the Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia, produced in association with the Perennia Food and Aquaculture Inc., addressed key issues facing the Nova Scotia seafood sector, including market trends, accessing markets, new technology and research priorities, and the challenges and opportunities concerning climate change and marine debris; and

Whereas the March 25th webinar entitled "Advances in Shore-Based Industrial Technology: Addressing Challenges Through Modernization" was developed and produced in conjunction with representatives of the Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House thank the many dedicated people that make up our Nova Scotia seafood sector and their ongoing support and contribution to the Minister's Conference and Seafarmers Conference, which foster industry collaboration on key issues that impact our rural coasts and coastal communities.

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.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

RESOLUTION NO. 285

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

Whereas Nova Scotia is a leader in recycling and waste management; and

Whereas Nova Scotians are innovative and creative at finding solutions that benefit our province, create jobs and improve our way of life; and

Whereas we have companies like Thermo-Cell Industries that manufacture insulation from recycled paper fibres, helping increase recycling demands, and who manufacture a blown-in insulation that reduces energy consumption in buildings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Thermo-Cell for 35 years in business and their commitment to recycling and the environment 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.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 69 - Entitled an Act to Maintain Dignity for Seniors. (Tim Houston)

Bill No. 70 - Entitled an Act Respecting Free Menstrual Products. (Claudia Chender)

Bill No. 71 - Entitled an Act to Fund Training for Continuing Care Assistants. (Barbara Adams)

Bill No. 72 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 203 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Homes for Special Care Act, to Provide for Supportive Living. (Barbara Adams)

Bill No. 73 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 197 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Health Services and Insurance Act, respecting Free Birth Control. (Susan Leblanc)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

[1:15 p.m.]

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

JJ'S PLANT BASED EATS: BUS. SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my constituents Joseph Matheson and James MacDonald, on their successful vegan restaurant, which is the first of its kind in the Sydney area.

JJ's Plant Based Eats, which opened one week before the province declared a state of emergency, credit their success to local support, ranging from those who bought gift cards for when they reopened to all who were there when they opened back up.

To show appreciation to a community who supported them through these unprecedented times they threw a street party, with health protocols in place, and all who attended were treated to a complimentary meal in partnership with Blue Lobster Spirits Company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all MLAs to join me as I congratulate the owners of JJ's Plant Based Eats for their perseverance and commitment to their business and community and wish them much success in the future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

DESVEAUX, MARSHALL: 100th BIRTHDAY - BEST WISHES

KENDRA COOMBES: Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Marshall Desveaux of New Waterford.

Mr. Desveaux is well known to the community for his commitment to service and his athletic ability - although he would never be the one to bring it up. Marshall served in WWII with the 3rd Canadian Battalion Infantry and received the French Legion Medal of Honour.

There are many people in the sports community who would consider his athletic ability also to be legendary. To many, he is considered one of the best athletes and coaches to come from New Waterford.

Happy 100th birthday, Marshall Desveaux.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

HEALTH SERVICES FDN., S. SHORE: HOSP. FUNDRAISER - THANKS

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Health Services Foundation of the South Shore on the success of its 11th annual Gift from the Heart Radiothon that took place in February.

This monster fundraiser raised over \$200,000 in support of a new ophthalmic microscope for the operating rooms at the South Shore Regional Hospital. The current aging microscope is heavily used and is a key piece of equipment in every eye surgery, including approximately 1,000 cataract surgeries that take place at the hospital annually. The Health Services Foundation and its eight-person radiothon organizing committee, chaired by Jamie Ernst, are thrilled with the community's support and the ongoing major media support of CKBW and Country 100.7.

Arleen Stevens, executive director of the foundation, said that the community embraced all the changes that were made to this year's fundraiser in light of COVID-19. It truly shows how passionate residents from across the South Shore are about having the best health care available essentially in their backyard.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in thanking all those involved with this outstanding community endeavour.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

MCCARTHY, BRENDA: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, North Sydney resident Brenda McCarthy.

Brenda passed away on June 1, 2020, after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. During her illness she was not able to be treated at home because the necessary equipment was not available. The closest hospital with the necessary equipment was in Ontario.

Brenda, while fighting her cancer, together with her family and friends, raised more than \$300,000 to purchase a stereostatic body radiation therapy machine for the Cape Breton Cancer Centre. This machine will allow residents to remain closer to home while receiving much-needed care.

Brenda's memory and legacy will live on through all the families who will benefit from having this valuable equipment here in the community, saving precious time better spent with family than with travel.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

MARITIME TARTAN CO.: MASKS FUNDRAISER - THANKS

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to recognize a constituent with a tender heart and an incredible work ethic: Sherrie Kearney, the owner of Maritime Tartan Company.

On April 8th last year, she began making masks. Working from a small room in the condo she shares in Halifax Needham with her husband and biggest cheerleader, Dale, Sherrie has made more than 20,000 masks now, and with the proceeds has raised money for organizations as varied as the New Waterford Legion, St. Vincent de Paul, Souls Harbour, and the Out of the Cold Shelter. She has also contributed funds for heating oil to families that need it.

This month, Sherrie is raising funds for the Canadian Cancer Society by sales of a special mask emblazoned with words of hope, recognizing that April - about to start - is Cancer Awareness Month.

Sherrie has contributed to organizations across Nova Scotia and been a real hero of these COVID-19 times.

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

CTC: CHESTER PLAYHOUSE RESTORATION - THANKS

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chester Theatre Council Society, which has successfully navigated federal, provincial, and municipal funding resources to restore and improve the historic Chester Playhouse.

The Playhouse has been an important venue for performing arts and community events in Chester for over 80 years. The building needed comfort upgrades, structure preservation, better accessibility, and improved technology. Co-chairs Liz Crocker and Susan Crocker helped guide the process to raise both government funds and public donations to complete the needed work.

The Chester Playhouse plans to reopen its doors to the public this coming June. I invite all members of this House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the members of the Chester Theatre Council Society on the restoration of the historic Chester Playhouse.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

FORAN, JUDY: COM. SERV. - THANKS

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, as Easter is upon us, I would like to recognize a woman who devotes her time to helping others in my riding. Judy Foran has been an avid volunteer for most of her life. She volunteers at Saint Benedict's Church in Clayton Park West as a Mass coordinator and as a hospitality lead, and also serves communion every weekend.

Prior to COVID-19, Judy organized a Divine Renovation conference, a large conference where priests and ministers from around the world come to attend at our church. Judy was one of the main organizers for the Blue Butterfly thyroid cancer fundraiser that was to happen last April, but the event was cancelled due to COVID-19. I hope that plans can resume for next year. She also helps with many community initiatives, including the 2020 Heritage Day event and the Litter Prevention Committee in Clayton Park West.

Mr. Speaker, Judy does everything in style. She is often seen volunteering in glamorous clothes and high heels. I ask that this House of Assembly join me in applauding Judy for her generous volunteerism.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

**OICKLE, COLBY/MOREAU, MICHAEL - ATHLS.:
SPECIAL OLYMPICS - CONGRATS.**

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, in January 2022, the Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held in Kazan, Russia. Special Olympics Canada has announced that its training squad for these games will consist of 48 coaches, mission staff, and 108 athletes. Of those 108 athletes, there will be three Nova Scotians, and I am beyond proud to say that two of those three are from Liverpool, Queens County.

Colby Oickle and Michael Moreau have been selected to Team Canada's Snowshoe Training Squad. Special Olympics Canada notes that all members of the squad have put in years of hard work, progressed through regional and provincial/territorial competitions, and ultimately qualified through their performances at the 2020 Winter Games in Thunder Bay.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Colby and Michael on this significant achievement. I wish them all the best.

[1:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SAUNDERS, CHARLES - AUTHOR: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

SUSAN LEBLANC: I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time resident of Dartmouth North who left an incredible legacy: Black journalist, author, and playwright Charles R. Saunders. Charles, who lived on Primrose Street, is known as the father of sword and soul, a fantasy genre based on African traditions, cultures, and history. He inspired readers the world over who were not accustomed to seeing themselves positively reflected in the fantasy genre.

In addition to his speculative fiction, Charles Saunders wrote or contributed to several non-fiction books and anthologies, including *Black and Bluenose*, *The Spirit of Africville*, and *Fire on the Water*. He also wrote about the many facets of Black life in Nova Scotia for the *Daily News* newspaper, as well as two CBC Radio plays about boxers George Dixon and Sam Langford.

Charles died in May 2020, and community members and local journalists have raised money to finance a gravestone for him and a monument honouring his character, *Imaro*. Both will be in place for a May memorial service.

About Charles Saunders, George Elliott Clarke wrote, "We owe Charles R. Saunders a hero's funeral, a redoubtable artist's wake, and even posthumous recognition from the Nova Scotian government."

I ask that all members of the House join me in honouring this great Nova Scotian writer.

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

GAMMON, CATHY DEAGLE - COUNCILLOR: HRM - CONGRATS.

BILL HORNE: I rise today to congratulate Cathy Deagle Gammon on her win as councillor for District 1 - Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley. Cathy is a 25-year resident of Fall River, an award-winning businesswoman, and a community volunteer.

Cathy will be a valued addition to the HRM Regional Council and is excited to be one of eight women elected. Her experience and leadership as Executive Director of DASC Industries has led her to work with all levels of government, and she is one of Nova Scotia's leaders in social enterprise.

I request all members of this House to join me in congratulating Cathy Deagle Gammon and her team on their winning election and wishing her all the best as she represents all the residents of her community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

**LIGHT UP THE PARK ORGANIZERS:
WINTER WONDERLAND - CONGRATS.**

STEVE CRAIG: I rise today to congratulate the organizers of the annual community Light Up the Park celebration.

