



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Kevin Murphy

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Third Session

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

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House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

Sixty-third General Assembly

Third Session

9:30 A.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Kevin Murphy

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Keith Bain, Susan Leblanc

THE SPEAKER: Order, please.

Before we begin the daily routine, due to the delay in start time I will ask for unanimous consent of all members that we go until 10:30 a.m. with the daily routine.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

Thank you very much.

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition, the operative clause which is:

“we, the undersigned, ask the Province of NS to work with NS Health to ensure stable and permanent satellite mental health and addictions services at accessible locations in the community of Dartmouth North.”

There are 305 signatures and I have affixed my own, according to the Rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition, the operative clause being:

“We, the undersigned residents of Black Rock/Table Head Road, call upon the Province of Nova Scotia for immediate action for all necessary improvements to the paved section as well as the gravel section of the road to provide a safe surface, which our community deserves.”

The petition contains 106 signatures, and I have also affixed mine as per the Rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table a petition, the operative clause of which is:

“We, the undersigned, call upon the provincial government to re-establish rent control in Nova Scotia, now.”

There are 274 signatures on this petition, and I have affixed my own signature according to the Rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Victoria-The Lakes.

KEITH BAIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table a petition, the operative clause being:

“We, the undersigned, residents of Southside Boularderie, call upon the Province of Nova Scotia for immediate action for all necessary improvements to the paved section as well as the gravelled section of the above-listed road to provide a safe surface, which our community deserves.”

The petition contains 193 signatures, and I have affixed mine as per the Rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie.

HON. LLOYD HINES: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition with the operative clause:

“We, the undersigned citizens of the communities of Canso, Little Dover, Tickle, Hazel Hill and Fox Island, request that due to environmental, health and economic concerns, the Government of Nova Scotia cease any support of the MLS Canso Spaceport.”

The petition contains 409 names, and according to the Rules of the House, I have affixed my name.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, once we receive a copy of that petition - I'll accept it now under advisement, and we'll come back with the confirmation of tabling later on, once we receive that from the honourable member.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

HON. IAIN RANKIN (The Premier): Mr. Speaker, today we mark a solemn anniversary and remember our fellow Nova Scotians who lost their lives on April 18 and 19, 2020.

Together we remember Tom Bagley, Kristen Beaton, Greg Blair, Jamie Blair, Joy Bond, Peter Bond, Lillian Campbell Hyslop, Corrie Ellison, Gina Goulet, Alanna Jenkins, Sean McLeod, Dawn Madsen, Frank Gulenchyn, Lisa McCully, Heather O'Brien, Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck, Emily Tuck, Heidi Stevenson, Elizabeth Thomas, John Zahl, and Joey Webber.

Mr. Speaker, following comments from the members opposite, I ask that all members of the Legislature join together in two minutes of silence to remember and honour those we lost one year ago. We will never forget.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

TIM HOUSTON: Mr. Speaker, I join the Premier in remembering Tom Bagley, Kristen Beaton, baby Beaton, Greg Blair, Jamie Blair, Joy Bond, Peter Bond, Corrie Ellison, Gina Goulet, Frank Gulenchyn, Dawn Gulenchyn, Lillian Campbell Hyslop, Alanna Jenkins, Sean McLeod, Lisa McCully, Heather O'Brien, Const. Heidi Stevenson, Elizabeth Joanne Thomas, Aaron Tuck, Emily Tuck, Jolene Oliver, Joey Webber, and John Zahl.

We offer our deepest condolences to the families, friends, and neighbours, who loved and were loved by those taken from us. We are heartbroken as a province, as a nation, and we are thinking of the families and those left behind today. We are with you in spirit.

As impossible as it is for us to begin to imagine the pain of this tragedy and the emptiness that the families feel - these are truly holes that will never be filled. As impossible as it is for us to truly imagine that we share in the pain and the memories of a year of agonizing firsts - that first missing birthday smile, that first empty Christmas season.

Still today we weep as we remember the impact of the tragedy, but we know the families remember that last contact - the last smile, the last hug, the last conversation. We know those memories are very vivid today. We just ask the families to please take solace in knowing that the entire province - truly the entire country - continues to stand with you.