Light Up the Park brings the community together every year to enjoy local live music followed by the lighting of the Christmas trees in Lower Sackville's Acadia Park. Because gathering in person was not possible with COVID-19 health restrictions, the 2020 kick-off celebration was held virtually. Being held in conjunction with Sackville's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, it proved to be a seasonal holiday success, raising \$2,900 for Acadia Park.

I ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Sackville Business Association, and the local businesses and organizations that sponsor this event. Because of their continued support, the community enjoyed a Winter wonderland of over 4,000 white lights in trees surrounding Acadia Park, at the same time raising much-needed funds for the park.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

TAMPON TUESDAY: CLEANLINESS NOT A PRIVILEGE - RECOG.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I rise today to recognize Tampon Tuesday, an initiative of the United Way, the NSGEU, Halifax Public Libraries, and Events East to collect and deliver menstrual products to community organizations.

Period poverty - not having access to basic menstrual hygiene products - affects women, girls, non-binary, and transgender folks across the province. I congratulate HRM for making these products free in municipal recreation facilities, community centres, and Halifax Transit terminals, and the Province for making them available in schools. We've also seen Dartmouth pharmacies and other private businesses make supplies available to the community free of cost.

I look forward to seeing menstrual products freely available to anyone across the province. Thank you to the organizations who put on Tampon Tuesday and to everyone who works toward eradicating this inequity. Cleanliness should not be a privilege.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

BIKE AGAIN YARMOUTH: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: The accessibility of bicycles is a key component to have a healthy community. Greg Cook of Yarmouth saw the need for this and began Bike Again Yarmouth, a volunteer-run organization with the goal of making bikes more accessible to everyone in our community, including providing recycled bikes for kids.

I ask that the members of this House of Assembly thank Greg Cook and all the volunteers at Bike Again Yarmouth for the important work they do to help contribute to the health and physical recreation for people in Yarmouth County.

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

SHERLOCK, COURTNEY - VET.: COM. SERV. - THANKS

BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Courtney Sherlock for her hard work and dedication to her veterinary practice and community pet owners during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Dr. Sherlock, the owner and founder of Bedford Parks Animal Hospital, East Hants Animal Hospital, and the Eastern Passage Village Veterinary Hospital, stayed open during these very trying times by offering product delivery service to clients. Giving up her own salary allowed for an emergency business loan, which kept staff hired on with extended business hours. During the lockdown Dr. Sherlock added telehealth and contactless appointments.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing Dr. Courtney Sherlock for her compassion for her clients and pets of the Eastern Passage community and beyond.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

**NICKERSON-HACHE, RAVEN:
CHILD CARE ACCESS ESSENTIAL - RECOG.**

KENDRA COOMBES: Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the need for more accessible and affordable child care. A constituent of mine is an excellent and sad example as to why more child care spots and facilities are needed in the province.

Raven Nickerson-Hache is a mother who is working as a medical laboratory assistant at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital, but due to a lack of child care Raven had to quit her job in order to take care of her child.

Raven is an example as to why child care must be a part of Nova Scotia's economic recovery. The ability for parents to work is inherently dependent on their access to child care. Child care also plays a role in alleviating poverty, family poverty specifically, by providing parents the ability to work.

Mr. Speaker, we must help parents like Raven who need access to child care.

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

CAMERON, SILVER DONALD - AUTHOR: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life of Silver Donald Cameron of D'Escousse, who passed away on June 1, 2020. Silver Don was world renowned for his career as a journalist, author, playwright, and documentary filmmaker. He was a prolific writer with 20 books on a wide variety of subjects to his credit, with a reputation for having a wide range of interests and supporting young writers.

After earning his Ph.D., Don became a distinguished educator, teaching and writing at Dalhousie University and the University of New Brunswick. He served as the first dean of the School of Community Studies at Cape Breton University, and at the time of his passing, he had recently been named the first Farley Mowat Chair in the Environment at Cape Breton University.

Don's passion earned him several accolades. He was a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Nova Scotia, as well as the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. The University of King's College and Cape Breton University awarded him honorary doctorates, and the Royal Geographic Society of Canada named him a Fellow.

Silver Don's legacy as a natural-born storyteller will live on in the hearts of many, including my own, and he will be missed by all whose lives he touched. I send my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marjorie, and his extended family and friends for their loss. May he rest in peace and his legacy be long-lived.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for member for Lunenburg.

BUTLER, BARBARA - RECIPIENT: ORDER OF CANADA - CONGRATS.

HON. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Barbara Butler of Oakland on her recent appointment to the Order of Canada. This honour recognizes individuals for their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service in our country. Last December, Barbara was one of two Nova Scotians to receive this recognition.

Barbara was the long-time artistic director of Musique Royale in Lunenburg. The organization hosts concerts in historic venues province-wide, from symphony orchestras, choral events, salon-style shows to much more. She is being recognized for her contribution to our province's musical community and for her efforts in promoting numerous concerts across Nova Scotia.

Thanks to her leadership, Musique Royale has hosted more than 75 concerts each year, with its Summer festival reaching up to 25 communities. Congratulations, Barbara, on this well-deserved appointment and I thank you for enriching our contributions.

I ask that all members of this House of Assembly thank Barbara for her contribution to music in Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

GENNOE, JOE: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, the town of Stellarton has lost a prominent businessman and former mayor. The well-known entrepreneur Joe Gennoe passed away on February 1st. Gennoe owned and operated Gennoe's Bakery, which was started by his grandfather in 1921. Joe Gennoe had very deep roots in the town of Stellarton. For more than a century, the Gennoe family had been famous for their bakery.

Joe chartered the business of his town for 10 years as mayor. He was instrumental in supporting the development of Albion Business Park, which has helped the town's prosperity. Gennoe's prudent financial foresight and his business skills, along with his passion for the well-being of his town was always foremost on his mind.

Mr. Speaker, I know all members will join me in sending condolences to Joe Gennoe's family and many friends at this sad time.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

SIMPSON, LAURA: SIDE DOOR MUSIC - RECOG.

LISA ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a Halifax Needham constituent who, through her entrepreneurship and creativity, is making a difference for cultural workers. Laura Simpson is the co-founder of Side Door Music, with Vancouver musician Dan Mangan.

Side Door helps musicians and other performers connect with their audience by matching them with presenters who have space for smaller shows to be performed. Since it went online in 2017, more than one million tickets have been sold to host concerts and, since 2020, online shows. And 90 per cent of those revenues go to the artist.

Side Door has not stopped pivoting during COVID-19 times, tweaking their app to allow for audience interaction, chatting about shows before they happen, and choose-your-own-price shows. Thanks to her initiative, 51 Nova Scotia-based artists have the potential to play ticketed shows. So do more than 3,000 other artists worldwide.

As Laura says on Side Door's website, when faced with crisis, it is always art that helps us through. Her work is helping artists to get through, and I am grateful and full of admiration.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

RUAN, CHRISTINA: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. KELLY REGAN: I would like to congratulate Christina Ruan on receiving a Halifax Volunteer Award for 2020.

Christina is an extremely active volunteer in the Chinese community. She has volunteered with the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Association, the St. Mary's University Chinese Student Association, Dalhousie Chinese Students and Scholars Association, the National Congress of Chinese Canadians, the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia, the Maritime Chinese Golf Association, and the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia. Christina has emceed the Chinese Society's New Year Banquet for seven years, ensuring the event runs smoothly and professionally. She also supports those who need assistance with immigration and business consultation.

Christina's dedication to the Chinese community here in Halifax has made the lives of others easier. I thank her for extensive volunteer efforts and congratulate her on her award.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**MOOSEHEADS SCHOLASTIC PLAYERS:
WELL ABOVE AVERAGE - CONGRATS.**

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jake Furlong, James Swan, and Brady James, the respective October 2020, November 2020, and February 2021 Halifax Mooseheads Scholastic Players of the Month.

These hockey players are all students at Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth East. They have been commended for their dedication to their academic studies. As a result of their academic commitment, they have all maintained a 90 per cent or above average while balancing a challenging schedule of professional hockey. There is no shortage of achievement amongst these players, whether they are on or off the ice. Jake Furlong, James Swan, and Brady James - these are responsible individuals who diligently take charge of their academic and hockey careers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House to applaud their hard work and congratulate them on their achievements as Moosehead Scholastic Players of the Month.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

THE CANTEEN ON PORTLAND: COM. SERV. - THANKS

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago, Dartmouth North residents Doug Townsend and Renée Lavallée, like many other business owners in Nova Scotia, had to temporarily shutter their downtown Dartmouth restaurants, the Canteen and Little C, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of what makes the Canteen and its owner so special is that not even a month later, the Canteen reopened, but this time as a community kitchen. Throughout the first wave of the pandemic, they provided 300 to 400 beautiful and, I imagine, very tasty meals per week to both The North Grove and to Margaret's House to distribute to those in need.

Facing a lack of volunteers and other challenges due to the pandemic, the North Grove was able to rely on the Canteen's commercial kitchen and remaining staff to meet the increased demand for prepared meals. This wonderful partnership came as no surprise, as Doug and Renée have been long-time supporters of the North Grove, and Doug currently sits on the organization's board of directors.

Like many Dartmouthians, the Canteen has been a favourite restaurant of mine since it opened. Created by award-winning chef Renée Lavallée, the food is beautiful, locally sourced and, of course, delicious. I was already a big fan, but witnessing what Renée, Doug, and their team did for Dartmouth during a real time of need, I will feel extra good about next order of kale caesar and a Canteen burger.

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

TRAIL ART PROJ.: TRAIL BEAUTIFICATION - CONGRATS.

HUGH MACKAY: I rise today to congratulate the seven artists selected for the Chester and Area Trail Art Project. In Fall 2020, the Municipality of Chester sought proposals for public art pieces to be permanent attractions along specific sections of the South Shore's Rails to Trails.

The artist chosen for this project are Bill and Donald Gibly of East River, Leah Gooyers and Patrick Connell of Hubbards, Marla Benton of Chester, Rick Silas of Chester Basin, Joshua Collins of Gold River, my friend Scott Hamlin of New Ross, and finally Kyle Bridgett and Ed Beals of Middle River. Each piece and location will be unique and themed around local community characteristics, heritage, and natural history. The artists will be creating their projects between January and August this year, so trail users may see these artists applying their trade.

I invite all members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating the seven artists chosen by the Municipality of Chester for the 2021 Trail Art Project.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

KEDDY, LANCE - ATHL.: 1000 PTS., BASKETBALL - DEDICATION

HON. KEITH IRVING; Mr. Speaker, today I wish to acknowledge a young student athlete from Coldbrook who has dedicated thousands of hours to perfecting his game of basketball and who recently surpassed the 1,000-point milestone for the Central Kings High School team, the Gators.

Described by his coach as a coach's dream, Lance Keddy is the first Central Kings player to net 1,000 points in his four years playing high school ball. Lance is in the gym every chance he gets, practising his shots, which clearly has been instrumental in allowing him to reach this impressive 1,000-point milestone during his high school basketball career.

I ask all members of this Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Lance Keddy for his remarkable individual accomplishment and wishing him the best in his athletic pursuits.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

BURRILL, RANDY - PHYSICIAN: RETIREMENT - THANKS

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to a caring and compassionate professional from Pictou West. Dr. Randy Burrill will be closing his medical practice on May 28, 2021. He has served the constituents of Pictou West and beyond for well over 35 years as a physician.

We can appreciate that a person's success can be based on their family unit, and I want to send my sincere gratitude to Dr. Burrill's wife, children, and grandchildren for supporting, encouraging, and sharing him with the residents of Pictou West. I hope he gets to enjoy more time with his children and grandchildren, and I want to thank him for his continued professionalism and dedication to the medical practice and his patients.

I wish him a very happy, relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

NEVES, PATRICIA - EXEC. DIR.: INCLUSION N.S. - CONGRATS.

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate Halifax Armdale's Patricia Neves on being selected as the new Executive Director of Inclusion Nova Scotia, formerly the Nova Scotia Association for Community Living.

Selected by the organization's board in September, Patricia brings more than 30 years of experience working with families in vulnerable populations to the role. With a Masters of Arts in child and youth studies and experience working at the YWCA Halifax, the Halifax Association for Community Living, and the Club Inclusion, Patricia is particularly well equipped to lead Inclusion Nova Scotia going forward.

Having served as an active executive director during the pandemic's first wave, Patricia knows how important the work of this vital non-profit is to ensuring that people with intellectual disabilities live full and fulfilling lives in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Patricia Neves on this appointment and extending our most sincere best wishes.

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

KAISER'S SUB AND SANDWICH: 45 YRS. IN BUS. - CONGRATS.

BRAD JOHNS: I would like to rise today to acknowledge Kaiser's Sub and Sandwich Shoppes, a family-owned business that is celebrating its 45th year in Sackville.

Kaiser's first opened its doors on February 3, 1976, and is still in the same spot it was 45 years later. Kaiser's makes subs, loaves, sandwiches, wraps, salads, chilis, and soups, all using fresh ingredients. It has certainly become an institution in Sackville.

I would like to take an opportunity to congratulate the owner, Rick Baker, and his employees of the Kaiser Sub and Sandwich Shoppes on their 45 successful years, and thank them for continuing to serve the people of Sackville fantastic food.

[1:45 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston-Dartmouth.

SMOOTH MEAL PREP: BUS. SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Nevell Provo, of North Preston, who founded Smooth Meal Prep in 2018 to provide healthy meals to close to 1,000 customers each week, while at the same time providing employment to 15 people from the local community.

He started his business in his mother's kitchen, but the business has grown to a point where he took over a pizza shop in Westphal to convert it to a 1,500-square-foot industrial kitchen. He deals with companies that work with local farmers to source produce used in preparation of healthy and appetizing meals. He employs people from his immediate family and extended family, thus creating jobs in the local community.

The market for his fitness-focused meals is busy individuals who do not have time to prepare quality meals but who want to eat healthy, local, nutritious food. His background is in fitness and athletics, so it's natural for him to focus on meals, fitness, and health goals.

Nevell Provo, through his initiative and business acumen, is creating jobs while fulfilling a real need in the community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle-Barrington.

MACKINNON, CAMERON: FIRST BASKET - CONGRATS.

COLTON LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, team sports are instrumental in helping our youth develop a good character through social experiences and teamwork.

Barrington Barons Grade 7 student Cameron MacKinnon has Down syndrome. He is the team manager for the boys basketball team, and this year he really wanted to play. That's when his coach and the opposing Maple Grove Education Centre team devised a plan. During a recent basketball game, with minutes left on the clock, Maple Grove's No.

10, Curtis Middleton, ensured a few times to get the ball into the hands of the opposing team's No. 16, Cameron MacKinnon, so he could get his first basket as a junior player.

Mr. Speaker, sports are not just about the scoreboard. It's the friends you make. It's teamwork. It's also about fair play and the love of the game. I want to congratulate Cameron for his first basket as well as thank Curtis and the coaching staff from both teams for helping set a positive example. This was sportsmanship at its finest.

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

**WILSON, MICHELLE - EXEC. DIR.:
SYDNEY DOWNTOWN DEV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, today I rise in my place to recognize Michelle Wilson of Whitney Pier.

Many people at home know Michelle as the executive director of Sydney Downtown Development. Michelle has spent many years in our community advocating for downtown, supporting both the current businesses and local businesses in the community, and she's one of our community's greatest advocates. She plays such an integral role in ensuring that our downtown core is a welcoming, business-friendly, and safe place to be for both businesses and residents alike.

I rise in my place today to thank Michelle for her tireless advocacy for downtown Sydney and for home. I ask all members of the House to recognize and congratulate Michelle Wilson on a job well done.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

GOOD NEIGHBOUR CLUB: COM. FAVOURITE - THANKS

JOHN LOHR: Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and thank the Centreville Good Neighbour Club for their monthly breakfast.

Their monthly breakfast was a favourite in the Annapolis Valley. It was particularly noted for its personal service, with guests being able to order from the menu. Everything on the menu was always great. Funds from the breakfast have enabled the community to improve the community hall.

Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to such great breakfasts. I join with the many who eagerly await the post-COVID-19 resumption of your great breakfasts.

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

SMOKEY HOLLOW GEN. STORE: BUS. SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Smokey Hollow General Store in Country Harbour.

Smokey Hollow, named after a scenic spot in Country Harbour, is a new business in my riding run by Paul and Ashley MacLennan. Like many of our youth, they previously had to leave the province to make a living out West, but with a young family they wanted to move back home full time to raise their children.

Not only did they start this successful general store, that has the reminiscence of the old days, in the midst of the pandemic, but they expanded their services to include a take-out restaurant, an NSLC, a café, merchandise and more. To quote the owners: there is something about the Hollow that gets under your skin and feels like home.

These folks set an example for young families' potential in rural Nova Scotia, and I am delighted they decided to jump in with both feet and move back here.

Should you ever find yourself in Country Harbour, stop by Smokey Hollow General Store and snack on some fish and chips - or cauliflower bites if you are a vegan. They have something for everyone.

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

GROSS, AVA - INVENTOR: OCEAN PICKER UPPER - CONGRATS.

LARRY HARRISON: Mr. Speaker, in March 2020, Ava Gross, an elementary school student from Musquodoboit Valley, made a submission to the Little Inventors Program themed "Protect Our Oceans."

Ava's invention, called the Cleaner Picker Upper, consists of a little vacuum designed to suck plastic out of the ocean while allowing the fish to swim away without harm. Ava's submission was selected from over 500 ideas worldwide to be brought to fruition.

She has been paired with a physicist with animatronic/3D building skills to make a model of her ocean-cleaning invention.

In 2021, her model will be part of the Science Odyssey Week and the launch of the UN's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Little Inventors will be working in partnership with the Government of Canada's Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council to document Ava's experience.

I ask all MLAs to join me in offering congratulations to Ava on this amazing achievement. Thank you.

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

**JONES-MATTHIAS, DESIREE - RECIPIENT:
AFRICAN N.S. SCHOLARSHIP - CONGRATS.**

HON. BEN JESSOME: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize Ms. Desireé Jones-Matthias, a recipient of Nova Scotia Power's 2020 African Nova Scotian Scholarship.

She grew up in Upper Hammonds Plains and after graduating from CPA she earned a sociology degree from Dalhousie, with Dean's List distinction. From a young age she has been passionate about social justice and is currently pursuing a law degree at Dalhousie, where she serves as the VP of the Black Law Students' Association. Aside from her studies, Desireé has volunteered at Nova Scotia Legal Aid, worked on the Indigenous Blacks and Mi'kmaq Initiative, and recently welcomed a baby boy with her husband.

I would ask all members of the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Desireé Jones-Matthias on receiving Nova Scotia Power's African Nova Scotian Scholarship and wish her all the best in the future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings West.

SPURRELL, JIM - COACH: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. LEO GLAVINE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Spurrell of Tremont for his exceptional volunteer commitment to our local community and province.

A vibrant presence in our community and known just about to everyone, Jim brings a great deal of heart to his volunteer work. While Jim's service extends to multiple initiatives and organizations in our area, he recently won two awards that demonstrate just how much of an impact he makes every day. These awards include the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Village of Kingston and Male Coach of the Year for Special Olympics Nova Scotia.

I ask members of this House to please join me in recognizing Jim Spurrell's amazing volunteer efforts to continue to inspire our community.

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

MACCORMICK, LOIS: RETIREMENT - CONGRATS.