We have cried with you. We have honoured your loved ones and tried to offer our respect in the ways that we know how as Nova Scotians, From bagpipe tributes to the hanging and the wearing of tartan, to holding online sing-a-longs and hanging Nova Scotia Strong signs from one end of this province to the other - literally, every corner of this province. I hope that you have felt the love and support. We will continue as a province and as a nation to support you in the ways that we can.

We also today must recognize those who are not lost but are changed. We, of course, think of our first responders and their efforts and what they experienced on that day. We think of all of those Bluenosers who are forever changed.

We join the Premier and the members of this House in saying to Nova Scotians and to the families in particular, we support you and we will do what Nova Scotians do - we will remain united and we will remain Nova Scotia Strong.

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

GARY BURRILL: I will add, but briefly, to the gracious reflections of my colleagues and to their solemn reading of these names. I am sure that they feel, as I feel and everyone feels, the poverty of our words, even of our thoughts, before the depth of what we have been marking these past two days in Nova Scotia.

The scriptural tradition I come from has a word for the place in life where we have found ourselves throughout this year in our province - the word "lamentation" after the manner of the Hebrew prophet, Nehemiah, who when he received tragic word of parallel proportions amongst his own people, offered no analysis and no explanations, but said simply, "When I heard these words, I sat down and wept."

There is no shortage of things to weep for - extending in concentric circles from the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken, to all those connected to them through the rich latticework of relationships that makes up the pattern of culture and connection in Nova Scotia, to those for whom the doors of past sorrow have been reopened by what has happened, to all those for whom a deadly chronicle with intimate partner violence at its centre rings darkly resonant with trauma they have themselves endured.

As we mark today the moment of this year's completion, it is ours to step forward tentatively and hold up a lantern before this loss. Although we know the light is little, there are nevertheless things of significance that it brings within our vision. We see and we mark appreciatively today the extraordinary courage and conviction of these families who, out of the midst of mourning, fought for, insisted upon, and won the public inquiry that has taken form in the Mass Casualty Commission.

[9:45 a.m.]

We see, too, the respected capability of that commission towards which we may turn with confidence that every ounce of possible usefulness or help that can be drawn from their investigation will be lifted up and put forward with a compelling case for action.

We see the people of our province moved to fill the windows of their homes with flags and supportive slogans and hearts; moved to take part in memorial walks and runs and drives and shared silent standing moments, testimony all to the compassion and solidarity of Nova Scotia.

Modest lights, I know, in the face of the magnitude of April 18 and 19, 2020's darkness. Let us mark the truth, that such light has always been and is today an authentic path and road to hope.

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

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on this most solemn occasion, almost unspeakable, really, to think about what happened a year ago today.

A life as we knew it in Nova Scotia dramatically changed when one person made a decision that forever impacted so many lives and so many families. Those 22 innocent lives lost were fathers, mothers, and children. They were community business owners and they were volunteers. They had people they loved and who loved them, and they had lives and a future which were stolen from them.

There have been so many tributes, so many special memories shared, and so many community supports that have resulted from this tragedy. That is the way of Nova Scotians. The most poignant tribute, to me, and it will forever be, was Cape Breton's Natalie MacMaster playing a duet with 17-year-old Emily Tuck posthumously. It's heartbreaking to know this beautiful and talented young woman's life, and all other lives lost that day, were senselessly extinguished.

May the victims rest in peace, and their families and first responders, who responded to the call of duty that day, continue to receive the love and the support they need and the answers they seek.

On behalf of the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond, Mr. Speaker, we will remember them, we will rise again, and we are Nova Scotia strong.

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

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues, and on behalf of the residents of Chester-St. Margaret's, we're remembering those who were lost to us in the tragic events of one year ago. May they rest in peace.

We also keep in our hearts and in our minds the loved ones they left behind. May they also find peace in holding close the memory of their loved ones.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

I would now ask that all members, both those present in the Chamber and those participating virtually, to rise as we observe a full two minutes of silence in honour of those people lost at Portapique and their families.

[Two minutes of silence was observed.]

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

RESOLUTION NO. 709

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that the following motion be adopted without notice pursuant to Rule No. 32(5) of the House of Assembly Rules and Forms of Procedure.

Be it resolved that all congratulatory motions deposited with the Clerk pursuant to Rule No. 32(3) of the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly from March 9, 2021, to the rising of the House today that have not been otherwise considered by the House of Assembly, be approved.