DAVE RITCEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois MacCormick. In November, Lois retired after serving as commissioner of the Village of Bible Hill Commission for more than 15 years. During her time with the Village of Bible Hill, she was part of many community enhancement projects like expanding recreation facilities such as trails, playground and washroom facilities in the park, more sidewalks, overhead crosswalk lights, and improving pedestrian safety.

In addition to this, Lois and the team worked to invest continuously in upgrades to the village's fire protection equipment and the facilities for the local fire brigade.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Lois MacCormick for her leadership, dedication, and vision in helping the community of Bible Hill be known as a welcoming place for residents, business owners, and newcomers.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

**PAUPIN, NORMAN/PAUPIN, STACEY:
WOODLOT OWNERS OF THE YR. - CONGRATS.**

HON. KAREN CASEY: Mr. Speaker, in 2012 Norman and Stacey Paupin from Folly Lake, Colchester North, purchased a 40-hectare woodlot in Shinimicas, Cumberland County, with the goal of restoring the forest to harvest firewood and non-timber forest products for personal use.

The Paupins use treatments like thinning, and they have improved the forest health by encouraging the growth of native species. The Paupins also decided to try making birch syrup. Their innovative ideas have progressed so that they now use solar-powered pumps to collect sap to make birch syrup, which sells, I understand, for a higher price than maple syrup but is much more difficult to produce. It is usually used as an ingredient paired with pork or salmon dishes with sauces and glazes and flavouring ice cream, beer, and wine. In 2018, their syrup won the World Birch Syrup Championship.

Good forest management and an eye for innovation have led to the Paupins being named the Woodlot Owners of the Year by Nova Scotia Lands and Forestry. Our congratulations and thanks to these resourceful stewards of Nova Scotia's woodlands for their excellent example that they set for others.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

CHAPPELL, PAM - NURSE: CUMB. N., HEALTH CARE HERO - THANKS

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of Cumberland North's Health Care Heroes, registered nurse Pam Chappell.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Pam has been a leader at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre. Pam is team lead of the Women and Children's Unit.

Pam holds a master's degree in nursing and is a clinical team leader at Nova Scotia Health. Pam is an enthusiastic learner and teacher who enjoys being challenged and is also always there to support others in their growth and learning, as well. As a registered nurse, Pam plays a crucial role and has a great responsibility during the COVID-19 pandemic as a frontline worker.

Today, I ask all MLAs to join me in thanking Pam Chappell as one of Cumberland North's Health Care Heroes.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

HEBBVILLE ACAD.: TRAIL AMBASSADORS - THANKS

HON. MARK FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the Bull Run Trail ambassadors, students from Grades 3 and 4 at Hebbville Academy.

Led by their teacher and mentor, Angela Scott, these inspirational kids pick up garbage and fallen branches, paint the gates, and do other maintenance. They also share photographs and stories about their explorations and the things they learn. Recently, these trail ambassadors wrote inspirational words on paint sticks and hung them on trees along the trail.

One of the most exciting successes has been securing a \$5,000 grant to purchase 25 bikes in addition to getting a donation of helmets. The kids say: the bikes can take us far so that we can see cool things around our school and learn about things in the woods like different trees; we can learn about wildlife, too, like bunnies, squirrels, birds, and snakes. These bikes will help the kids stay healthy and active as they do their trail work.

Mr. Speaker, I ask members of the House of Assembly to join me in thanking the Bull Run Trail ambassadors from Hebbville Academy.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

STEVENSON, NICOLE: COM. SERV. - THANKS

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Stevenson. Nicole is a social worker with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Education Centre. She organized her own adopt-a-family campaign in December, with the goal to collect toys, gift cards for groceries, and cash for larger gifts like gaming devices.

In doing so, she helped over 110 children celebrate Christmas, who might otherwise not have been able to. Mr. Speaker, Nicole has not stopped there. Through the Winter she has also raised and sourced a winter gear project, where she collects and disperses snowsuits, winter jackets, hats, and mittens to children who need them. She has also been continuing to collect snacks and drinks to provide the students who may find themselves in need of a little extra boost.

[2:00 p.m.]

I ask all members to join me in thanking Nicole for her tireless efforts to help the children in her community.

THE SPEAKER: The time allotted for members' statements has now expired.

Just before we move on to our break, I just want to remind all members that the time is one minute, so I'll ask you to self-police that. There were several that went considerably over there today, so generous Speaker for you all.

I also want to remind folks, especially those participating virtually - we had a couple of technical glitches there with connections, so it would be important for you to make sure that Hansard has the written copy of your members' statements there for accuracy.

The House will now have its mandated 15-minute break. We'll resume at 2:15 p.m.

[2:01 p.m. The House recessed.]

[2:15 p.m. The House reconvened.]

ORDERS OF THE DAY**ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS:**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

PREM. - VACCINE ROLLOUT: PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS - COMMENT

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, over the past year, all Nova Scotians have been experiencing change and the feeling of isolation. But for many Nova Scotians - those with underlying conditions - the feeling of isolation is even greater because everything carries just a little bit more risk for them. The trip to the grocery store, the dinner out, or the visit with loved ones are all just a little bit harder to justify when you have a pre-existing condition that makes the virus more dangerous and the consequences more dire.

Even as the needle starts to move for some toward normalcy, it's not moving for everyone. Does the Premier acknowledge that the small bits of normalcy that some Nova Scotians are feeling are not being enjoyed by all Nova Scotians?

THE PREMIER: Fortunately in Nova Scotia, we've done very well managing the pandemic by all accounts, when you hear experts talking about how one of the safest places, not only in Canada but the world, is Nova Scotia. That's why we have more and more families coming here - more, actually, from within our country than since 1984.

We're going to continue to work alongside Public Health and be a beacon of hope here in Canada.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking about those Nova Scotians who are already here and who are living with pre-existing conditions who are still afraid to do many things. The fear is very real for them.

Nova Scotians accepted when some of our vaccine was diverted to Northern Canada because that's where the need was greatest. We accepted that. But here at home, our vaccines should also go where the need is greatest, and for health reasons and for mental health reasons, that need is greatest for those with pre-existing conditions.

I think it's a very Nova Scotian thing, Mr. Speaker, to prioritize those people with pre-existing conditions. Does the Premier accept that the decision to not prioritize those people, those Nova Scotians with pre-existing conditions, extends the danger and extends the anxiety that they are feeling while they wait for their vaccine?

THE PREMIER: The focus since day one has been relying on Public Health experts. That's going to continue. What we've done to prioritize the vaccine rollout is to focus first and foremost on our long-term care centres, those who are over the age of 80. Very happy that now we're able to book those over the age of 75. We're continuing to ramp up every day to get to that population immunity. That's the focus right now.

The risk is very low for anyone to contract COVID-19 right now in our province because of that good work of Public Health.

TIM HOUSTON: I'm not sure the Premier fully understands the anxiety that many Nova Scotians with pre-existing conditions are feeling. We have seen the Premier walk back decisions on tighter COVID-19 restrictions at one point. We've seen the Premier walk back decisions on when the police should receive the vaccine. There are those Nova Scotians who still are almost completely remote and just not comfortable going out in normal situations like many of us are.

I'd like to ask the Premier again: Will the Premier take the necessary steps to relieve the anxiety and fear and the danger of those Nova Scotians who have a pre-existing condition and prioritize them so they can get their vaccine?

THE PREMIER: If the member watches the briefings, we've been very clear that whenever things happen - which can happen day-to-day fairly quickly - we're very quick to shut down and put restrictions on. That's based on what happens with our epidemiology. We were able to be more nimble in the second wave and shut down areas in regions that had case counts increase, like the region of Halifax and Hants County, and then when we start to open up, we do so very slowly. That's been the strategy so far. Very happy that there were zero cases yesterday and very low cases today.

As we continue to look at restrictions, we will act quickly when we need to shut down.

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

PREM. - EMISSION REDUCTION: PARIS AGREEMENT - ALIGN

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, we in the NDP were glad to see the recent change in name to the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Words are important, and we think this is a meaningful change.

In order for words to have force, they have to stand on a real foundation. The foundation in this case is the government's emission reduction target. This is problematic because the target this government has legislated falls seriously short of the 50 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, which is Nova Scotia's fair share to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees.

In keeping with the new department name, does the Premier agree that the government should update Nova Scotia's emission reduction target to bring it in line with the Paris Agreement?

THE PREMIER: I'm very proud of the legislation that was brought forward to have the most ambitious reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in the country. We're also committing to net neutral by 2050. I believe Nova Scotians can beat that goal, Mr. Speaker.

We have recently committed to getting off coal by 2030. We're going to continue to look at ways to bring more renewable energy on the grid so that we reduce our emissions in the electricity sector. It's not only the challenge of our lifetime and an existential threat; it is an opportunity economically for us to grow jobs across the province, especially in rural Nova Scotia.

We're going to continue to lead the country in efficiency programs, making sure that 100 per cent of Mi'kmaw homes have access to efficiency programs, continuing to roll out programs to incentivize electric vehicles, modernizing transportation. I'm going to look forward to more ambitious programs coming out in the months ahead.

GARY BURRILL: We in the NDP also changed the title of our critic spokesperson role to spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change. We did that some years ago because we thought that broadening signified something crucial.

In order for titles to be more than just for show, they have to flow from a consistent framework. It is difficult to see much consistency when this Premier has indicated his support for the Goldboro LNG project, a project that would, as one expert put it, blow a hole through Nova Scotia's emissions ceiling.

Will the Premier admit that his support for this LNG project is inconsistent with Nova Scotia's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals?

THE PREMIER: We on this side of the House believe that we can grow an economy and protect the environment at the same time.

We have committed to a number of environmental platform pieces that will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We introduced cap and trade, which the members opposite voted against. We introduced programs that will continue to reduce emissions, modernize our transportation, and continue to protect more land in the province so that we can sequester more carbon. I do support economic development in the province.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, words are important, names are important, and titles are important, but they only achieve their importance when they are accompanied by real seriousness of purpose. Many people have been questioning this government's seriousness of purpose on the environment ever since the approval to burn tires for fuel was granted to Lafarge in Colchester County by this Premier when he was Minister of Environment in 2017.

Does the Premier understand why his government's environmental credibility is diminished by the fact that Lafarge cement continues to burn tires for fuel to this day, with this government's approval?

THE PREMIER: The Dalhousie University lab team came forward with that project to show a 30-per cent reduction in carbon and reduction in nitrous oxide. I'm going to continue to look at evidence from academia when they bring forward issues like that. The facts are there. We're not going to make decisions based on politics and what's in the news cycle day-to-day.

We're going to continue to look at ways that we can grow jobs in the province. The green economy has more opportunity than any other sector right now as we build back better, Mr. Speaker, as we come online with record-breaking renewable energy tenders that are about to go out in the province, as we continue to grow our efficiency programs.

Yes, we'll continue to lead how we grow back the economy and how we protect the environment.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

PREM. - VACCINE ROLLOUT: C.F. PATIENTS - NO PRIORITY

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the cystic fibrosis websites and some of the advocacy work they have been doing on behalf of their community. Looking under the tab, "Has my province prioritized Canadians with cystic fibrosis for vaccination?" you'll see entries from B.C. clear on through to Newfoundland prioritizing vaccinations for CF, but there seems to be a Nova Scotia-size hole in the list.

My question for the Premier is: Why are we the only province in the country that isn't prioritizing the vaccine for those Nova Scotians with cystic fibrosis?

THE PREMIER: Again, the member tries to erode the confidence of the vaccine delivery program in the province. We are doing really well; we are meeting our targets. Every day we are increasing the number of shots in arms. We held back the second dose; that is now shifting. It is showing how it is an evolving situation day to day. We are continuing to deliver more and more vaccines and we are going to stay on track to meet our targets.

TIM HOUSTON: In actual fact what I am trying to do is build the confidence of those Nova Scotians with a pre-existing condition, that their government "gets it." So far, Mr. Speaker, I can't show that they do.

Dr. John Wallenburg, the Chief Scientific Officer with CF Canada, wrote a letter to every minister of health across the country. From that letter, which has been tabled, I quote:

“Given the heavy health burden that Canadians with cystic fibrosis and their caregivers already carry, we believe it necessary to shelter them from any additional risks caused by a SARS-CoV-2 infection, and that they should be prioritized for vaccination. Vulnerable groups with pre-existing conditions like those living with cystic fibrosis deserve early protection.”

That’s from Dr. John Wallenburg, the Chief Scientific Officer with CF Canada. I would like to ask the Premier: Is he wrong? Do they not deserve to be prioritized?

THE PREMIER: The strategy has worked so far, and we are going to continue to listen to the advice of Dr. Strang and Public Health about how we prioritize those who are over the age of 80 and now 75. In days ahead, we will be going even lower than that. We need to continue to look at ways that we can get to population immunity the fastest by having community clinics open across the province. That is going to continue.

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

PREM.: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - PRIORITIZE

TIM HOUSTON: Certainly, one of the issues well known to Nova Scotians in this province around mental health care is the ability to access the programming that is in place. Yet, in the government’s budget tabled last week, the government highlighted some mental health programming, including single brief intervention sessions to provide rapid access to mental health supports - single brief intervention sessions.

I would like to ask the Premier: What percentage of mental health interventions does the Premier think can be satisfied by one single brief interaction?

THE PREMIER: That is a narrow view of one program of the whole mental health system. That is one strategy that experts brought forward for how we access low- to medium-risk when people need to see help right away on the same day. We also have the mental health lines. The Bloom Program in the pharmacies helps navigate the situation for people who are facing issues with mental health.

We have other programs as well. We have invested in e-mental health so that we have access through virtual health. We have had really impressive outcomes through the pandemic and Nova Scotians being able to access mental health quicker through that virtual setting.

TIM HOUSTON: I think the point is with the single brief intervention, very, very rarely - in fact, I am hearing from all kinds of mental health practitioners who say they have never had success with a single brief intervention. I think what it highlights is the

government is a government that puts a sound bite in the window - the shiny object in the window - and says, look, we are dealing with it.

I can broaden the lens for the Premier, should he wish, because the government's shortcomings on mental health are already being registered by many key mental health advocates, not just us.

Alec Stratford, executive director of the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers, is one such person. In a Global News article, Mr. Stratford observed that last year mental health spending made up 6.7 per cent of the Province's health spending. This year, the number has been cut to 6.3.

I would like to ask the Premier: How do you justify spending less on mental health when, at the same time, saying that it is a big priority?

THE PREMIER: The budget for mental health has grown by \$20 million. We have set up a new office under the Department of Health and Wellness so that we can have expertise reporting directly to the minister. We are hiring clinicians and psychologists to have the best types of services available.

That is going to build on some of the progress when we had recommendations from people like Dr. Stan Kutcher and other reports that we have been looking at to ensure that we have programs in place. We are under the benchmark for national times to have access to mental health when they call the number on the crisis line. The single session therapy will build on that system. There are other programs in this for e-mental health access.

People are suffering, they need help, and our government will continue to make sure that we stand side by side with Nova Scotians for those invisible injuries that they may have.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

PREM.: VIRTUAL CARE - EXTENSION

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, today the Minister of Health and Wellness announced that the government would extend virtual care for another year. This is the third such extension, Mr. Speaker. I struggle to understand why this government is still treating virtual care like it's a fad or a pilot project. It is not new; it's just new to Nova Scotia. It has been happening all over the world.

I can't figure out why this government can't figure out that virtual care is here to stay. It has helped so many Nova Scotians, particularly during the lockdown.

I would like to ask the Premier: Why are we extending this just for one year? Shouldn't we just be acknowledging that it should be here to stay?

[2:30 p.m.]

THE PREMIER: I am glad that the member supports virtual care. We are the only province in Canada that opened all non-procedural codes for billing to our physicians throughout the pandemic. This extension is a commitment that will continue. This is an allotment that we received from the federal government to support our priority on virtual care.

Virtual care is here to stay in Nova Scotia and it will become part of how we deliver and modernize health care, whether it is mental health or other types of services that Nova Scotians need, and we are going to continue to support other avenues of health care like collaborative care centres, increasing our infrastructure, and modernizing infrastructure. The increases in this budget speak for themselves.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, not only do we support virtual care, we've been leading the way on it. The members will remember the day that the Premier and the entire Liberal caucus laughed at the mere suggestion on this floor that virtual care was important. I think the comment was that the Leader of the Opposition at the time thought that Nova Scotians would be okay phoning a doctor or FaceTiming a doctor. It got a great round of applause from the Liberal caucus, who seem to have difficulty reconciling the role that technology can play in health care.

This is a government that promised, famously, a doctor for every Nova Scotian. They failed at that. They have really failed to embrace virtual care, despite the odd announcement here and there. I'd just like the Premier to acknowledge that virtual care is here to stay and that it is an important part of how Nova Scotians will access their care.

THE PREMIER: We are going to continue to support all avenues to improve access to primary care, to improve access to mental health care, whether that's in our schools through SchoolsPlus, whether it's the new programs we have announced in this budget for e-mental health, for the single-session therapy, for the withdrawal management hubs across the province. We are going to continue to expand our collaborative care centres.

When we came into government there was less than 40. We doubled the amount of collaborative care centres, hiring more nurse practitioners in communities, hiring over 100 doctors per year to come into this province. We are going to continue to make those key strategic investments so people can have the care that they need when they need it.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

PREM. - HRP INCIDENT: SIRT - REFERRAL

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. In response to a video shared over the weekend of a Halifax Regional Police officer pointing a gun at a Black man with his hands in the air and appearing to issue disturbing remarks, the director of Nova Scotia's Serious Incident Response Team said that they would need a complaint from the person affected to start an investigation. In fact, that is not the case.

From their website: "The Chiefs of all police, and the head of the RCMP, in Nova Scotia, are required by law to refer all serious incidents to the SiRT. The Minister of Justice can also make referrals, as can members of the public by contacting the SiRT directly..." Yesterday the Premier said he would be discussing the matter with the Minister of Justice and said that: If there is a role for us, I will look at that.

I would like to ask the Premier: Will he be directing the Minister of Justice to refer this incident to the Serious Incident Response Team?

THE PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we allow that investigation to take place. I did speak to the Minister of Justice to discuss what our options are, and we will continue to have those discussions.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed we can't get a clear and distinct yes to that question. I was hoping it would be a yes.

Saturday marked two years since the Street Checks Report was tabled at the Halifax Central Library. I would like to read its recommendation 4.14: "It is recommended that the HRP and RCMP develop a new performance evaluation system that explicitly rewards officers for their community policing efforts, their ability to work effectively with diverse communities and their ability to develop relationships of trust with community members from various backgrounds."

When our office filed a freedom of information request for an update on the implementation of this and other recommendations, the response from the department was that this recommendation is already addressed through existing policies. Given recent events such as the Santina Rao case and what took place over this past weekend, does the Premier feel that this recommendation has been adequately addressed?

HON. RANDY DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear, as the Premier has noted in my mandate letter, we do have work to do to tackle the systemic issues within and throughout the justice system. That's something I've been mandated to do from the Premier, something that I personally feel very strongly, as do the members of our caucus and my colleagues. Something that our Department of Justice, the employees throughout, are very committed to doing as well.