THE SPEAKER: All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

RESOLUTION NO. 710

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

Whereas the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, supporting Nova Scotian, Acadian, and francophone students across the province; and

Whereas the CSAP plays a vital role in the sustainability of Acadian and francophone language and culture; and

Whereas the CSAP helps young people to build strong networks and communities that increase their sense of belonging to their language and culture, while being fully supported in their well-being and academic achievement;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Legislature celebrate the CSAP's 25th anniversary and recognize its important role in supporting and continuing to support the success of Nova Scotians, Acadian, and francophone children and 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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 132 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 393 of the Revised Statutes of 1989. The Regulations Act. (Alana Paon)

Bill No. 133 - Entitled an Act to Amend the Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly. (Alana Paon)

Bill No. 134 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 469 of the Revised Statutes of 1989 - The Time Definition Act. (Alana Paon)

Bill No. 135 - Entitled an Act Respecting the Rights of Patients. (Alana Paon)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

EIBI PROG. FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN: INTERRUPTION OF SERVICES - CONCERNING

GARY BURRILL: I wish to register today the great concern of our Party about the interruption of services in the Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention Program (EIBI) due to a lack of staff resources related to COVID-19.

EIBI is the standard for children on the autism spectrum in the period before entering school, and the current restrictions in its duration and availability stand to have lifelong consequences for those young people who are affected.

Ishbel Munro is a Tatamagouche grandmother of a grandson with ASD who had been registered for EIBI at a young age. His program has recently been interrupted and, out of her concern for what this means, Ishbel has undertaken a Facebook campaign generating support for increased funding for services for children on the autism spectrum.

She has forwarded copies of the 6,000 virtual signatures to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, and the minister has not yet responded to her. I will table a copy of the document Ishbel forwarded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and it is to be hoped that the minister will respond soon.

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

BAKER, WINFRED: 100th BIRTHDAY - BEST WISHES

BILL HORNE: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to rise to congratulate a dedicated community volunteer. One hundred years ago on April 16, 1921, Winfred V. Baker was born. Winfred Baker is a veteran of World War II, founded an air cadet squadron, held office with the Royal Canadian Legion, was active in church affairs, and was past president of the Canadian Industrial Arts Teachers Association.

In 1984, Winfred joined the Fall River Friendly Group Seniors. He was president and led the group to form a Fall River Historical Society and publish their first history book. Winfred regularly visited elementary schools to talk with the students and took a Red Cross course to teach exercise to keep seniors mobile. It was only last year, at 99, that Winfred stopped attending the local meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House to join me in wishing Winfred Baker a very wonderful 100th birthday and offering him best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

THE 3 SISTAS: COM. FUNDRAISING - THANKS

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the fundraising efforts of Queens County residents Susan Levey, Dottie Hatt, and Judi Maillet, or as many know them, The 3 Sistas.

These ladies have fundraised a great deal over the years and started by donating money from refundables to various charities like Crohn's and Colitis Canada, Diabetes Canada, the IWK, and the SPCA. The Sistas then began painting together and decided to offer their beautiful artwork for sale, with the proceeds going to a wonderful local cause,

the Queens Universally Designed Play Park. In 2019 they donated \$110, in 2020 they raised \$315, and this year so far they have raised \$142.

[10:00 a.m.]

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our community, I would like to sincerely thank Susan, Dottie, and Judi for their generosity. They modestly state that it is just a small way that they can help, but their efforts make a large impact.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

SAVE LITTLE HBR./OWLS HEAD: DELISTING DECISION - CHALLENGE

LISA ROBERTS: Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize citizens who are organizing to save Owls Head. Their Facebook group surpassed 5,000 members in the last few days.

Members of the group have also fundraised to fund a legal case that seeks to challenge the secret process that resulted in Owls Head being disposed of as a Crown asset and protected area for all Nova Scotians.

We have asked in this Chamber what would prevent this government from following a similar secret process to transfer dozens of other special places considered to be provincial parks, nature reserves, and wilderness areas into private hands. We haven't had a satisfactory answer to that question.

The Natural Resources Strategy, which engaged thousands of citizen voices, should be held in higher regard than the voice of a former Cabinet member turned lobbyist working for wealthy clients.

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

BAYRIDES: IMPORTANT INITIATIVE - CONGRATS.

HUGH MACKAY: Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize BayRides on their new initiative to help people who are feeling especially isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. With help from the COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund and from the United Way, BayRides now offers a special transportation service to seniors, single parents, young people, and others without household vehicles. People who are without cars can now call BayRides to get out into the community while following all COVID-19 protocols.

Madam Speaker, I invite all the members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating and applauding BayRides on this important initiative to help vulnerable members of our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

**YTOWN QUARANTINE CHALLENGE GRP.:
LIFTING COM. SPIRIT - THANKS**

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Madam Speaker, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Yarmouth Town Councillor, now Deputy Mayor, Steve Berry, started the Ytown Quarantine Challenge Facebook group. This is an amazing initiative which brought our community together virtually during a time when we could not be together in person.

The Facebook group, with over 3,000 members, would frequently discuss fun and inspiring topics and take part in virtual challenges and good deeds. This group was responsible for lifting many spirits in our community during a time when this was very much needed.

I'd like to thank Yarmouth's Steve Berry for creating the Ytown Quarantine Challenge Facebook group and for always giving back to our community and inspiring others.

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

ZANN-ROLAND, MAIA: RESILIENCY AND GRACE - RECOG.

DAVE RITCEY: Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a strong and courageous young 17-year-old woman, Maia Zann-Roland. In 2019, Maia was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that resulted in surgery and months of chemo.

In September 2020, after learning that the cancer had returned and after another surgery, tests showed that the cancer had spread to her lungs and she was given only weeks to live.

Enduring numerous painful procedures and side effects, costly medicine has extended her time. Through she is palliative, she embraces life and lives each moment to the fullest. My eldest daughter, Addison, and I met Maia last Summer and she truly is an inspiration. Her story and strength have brought the community together to support her, her amazing parents, Tim and Tamara, and their family.

Today, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the members in the House to stand and recognize the resilience, grace, and strength that Maia has shown throughout this challenging time.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

**CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS:
PRESUMPTIVE COVERAGE FOR PTSD - EXPAND**

KENDRA COOMBES: Frontline child protection workers in Nova Scotia are facing record-level burnout rates, and short-term illness hours are on the rise. We have hundreds of frontline workers who are struggling with mental health issues because of their work.

Child protection workers are no different. They are engaging with parents and children on some of the worst days of their lives. These workers are exposed to families in distress and trauma on a daily basis. We need to be supporting them when we can.

Expanding presumptive coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder under the Workers' Compensation Act to include frontline child protection workers would acknowledge the toll this work takes on child protection workers and would allow them to have the same access to coverage provided to other first responders.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**STEVENS, SHAWN - RECIPIENT:
CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF COMMENDATION - RECOG.**

HON. SUZANNE LOHNES-CROFT: I wish to recognize Air Force reservist Shawn Stevens for receiving a Chief of Defence Staff Commendation.

Shawn, of Clearland, has been a military member for 19 years. He is a warrant officer with the 143rd Construction Engineering Flight based in Pine Grove. He is being recognized for coming to the aid of a police officer and mitigating a potentially dangerous situation.

During the Summer of 2018, he was working at a military recruitment display at the South Shore Exhibition when he saw the police officer being overpowered and assaulted by an individual. Shawn stepped in to assist the officer, which led to a safe arrest and no injuries. He was presented with the commendation last December. The honour recognizes individuals for going above and beyond their regular duties.

I wish to recognize Shawn Stevens and thank him for his quick and selfless actions.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**POLLEY, GRANT:
BACKYARD LIGHTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION - CONGRATS.**

KARLA MACFARLANE: They say that dreams can come true, and that is what has happened for Grant Polley of Abercrombie after building a 48-foot-tall lighthouse in his backyard.

A long-time admirer of lighthouses, Mr. Polley and his wife, Pat, have travelled the province visiting lighthouses. A construction worker all his life, building the structure by hand took five years of determination and nerves of steel.

Used currently as a workshop or a man cave, Mr. Polley plans to continue his work on the lighthouse so it can be used as a place for his daughters to stay when they come to visit and to be used as a bed and breakfast.