We do have a lot of work to do. We have a number of recommendations, including those from the Wortley report that we are working and striving to implement with our partners throughout the justice system. It's very important work, and it's work that's under way.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

H&W: PARTIAL KNEE REPLACE. - BACKLOG

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, wait times for surgeries have increased right across this province. We all understand that it is important to keep Covid-19 out of our hospitals. But now we are faced and are in need of answers to know what the plan is to address this humongous backlog of surgeries. There are a lot of Nova Scotians who require knee surgery. They don't get better with time, they actually get worse, as we all know. The burden of extended chronic pain as well as the time and money spent on our health care system are things this government should absolutely be worried about. Like any degenerative condition, a foregone partial knee replacement becomes a full knee replacement.

Can the minister explain how many more full replacements are we expecting to do after so many missed partial replacements?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I do think it's important to clarify that all needed surgeries for cancer and other critical issues did continue during the Covid-19 period. However, elective surgeries were delayed. I am happy to say that 95 per cent of those surgeries, those elective surgeries, that were delayed have either been rebooked or have been completed to date. The Health Authority is working diligently to schedule the rest of the backlog and ensure those surgeries happen as quickly as possible.

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer but there are a lot of people suffering. Before the pandemic, for a full knee replacement, we were looking at times of up to 174 days for a consultation alone and then up to at least 270 days for surgery. Now that wait times are up to about 265 days for a consultation, now up to 680 days for the surgery, it's frustrating for those people who are waiting.

A knee scope is a separate procedure and surgery is often done at the same time, according to Wait Times, a description of the procedure. This has a wait time of up to 223 days. I am tabling that in the Chamber right now.

Knee partials are also on the rise, so I worry that we will see a rise in wait times on three different fronts. My question to the minister: How is his department going to address the massive increase in wait times for knee procedures in this province?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the question. We, of course, recognize that waiting for these important surgeries like knee and hip replacements creates discomfort and in some cases disability and mobility issues for people. I am very happy that the Health Authority has booked or completed 95 per cent of those elective surgeries that were delayed as a result of Covid-19. I think they have demonstrated some efficiency here and that work is going to continue until the backlog is dealt with.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

H&W: SHOULDER SURGERY - TIMELINE

KARLA MACFARLANE: Too many Nova Scotians are languishing on wait-lists for surgeries that would greatly improve their quality of life. For example, Nova Scotians who need shoulder surgery are often unable to work. They get tired and become mentally exhausted with the frustration of not being able to work. They live with pain and are limited in what their daily activities are, and it's very hard on them, but on their families as well.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: How long does it actually take the average Nova Scotian to get shoulder surgery?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I'll get the specific timeline for the member. I will say that government has invested significantly in reducing the wait-lists and wait times for a number of surgeries here in Nova Scotia. We've also invested heavily in ensuring that we have a complement of the specialists that we need to conduct surgeries, anaesthesia in particular. We do now have the highest compensation for anaesthetists in Atlantic Canada. We have also utilized the private clinics that are available here in HRM to help us deal with that backlog of surgeries that were delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Again, it was not the urgent or critical surgeries. I do want people to understand that these were elective surgeries, and 95 per cent of those have been either completed or booked.

KARLA MACFARLANE: For those who are waiting, it's very frustrating. I want to refresh the minister's memory. Actually, on average, it takes 119 days to get a consult. After that, the average wait for surgery is 768 days. That's a grand total of 887 days, or almost two and a half years.

Actually, in the Valley, it takes 954 days to get surgery, and again, that would be a full two and a half years. It's very frustrating, it's not right, we're lagging way behind, and we need to do better.

Are Nova Scotians being well served by a health care system that expects them to wait in pain for more than two years?

ZACH CHURCHILL: I do have confidence in our health care system. It's easy to lose perspective on how strong a health care system we have here simply because it is so strong. Of course there are challenges in it. There are always going to be resource challenges when you have the largest government department, and of course people aren't always going to be entirely satisfied with their experience.

The fact is that we have a life-saving, life-improving health care system that is accessible for all, and we have invested every single year as a government to further improve access and quality of health care here in Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

H&W: NOVA SCOTIANS - NURSE PRACTITIONER/DOCTOR

KARLA MACFARLANE: March 12th, during our legislative sitting, I had to correct the Minister of Health and Wellness when he claimed that the Province had, and I quote - this will be tabled - his words: "attached over 180,000 patients to doctors." I asked him to correct that statement, and he did not. It was not until I asked him in Estimates that he actually corrected.

I will quote his words in Estimates: In terms of the patients that are attached, the member is correct. Some of those would include nurse practitioners. The vast majority of them are with a family physician, though, so a smaller number would be attached to a nurse practitioner as their primary care provider, but the majority of that would be to a family doctor.

Those are his words. My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness: Will the minister tell the House clearly and accurately how many Nova Scotians have been attached to a nurse practitioner and how many have been attached to a doctor?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: We will get that precise number for the member, but this is by design. We need to increase access points, not just to family practitioners but also to other health care providers, like nurse practitioners. This is something that Nova Scotians have asked for. This is a good news story. The fact that we've been able to expand the scope of practice for nurse practitioners has allowed us to attach more patients to more primary health providers.

This is particularly important, considering that the volume of patients that doctors are looking at taking on nowadays has shifted, so we do need to create these additional access points to primary care.

I'm actually quite proud of the fact that we've expanded our scope of practice for nurse practitioners and are using them more in the system, because in my close to 11 years in politics, that is one of the key things that Nova Scotians have been asking for.

[2:45 p.m.]

KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, there is no good news story with over 60,000 people waiting for a doctor, when in 2013 this government promised a doctor for every Nova Scotian.

During those same Estimates in that session, I would like to quote the minister again, and that was tabled earlier:

“Patients are offered the choice to receive the care of a nurse practitioner but they can, as well, as in your case, the patient could say no, and wait on the list for a family physician. This is a choice that is being offered to Nova Scotians. The fact that people are taking this up shows that the public has confidence in our nurse practitioners.”

I find that very sad that the Minister of Health and Wellness thinks this is the reality that all Nova Scotians live in. Describing the decision between having no primary care or a nurse practitioner is unfair to call a choice.

Look, we all love our nurse practitioners. I love mine, but there are people who cannot wait to receive primary care.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Is he comfortable telling Nova Scotians who need primary care that they have a choice between a nurse practitioner or waiting who knows how long for a doctor?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, I think that having the choice of a nurse practitioner to be attached to a primary care provider is a very important and good choice for Nova Scotians. It is clear that many Nova Scotians are making that choice.

We have attached over 180,000 patients here in Nova Scotia to a primary care provider. We have dropped the number of unattached patients every single year, with the exception of this past year.

If you look into the reasons why the number has gone up this part year, there are two primary reasons: (1) 30 per cent of those 60,000 indicated through survey that they are either new to the province or new to the community they are living in. So we have had an influx of new people moving into this province. That has been well documented. Anyone who is selling real estate right now understands that reality.

That is a positive story and we'll continue to work to attach every new Nova Scotian, every Nova Scotian that moves to primary care providers - and that includes family

doctors, that includes nurse practitioners and it also includes expanding the scope of practice and access to other primary care providers, like pharmacists.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

PREM.: E. FRY AND COVERDALE - FUNDING

CLAUDIA CHENDER; Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Recently, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia announced they had cut their funding to community organizations by 20 per cent across the board. This included cuts to programs offered by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia and the Coverdale Courtwork Society, both of whom work with criminalized women, girls, and gender-diverse folks from communities made vulnerable by structural inequalities.

Recently, the Elizabeth Fry Society and Coverdale Courtwork Society wrote to the Minister of Justice to ask him to address the need for funding for their essential frontline work, and he has not responded.

My question to the Premier is: Will the Premier commit to providing increased provincial funding to ensure that services offered by these organizations are not cut?

THE PREMIER: I certainly want to thank those organizations for the good work they do for women and other vulnerable groups across the province. I'll continue to do what I can to support them, as someone who has a mother who worked in one of the only facilities - I think the only Atlantic Canadian facility - for women who have issues with substance abuse. I'll continue to support any organization that has those aspirations to help those who are most impacted by the things in society that damage them and their families.

I'll continue to do my best, and I'll have that conversation with my minister.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I thank the Premier for his answer. Coverdale Courtwork Society and Elizabeth Fry Society were federally funded to provide housing and wraparound services to people released from custody last Spring, when the pandemic hit. When that federal funding was ending, the Deputy Minister of Justice wrote to her counterparts across government, urging the Province to provide financial support. The Deputy Minister requested approval and help from the Department of Finance and Treasury Board to distribute these funds without delay. This request was not supported, and I'll table that.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier explain why government has refused to provide funding to the non-profit organizations it relies upon to provide the necessary supports to people released from custody and into the community during COVID-19?

THE PREMIER: Government does need to be there for organizations that fill those voids that aren't supported in community. We need to make sure that we have programs in place. I'll endeavour to look at the correspondence personally myself, and then we'll see how we can help.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North. The honourable member seems to be muted.

The honourable member for Cumberland South.

H&W: ALL SAINTS HOSPITAL - DIALYSIS SERVICES

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. In 2017, the two local Kidney Foundation of Canada chapters raised the issue of the state of dialysis in the All Saints Hospital. The facility had four chairs at the time in various states of repair, as outlined in an article by Saltwire that I will table right now. The Springhill dialysis clinic needs to be upgraded. That means that only about 16 patients a week can be treated at the facility. The rest needed to travel elsewhere. For people in my area, that travel means that it takes them to Moncton.

My question for the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Does the minister know how many people travel to Moncton on a regular basis for dialysis, and how much the Province is paying New Brunswick to provide these services?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: I can get that information for the member.

TORY RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, COVID-19 has made people keenly aware of the services provided in their local areas. Moreover, people understood and adhered to the travel restrictions that sometimes included cities and higher-risk areas during the pandemic.

However, for life-saving reasons, people had to risk travelling to Moncton for life-saving procedures three times a week and were forced to live with the ever-changing status of interprovincial travel. A lot of this could have been addressed if the government had simply acted years ago.