He is currently adding a spiral staircase to his lighthouse and has plans to build a 34-foot boat.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Polley on this wonderful accomplishment and the completion of his dream.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**HOPE BLOOMS AND OTHERS:
PROVIDING FOOD SUPPORT - RECOG.**

LISA ROBERTS: I want to acknowledge and congratulate Hope Blooms, who shared recently on Facebook that they have delivered almost 48,000 pounds of food to members and neighbours in the community - more than 200 people weekly over the past year. They acknowledge Community Food Centres Canada, United Way, Medavie Blue Cross, and Bell Aliant for their support, and a team of volunteers led by Dianne Hussey.

Hope Blooms is one of a number of community organizations in Halifax Needham that have really stepped up to ensure that people who need support with food have not gone hungry or lessened the degree to which they have gone hungry over the past year.

I want to also acknowledge Rotary Harbourside, Love Nova Scotia, St. George's YouthNet, Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, and Veith House, and I am sure that isn't an exhaustive list of the wonderful community organizations that have helped to address that need.

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

**DAY, PENNY AND PAULEY, GERALDINE:
UNSTINTING SERVICE - THANKS**

HUGH MACKAY: I rise today to recognize and thank two outstanding members of my office staff.

My constituency assistant, the indomitable Penny Day started this journey with me as my campaign manager in 2017. Penny was a significant factor in my electoral victory. She has, for the past four years, served my office and the constituents of Chester-St. Margaret's with distinction.

Ms. Geraldine Pauley, my research assistant, joined my office shortly after the 2017 election, having previously served as constituency assistant to a former MLA for Chester-St. Margaret's. Geraldine's knowledge of people and issues in the constituency has provided residents with an experienced and caring presence when they have reached out to us for assistance.

Madam Speaker, I invite all members of the House of Assembly to join me in recognizing and recognizing and thanking Penny Day and Geraldine Pauley for their unstinting service on behalf of the residents of beautiful Chester-St. Margaret's and to wish them the very best in their future endeavours.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford.

DHUNNA, RIMPLE AND KHALSA AID: COM. SERV. - THANKS

HON. KELLY REGAN: I would like to congratulate Bedford resident Rimple Dhunna on his involvement with Khalsa Aid, an international NGO that provides humanitarian relief in disaster and civil conflict zones around the world.

Here in Nova Scotia during the pandemic, Khalsa Aid mobilized help for Northwood and Magnolia Continuing Care frontline workers and those in need of PPE. They cooked meals for frontline workers and continued to deliver food for Feeding Others of Dartmouth.

Rimple notes that the name of this agency, Khalsa, is related to the Sikh celebration of Vaisakhi. It's marked in April as the birth of Khalsa as a warrior, who protected the innocent from persecution. It's a time to celebrate empathy, justice, courage, fortitude, and sovereignty.

I would like to thank Rimple Dhunna and Khalsa Aid for all they do to help those in need and to wish a happy Vaisakhi to all those of the Sikh faith here in Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings North.

**JASON'S INDEP. GROCERY, KENTVILLE:
MAINTAINING FOOD SUPPLY DURING PANDEMIC - THANKS**

JOHN LOHR: Madam Speaker, until the arrival of COVID-19, having a safe supply of good food and a clean, safe store to shop in was something many of us had taken for granted. All that changed with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic when, suddenly, our shopping experience was now a possible COVID-19 exposure hazard, and supply of food on our shelves was interrupted.

The fact that our store shelves were kept stocked and very few contracted COVID-19 while shopping is a tribute to the extraordinary efforts of all involved in supplying our food. Staff and management at Jason's Independent worked together and at great risk to provide that safe shopping experience. Truckers, farmers, and food producers kept on working despite personal risks. We all realized a new definition of essential worker, which included all those who helped supply food.

Today I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to recognize and thank Jason Blanchard and the staff of Jason's Independent grocery store in downtown Kentville for their efforts to put food on the shelves, work the checkout counters, and ensure that grocery shopping during COVID-19 was safe, continuous, and secure.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

OPTIONS HOMES: SUPPORTS NEEDED - RECOG.

KENDRA COOMBES: Madam Speaker, I wish to bring awareness to the crisis in group, residential, and community home options, as well as a need for more supports for families and persons with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder.

The wait times for these options have become so long that some families are being told by the Department of Community Services to consider giving up custody of their children to get them into residential or community homes with more supports than the parents can provide. To ask a parent to give up the parental rights means they no longer have decision-making rights. This makes it difficult for parents to advocate in their child's best interest. No parent should have to surrender their child to the Department of Community Services so they can be provided with the supports they need.

Madam Speaker, more supports and housing options are needed for children with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorder, as well as their families.

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

BOUCHER, EMMA ROLAND: 103rd BIRTHDAY - BONNE FÊTE

ALANA PAON: Madame le Président, je prends la parole aujourd'hui pour célébrer Emma Roland Boucher. Née Thériault à Arichat Ouest, Emma est devenue enseignante, épouse, mère, propriétaire d'entreprise, membre fondatrice de l'Auxiliaire de St-Anne et membre à vie de la Ligue des femmes catholiques de Notre Dame de l'Assomption.

Lors de la construction de la route au-dessus de la butte des Babin, un jeune Cornelius Boucher a conduit l'équipe de travail jusqu'à la maison d'Emma, où ils embarquaient à l'époque. Ils sont tombés amoureux et Emma est devenue sa femme de 67 ans jusqu'à sa mort à l'âge de 102 ans. Ils ont eu trois filles: Emily, Cornelia et Betty Ann.

L'année dernière, l'anniversaire d'Emma a été célébré d'une façon extravagante avec des pancartes des fleurs, de la musique et des vœux de bonheur, tous se déroulant devant sa fenêtre à cause de COVID-19.

J'espère sincèrement que les célébrations de cette année seront toutes aussi magnifiques et je demande aux députés de la Législature de me joindre pour souhaiter à Emma un joyeuse 103^{ème} anniversaire.

[10:15 a.m.]

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Emma Roland Boucher. Born a Theriault in West Arichat, Emma grew up to become a teacher, wife, mother, business owner, founding member of St. Anne Ladies Auxiliary, and a lifetime member of the Notre Dame l'Assomption Catholic Women's League.

When he rode over Babin's Hill, a young Cornelius Boucher drove the work crew to Emma's house, where they were boarding at the time. Emma took a shine to young Cornelius and went on to become his wife of 76 years until he passed away at the age of 102. They had three daughters: Emily, Cornelia, and Betty Ann.

Last year, Emma's birthday was wildly celebrated with signs of flowers, music, and well wishes all happening outside her window due to COVID-19. I sincerely hope this year is just as magnificent and memorable for Emma. I ask the members of this Legislature to join me in wishing her a happy 103rd birthday.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

**GASPEREAU VINEYARDS - RECIPIENT:
LG'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN WINE - RECOG.**

HON. KEITH IRVING: Madam Speaker, each year an independent panel of experts participates in a blind tasting of all the wines submitted for consideration in the Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal Awards of Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines.

In the Annapolis Valley, we are proud of the growth in our wine industry and the exceptional quality of wines being produced. It is with great pleasure that I therefore acknowledge the recipients of the 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal Awards of Excellence to Gaspereau Vineyards for their 2019 Riesling and 2019 Tidal Bay wines.

Under the guidance of winemaker Gina Haverstock and owners Donna and Carl Sparkes, Gaspereau Vineyards has developed into an award-winning, estate-grown, boutique winery that you can experience from their vine side patio.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to Donna and Carl Sparkes and Gina Haverstock for their achievements and to acknowledge their continued drive towards excellence in the Nova Scotia wine industry.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

CFRN, N. QUEENS: COM. SERV. - THANKS

KIM MASLAND: Madam Speaker, in June 2019, Dianne Huskins responded to an article in *Good News for North Queens*, seeking a coordinator for the Community Food Resource Network. Dianne started to volunteer, and things took off with the doors opening in December.

The CFRN and its extension, Muriel's Closet, offer exactly what the name states - community, food, resources, and networking - a hub of fun and community spirit. Muriel's Closet takes donations of furniture, appliances, household items, and clothing.

Dianne and her board are now working toward a food establishment permit to assist in fundraising and, hopefully, offer cooking lessons and meal plans. The CFRN has a dedicated board and a passionate team of caring people who assist with its day to day running and operations.