My question for the minister is: Will the minister commit today to the upgrades that were spoken of by two ministers past regarding dialysis seats at All Saints Hospital in Springhill and commit that those much-needed seats will be upgraded and secured in this hospital for the years to come?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Of course, I am in conversations with staff around the demand and pressure on our dialysis system and discussing strategies in terms of a response to meet that demand.

There are other communities in the province that did not have timely access to dialysis. We have expanded our dialysis program pretty significantly to those communities to make sure that more Nova Scotians who previously didn't have access to dialysis in their communities do have access points.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

H&W: NORTHSIDE GEN. HOSP. EMERG. DEPT. - CLOSURES

MURRAY RYAN: My question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. The latest report on emergency department closures has revealed a disturbing statistic for the only emergency department in my constituency. Northside General Hospital's emergency department was only open for 792 hours in 2019/2020. This emergency department was only open 9 per cent of the time, Mr. Speaker. Since this emergency department is only open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., that's about 99 days per year.

Since last March, this emergency department has been closed due to the reallocating of resources for COVID-19, and we have no idea when it will reopen.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Why were Northside residents subjected to such restricted access to emergency services?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, we do have emergency services that are available outside of the emergency department through our ambulatory system and through our crisis line. Those options remain available to Nova Scotians.

We are at the early stages of transforming what health care looks like in Cape Breton. We've invested in the most significant infrastructure projects for the island in living memory. These are going to create new state-of-the-art facilities that will help us deal with, I believe, issues of recruitment and issues of finding emergency room doctors to practice.

That's also accompanied by the changes in compensation. We have brought in increased pay for emergency doctors to incentivize their work, particularly in departments where we have a hard time finding the doctor complement to practise. I believe that these changes over time are going to transform what the emergency and the health care system look like in Cape Breton.

MURRAY RYAN: The drive to the closest emergency room at the Northside General Hospital is at least 20 minutes away. The Fitch report discussed the importance of patient outcomes all over response times, but I worry about the Province adding on an extra 20 minutes of transportation time to the closest emergency room.

My constituents are concerned that the Nova Scotia Health Authority is using COVID-19 to reallocate this emergency department on a permanent basis to the Cape Breton Regional Hospital. The minister just spoke about the health care redevelopment plan here in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. That plan is laid out as a five-year timeline. Over that five-year timeline, the emergency department at Northside General Hospital is supposed to remain open.

My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness: Will he commit to a timely reopening of Northside General Hospital's emergency department?

ZACH CHURCHILL: I can certainly investigate the issue with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, which oversees the operations of our system, and get some specific reasons from them in terms of why they're having a hard time finding the doctor complement to keep that facility open.

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

DCS: CAPE BRETON FOOD BANKS - ACCESS

ALANA PAON: Prior to COVID-19, Nova Scotia food banks saw a 5 per cent increase in new clients, which is reflective of Nova Scotia having the highest rate of severe food insecurity in Canada. One in three children in Cape Breton still lives in poverty and children make up 30 per cent of those accessing food banks in Nova Scotia.

I wish to thank Feed Nova Scotia for their ongoing efforts in assisting food banks. However, most small rural Cape Breton food banks are not included in their network. Therefore, they did not receive the same access to COVID-19 relief funding, and they continue to rely solely on community fundraising, donations, and small municipal grants.

With the new budget entitled Equity for Everyone, can the honourable Premier please indicate how he will ensure fair access to provincial resources for all food banks in rural Cape Breton?

HON. KELLY REGAN: There is no doubt that food insecurity continues to be an issue for Nova Scotians. That's why we were so very pleased to increase the Income Assistance rates by \$100 per adult in this current budget.

We have seen some investments in some of those smaller food banks over the COVID-19 period. During COVID-19, we did reach out to Feed Nova Scotia to offer them extra assistance because it was just simply difficult to buy food at the time. We also reached out to the small food banks around the province to ensure that they had additional money too so that they could serve their particular clients.

ALANA PAON: I thank the honourable minister for the answer, although I believe my question was directed to the Premier.

I would ask, on an ongoing basis: What will be made available? When you see the demand for meal programs is up 15 per cent since the pandemic began - which is not surprising, since the cost of food has gone up 33 per cent compared to last year - food banks anticipate demand will grow as temporary COVID-19 benefits are going to end. Food banks outside of the Feed Nova Scotia network are least likely to be able to accommodate a tidal wave of new clients.

When I asked about food security last February, I was advised by the Minister of Agriculture, goals were set in the past and we're going to put a system in place. Mr. Speaker, a goal without a plan is just a wish. I will ask again of the Minister of Agriculture: What's planned and how long is it going to actually be to see a long-term plan to increase food security in Nova Scotia?

[3:00 p.m.]

HON. KEITH COLWELL: Mr. Speaker, as the member well knows, we have a very proactive program going on within our farming community and also in our market community to put more local food on the shelves, more local food in the hands of the people of Nova Scotia. That is going very well, and this year we will see a significant change - as we did last year with COVID-19 - local food in people's hands in Nova Scotia, which is critical for the economy and for food security.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

H&W: DARTMOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - UPDATE

TIM HALMAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. I asked in 2018 regarding residents from Dartmouth in psychiatric distress being brought to the Dartmouth General, ". . . what good is a 911 service if people in crisis are taken to a hospital that doesn't have the treatment they need immediately?"

That will be tabled. This is because in 2018, there was no emergency psychiatric support at the Dartmouth General. There is no psychiatric staff directly staffed or assigned to the Dartmouth General. They do not see patients in the ER.

Here we are, three years later, still in the exact same situation. I'm going to ask the same question I asked in 2018: What good is a 911 service if people in crisis are taken to a hospital that does not have the treatment they need immediately?

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: The benefits of the 911 service, I think, are fairly obvious. It does save lives. It does get people, the majority of time, to the areas in our

emergency response system where they can be served. We do trust the paramedics and the clinicians who oversee that system to make the best call they can in the moment.

TIM HALMAN: Certainly the government has indicated that they have made some investments in mental health, but those investments need to go into the areas in which we have the identified gaps.

We clearly have that identified gap here in Dartmouth, where we don't have a full-time staffing of psychiatric services at the ER. We know there have been incidents where those who have called 911 have gone to the ER at the Dartmouth General only to have to be taken to the QEII. This government needs to recognize that we need a universal mental health approach in this province, as outlined by the PC Caucus.

My question is this: When will the residents of Dartmouth get the mental health services they deserve and need?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Mental health supports have been expanded each and every year. Wait times to access mental health have been cut exponentially here in this province. Last year, we hired over 35 new clinicians to the system. This year we do have the largest mental health budget that the province has ever had. The overall percentage has dropped marginally, and that's because of the major dollars going into COVID-19 vaccination and our long-term care facilities, which I believe is close to \$400 million between them.

We have expanded mental health services further in this budget with e-mental health services for single sessions for the non-acute, non-urgent cases, and by extending services for sexual assault trauma, and addictions as well.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

TAAT: NEW ALBANY ROAD - IMPROVE

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I hope my question today will be familiar to the Minister of Transportation and Active Transit, since I have contacted his department several times. I'm referring to Albany New Road in North Queens. The minister should know that community members have long considered the road to be a hazard. I'm sorry to report that the Albany New Road is in the worst condition it has ever been.

My question for the minister is: When will he move to make the needed investment to improve Albany New Road?

HON. LLOYD HINES: We are constantly working our plans to improve the road system throughout the province. That road is in our system. We're aware of it, and I would be happy to get an update and let the member know just where it's at now.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

HON. PAT DUNN: Mr. Speaker, I want to take the next few minutes and say a few words in reply.

It appears the budget contains modest, gradual increased funding for some of Nova Scotia's most disturbing problems. However, it also appears that they decided to spread a few dollars to many other areas - amounts that probably will not make a big difference.

There's often a shortfall between a citizen's expectations of government and what government actually delivers. I think of all the constituents who arrive at my office and their various concerns. That's what I wanted to see in the budget.

We have the inability or lack of desire by government to help citizens in need, regardless of if it is a subsidy to assist them with their rent or monthly obligations; someone attempting to put a roof over their head; a single mother with a couple of small children, unable to provide for the family; a senior having to travel a great distance to receive their dialysis treatment or pain treatments - the list goes on.

Often it comes down to a departmental policy that offers no flexibility for the person falling through the cracks: income caps that fall outside the eligibility for government funding by as little as \$50, or forcing the constituent who must make three trips in one week away from their immediate community to receive life-saving medical treatments on their own dime. It forces these individuals to choose between eating properly, paying necessary bills - often rent - or going to get this treatment. That is the reality of many of our fellow Nova Scotians. There is no sustainable help for these people.

Imagine dealing with a condition or disease while you are worried about keeping a roof over your head and food on the table - and very often we are talking about members of our senior population. We've reached the point in our province where the demand for public housing has so surpassed available spots that we are in a critical situation. There is no other issue that trumps affordable housing in our constituency of Pictou Centre, with the exception of health issues. Daily we have met with individuals in real jeopardy of becoming homeless. This is affecting all sectors of our vulnerable population: young people, single parents, and certainly our seniors with no place to go.

We have year-long wait-lists on actual public housing units, and equally long, if not longer, lists for the possibility of rent subsidies. We have situations where individuals have been granted the subsidy and still there are no places available in the market to rent for what they are able to pay. This is truly a critical situation.

In many cases, regulations can definitely have unintended costs when they become outdated or inconsistent with the original purpose of policy objectives.

With reference to health issues, if there was ever a time when we needed a government of action, it is now. We do not need sound bites. We need action. We need a government that will stand up for Nova Scotians and demand, not ask for, more health care dollars. We need a government to deal with wait times of over 1,000 days for surgery, more than 60,000 Nova Scotians requiring a doctor, and one-year wait for assistance with mental health and addictions.