Madam Speaker, I ask all members to join me in applauding Dianne and all involved at the CFRN. Dianne and her team offer friendship, assistance, and support to the residents. They are trusted by their clients and have created a sense of community and generosity in North Queens. I am truly grateful for their efforts.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

CHEBUCTO HEIGHTS ELEM. COM.: EMBRACING DIVERSITY - THANKS

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Merci. I want to recognize and acknowledge the amazing Chebucto Heights Elementary community, which is a great example of our shared values of diversity and inclusion.

In 2016, the school nurtured many newcomer families. We even hosted Summer school. The entire school has since wrapped their arms around the families. The school hosted, on a number of occasions, the Delmore “Buddy” Daye African Nova Scotian History Challenges awards ceremony and welcomed hundreds from across the province. I remember being there last year with then-Premier McNeil for the final phase of the pre-Primary rollout, a hugely popular program that has benefitted so many families.

On behalf of the House of Assembly, I extend our gratitude to community member Anna McCurdy for her hard work in ensuring the breakfast program flourished despite COVID-19, and Principal Craig Myra and the entire SAC team for their leadership, including the planning of a future community garden. I wish them and their loved ones the very best.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

ABERDEEN ALLIANCE DENTAL: ALLEVIATING ANXIETY - THANKS

HON. PAT DUNN: Madam Speaker, dental phobia is a real concern for numerous people. Fear of the dentist is incredibly common, with surveys estimating that it affects 13 to 24 per cent of people around the world. Unfortunately for many people, dental anxiety will actually have people avoid going to the office until an aching tooth or infection necessitates a visit.

This is definitely not the case when patients arrive at the Aberdeen Alliance Dental Clinic. Visitors walk into a very pleasant atmosphere. The attention and kindness of the entire staff, beginning with the receptionists, has proven to be invaluable. The dentists and entire staff enjoy communicating with patients, answering questions and concerns and, in particular, ensuring that young patients find themselves in a happy and caring environment.

Team members work together to ensure that patients receive the best dental care possible. They treat everyone with respect and connect with patients on a personal level. Kudos to staff at Aberdeen Alliance Dental Clinic.

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

LEVATTE, CHARLES: SYDNEY RIVER SPIRIT - THANKS

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles LeVatte, who is a 13-year-old from Sydney River. Charles is a good friend of mine. I met him during our Zoom-time conversations over the last year. He is a great swimmer, and he hopes to participate in the Special Olympics next year. He spends a lot of time with his buddies and he loves karate, listening to music, and just hanging out with his friends.

Madam Speaker, Charles became a good friend of mine in the last year. I am so proud of him and all that he does. I just want to rise in my place today to congratulate Charles on being such a great guy.

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

LEGISLATIVE PAGES: OUTSTANDING SERV. - CONGRATS.

BARBARA ADAMS: Madam Speaker, I am extremely honoured today to rise to recognize four wonderful Nova Scotia Legislative Pages, whom I have had the privilege of working with during the Spring session of the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Pages program provides students with the opportunity to work on the floor of the House of Assembly. Legislative Pages prepare the daily sitting and provide a variety of services to help all MLAs do their jobs well.

I rise today to recognize Charlotte Moase, Sofia Reiner, Tamer Nusseibeh, and Emilie Quinn. I am grateful to the Pages as well as to all the amazing Legislative staff and security personnel at the Nova Scotia Legislature, who serve with such distinction.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in congratulating Charlotte, Sofia, Tamer, and Emilie on doing an outstanding job and wishing them all the best as they continue with their education.

THE SPEAKER: I don't know if this is allowed, but hear, hear.

The honourable member for Guysborough-Eastern Shore-Tracadie.

**PORT HILFORD WHALE SANCTUARY:
RETIREMENT AND REHAB. - RECOG.**

HON. LLOYD HINES: Madam Speaker, February 25, 2021, marked the one-year anniversary of a very important announcement for my constituency. After researching hundreds of locations in Washington State, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia, the Whale Sanctuary Project has selected Port Hilford, Nova Scotia, as the best site to create a seaside sanctuary for whales being retired from entertainment parks.

The mission of the Whale Sanctuary Project is to establish a model seaside sanctuary where orcas and beluga whales can be rehabilitated or can live permanently in an environment that maximizes well-being and autonomy and is as close as possible to their natural habitat. Plans for the sanctuary include a visitor centre, nature trail, and viewing spots. The sanctuary will also work with schools and museums to offer educational programs about the whales at the sanctuary and their counterparts in the wild.

I would like to thank and congratulate the people of Sherbrooke and the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's for opening their community and their hearts, ensuring that these retired whales have a seaside sanctuary for the remainder of their lives.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

EDGAR, JUDIE AND JIM: DAFFODIL GARDEN OPENING - CONGRATS.

TIM HALMAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Judie and Jim Edgar for their remarkable achievement of the opening of the Daffodil Garden for Cancer Survivors.

September 25, 2020, marked the grand opening of the garden, which is located in downtown Dartmouth. This garden is like no other in Nova Scotia, distinctively marked by bright yellow benches and a path in the shape of the Cancer Awareness Ribbon. Since the grand opening, volunteers have assisted in the planting of over 6,500 daffodil bulbs in the area surrounding the garden.

Madam Speaker, the daffodils are beginning to bloom and, of course, this is a reminder that tomorrow offers new opportunities and a reminder of the power of faith and hope. I encourage all Nova Scotians to visit this garden, and I ask that all members of this House join me in congratulating Judie and Jim Edgar for all their incredibly hard work and for turning a dream into a reality.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

LIBERAL MLAs: PUBLIC SERV. - BEST WISHES

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few people as they head off into the sunset. As most of you know, there are nine different MLAs from the Liberal Party who, after over 100 years of experience between them, have decided to hang it up and retire to their respective communities.

As we know, the former Premier, Stephen McNeil, has decided to hang it up. I would like to take a moment to recognize him for all he has done for me personally and for my community.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. Just a reminder that we are not allowed to use proper names of members in the Legislature.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Sorry, Madam Speaker, I know better than that. After eight years you would think I'd know, right?

The member has had a close personal relationship with the community of Spryfield, having been related to pretty much everybody in the community. I want to thank him because over the last eight years, whether it was political issues or more importantly personal issues, he was always there for a long conversation. He was always there for a tap on the back and, believe it or not, he was always there for a hug when I needed it. So, thank you.

To those members retiring, thank you for everything you've done, for taking us under your wings. You will be missed but we will all remain close.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

FUNERAL HOMES: CUMB. N. PANDEMIC HEROES - RECOG.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the funeral homes of Cumberland North - Mundle's Funeral Home, Campbell's Funeral Home, and Jones Family Funeral Centre - as some of COVID-19's pandemic heroes.

The pandemic has been hard on families during the restrictions, and those who have lost loved ones need people who can guide them through the transition with compassion and with care.

Our funeral home directors and staff have adapted to the Public Health guidelines to help give lost loved ones and families time to remember and celebrate the life of a passed family member as safely as possible.

I am thankful for the work of these caring individuals. Today, please join me in thanking the funeral homes staff of Cumberland North as some of Cumberland North's COVID-19 pandemic heroes.

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

FAMILIES: SUPPORTING MLAs - THANKS

HON. BEN JESSOME: Madam Speaker, I am very proud to be the MLA - very privileged and grateful to be the MLA for Hammonds Plains-Lucasville. It has been a tremendous experience to date, exciting, fun, and challenging, but certainly it has come

with its challenges that can, at times, even be heartbreaking. It demands a lot on your evenings, your weekends, family holidays, and personal time.

That being said, I would just like to recognize my family and all our families, who enable us and give us the confidence, ability, and strength to do what can be, at times, a difficult job.

I ask all members to join me in thanking our families with a big hug and open arms.

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

**KEHOE, GEORGE AND MALTBY, CECILY:
80th BIRTHDAY - BEST WISHES**

ALANA PAON: Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring acknowledgement of an 80th birthday celebration today for twin siblings in Rocky Bay in Cape Breton-Richmond.

On April 19, 1941, the world became a better place with the birth of George and Cecily Kehoe. Both George and Cecily raised their families in Isle Madame and every one of the offspring, I can assure you, have learned the value of a dollar and how to make it stretch.

Cecily Maltby worked to raise her family, while George is a retired teacher (my former teacher) and school board member. Both have led very full and community-oriented lives.

I ask the members of the Legislature to join me in extending 80th birthday wishes to Cecily Maltby and