Will anyone find solutions to the above issues in the Speech from the Throne? Did the government's blueprint indicate a plan going forward to help Nova Scotians? A government that will improve surgical wait times? A government that will find real ways to recruit and retain doctors and other medical specialists, and create a humane and compassionate plan to correct the long-term care crisis? Imagine, 288 days for breast cancer surgery, 1,054 days for knee replacement surgery, 399 days to receive prostate surgery.

These are the important things that Nova Scotians want to hear in the Speech from the Throne. They want to see a government that will put Nova Scotians first, a government that will put patients first, a government that will provide timely access to specialists, timely access to primary care if needed. That's what ordinary Nova Scotians want.

Nova Scotia spends a great deal of money on health care, closing in on half of our entire budget. However, it's 35 per cent higher than the national average.

It has never been so evident that government requires a plan to address the health needs of Nova Scotians. Our Party has unveiled several practical and affordable plans. It is necessary to examine the human resource framework of our health system.

We have health staff often responsible for too many residents in long-term care facilities. It is very common to have one staff member responsible for every 12 residents. Our recommendation is 4.1 hours of care per resident each day.

We're all aware that long-term care facilities have been crying for years for more staff. We need a government that will create a plan, a blueprint.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we're tired of sound bites - a doctor for every Nova Scotian, one former Minister of Health and Wellness stating that help for patients suffering from mental health issues in Pictou County had never been better off in regard to present assistance available. Talk about a sound bite. That simply is not true. It has basically been very hurtful and disrespectful to the residents of Pictou County.

This government has had seven years to improve the health system. The end result is a province in a health crisis. Nova Scotians require quick access to primary care. On the other hand, we can have pride and self-satisfaction that we have outstanding health professionals working across our province. We have many exceptional, caring doctors and nurses and other health care providers. Every day they perform extraordinary work under trying circumstances.

So, what's the problem? The problem is trying to get into the system. The fact is that if you can get into the system, you will receive incredible, second-to-none care.

Access to primary health care is the most important issue in our province. Is the government concerned that over 50 per cent of our doctors are over 50 years of age, that 31 per cent of our doctors wish to retire in approximately one year? Meanwhile there is a very limited attempt by government to recruit and retain doctors.

It is time to explore ideas that are creative and unusual and that are not limited or controlled by rules or traditions - basically to think outside the box. A sign they had the opportunity to be progressive, proactive and visionary. A good government would have made this their top priority in 2013. Over seven years later, Nova Scotians are still waiting for a reasonable, solid plan to address this issue.

Perhaps we can begin by engaging doctors and other health care professionals. It is certainly a wise thing to listen to frontline workers prior to making decisions. Be on time and show respect for our medical professionals and review their remuneration. No wonder we are losing medical personnel to other parts of Canada and across the border. No question that the culture of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness has to change immediately - basically put the brakes on and take an internal review of what's really happening.

Mr. Speaker, I know of one young family physician from Nova Scotia who studied in another part of Canada and applied to take his ER training here in Nova Scotia, with the

thoughts of remaining here in the province, and he didn't even receive a reply from his application. He didn't even receive the courtesy of a reply in that location, to someone who was willing to come back to his home province.

Nova Scotians are very tired of hearing this government saying we have more doctors per capita than any other province in Canada. We all know this is very misleading. That's an attempt to give Nova Scotians the wrong impression. It is deceptive and confusing. While the value of family physicians in our health care system is significant, we have numerous doctors not involved in managing patients. Instead, many doctors prefer a career such as health care consultant, insurance medicine, corporate physician positions, medical research, medical writers, and others. These doctors should not be included in the ratio.

[3:15 p.m.]

Nova Scotia has lost 114 doctors over the past few years, and this dilemma is at an accelerating pace. The influx of doctors entering Nova Scotia is definitely overshadowed by the out-migration of our medical professionals. A great deal of uncertainty exists in the ranks.

Mr. Speaker, the government does not realize there is a different mindset with our doctors today. Doctors are not willing to continue their work if things are not reasonable. They do not want to be in situations where they are experiencing burnout. Therefore, they either look at other options locally or move onwards.

I did not see any sign of a plan to address child and youth obesity, issues like high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma. Our youth need help and direction, and that action is needed now. We need more preventive measures from across several departments, such as Education and Early Childhood Development, Health and Wellness, Community Services, and Justice, for our youth. The national average for obesity is 12 per cent, and it is currently 15 per cent in Nova Scotia.

Additional programs and intervention methods are required to assist our youth. Avoiding addressing critical topics such as obesity and smoking is unhelpful and harmful to Nova Scotians. We cannot stand by and be proud that we have the highest rate of smoking in the country at 17.8 per cent. It is just a great burden to our health system, the issues of smoking and obesity.

We have many Nova Scotians unable to acquire sufficient care for mental health and addictions from lack of resources and personnel. I strongly believe this major issue requires a separate department. The Province desperately needs to focus their attention on this matter. We have too many Nova Scotians falling through the cracks. Imagine having a constituent in your office suffering from mental health issues, and you know there is absolutely no opportunity for you to arrange a meeting with a psychiatrist.

We need a universal program. Unfortunately, we have many Nova Scotians who cannot afford to pay for the help they need. Basically, we have a two-tiered system. No one is available to help with the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of their particular mental disorder. On the other hand, Nova Scotians who can afford it will receive better care and quicker access. Imagine: in many cases, it is 18 months to see a psychiatrist.

It is beyond time to stop ignoring this critical issue. This province has many highly trained professionals, counsellors, psychologists, and private psychiatrists.

Our Party would definitely change the building code to assist Nova Scotians who need help, and I would strongly recommend the government having a look at this idea.

This will cost. However, by ignoring the issue, the cost becomes much higher - a tremendous loss of job productivity. The service is just simply inadequate. Nine to five, Monday to Friday is insufficient for someone in a crisis. Mental health breakdowns occur at any time of the day or week. We should have a three-digit number for people in mental health crisis. We need an open system 24/7.

Talking about disappointments, residents of Pictou County waited with great anticipation, hoping they would finally hear they were receiving additional dialysis chairs. We were overlooked during the last rollout - six dialysis projects in Nova Scotia, but once again Pictou County was ignored. The dialysis population is growing rapidly and, in particular, with low-income Nova Scotians.

The government stated that dialysis is a life-saving treatment, and that is the reason they are continuing to improve access to the treatment. We have four chairs at the Pictou hospital and they always have a waiting list. As a result, elderly patients find themselves heading three times a week to Antigonish, Truro, or Halifax for their treatments. Shame on this government for treating dialysis patients in Pictou County in such a way.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The time allotted for the member's comments has expired.

Before we break for our 15-minute COVID-19, just to remind all members that there was a new link sent around for those participating virtually in the Subcommittee of the Whole.

The motion is carried. The House will now resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole, and the House will resume at 3:35 p.m. after its mandated 15-minute COVID-19 break.

[3:20 p.m. The House resolved itself into a CW on Supply with Hon. Geoff MacLellan in the Chair.]

[8:28 p.m. CW on Supply rose and the House reconvened. Deputy Speaker Susan Leblanc resumed 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 some progress and begs leave to sit again.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Madam Speaker, this concludes government business for today. I move that the House do now rise to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, March 31, 2021, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Of course with tomorrow being Opposition Day, I will in a moment ask the Acting Official Opposition House Leader to provide tomorrow's agenda. For the government business following the moment of interruption, our business will include the Committee of the Whole House on Bills to consider Bill Nos. 1, 9, and 23.

I would also note, Madam Speaker, that the Committee on Law Amendments will sit tomorrow morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Acting Official Opposition House Leader.

BARBARA ADAMS: Madam Speaker, following the daily routine and Question Period, Opposition business tomorrow will include Bill No. 48, the Health Services and Insurance Act; and Bill No. 69, the Seniors' Dignity Act.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is to adjourn and to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, March 31st, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

We stand adjourned until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

[The House rose at 8:30 p.m.]

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 286**

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Andre Haines has dedicated over 30 years of his life contributing to the arts sector in Nova Scotia and helping to teach the next generation of artists and musicians; and

Whereas Andre, while teaching at Acadia University and the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, and during countless private lessons has helped many students follow their passions into pursuing a higher education in the arts; and

Whereas thousands of Andre's paintings hang on the walls of Nova Scotia homes and businesses, creating excitement and conversation;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Andre Haines for contributing a life of artistic work to Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 287

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Anne Ojoleck Crisp, owner of Crisp's Beauty Salon, 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 community members of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Anne Ojoleck Crisp by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 288

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 Bruce Dale Schofield of River Bourgeois deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 289

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Catherine MacLellan of East Bay 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 Catherine MacLellan by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 290

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Delbert Philip Deveau of L'Ardoise deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 291

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Donald Wesley Samson 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 Donald Wesley Samson having his name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 292

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Emerise Eva Gagnon of St. Peter's, formerly of L'Ardoise, deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 293

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 294

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Joseph Robert Jones of Three Island Cove deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on his family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 295

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Marie Elizabeth Martell of Rockdale deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 296

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Mary Adelia (Delia) Landry of St. Peter's, formerly of River Bourgeois, deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Mary Adelia (Delia) Landry by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 297

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Mary Ann Marshall of Potlotek deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Mary Ann Marshall by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 298

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Mary Louise 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 her family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Mary Louise Boudreau by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 299

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Mary Pauline Falconer (Boudreau) of Cape Auguet 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 community members of Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Mary Pauline Falconer (Boudreau) by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.

RESOLUTION NO. 300

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

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

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

Whereas Sister Marie Fougère, f.j. (Camilla-Marie), formerly of Poulamon, deserves all the respect and honour we have to give for a life that touched so many people and left a lasting impression on her family and community; and

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

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly honour and commemorate the life of Sister Marie Fougère, f.j. (Camilla-Marie) by having her name forever written as historical record in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly.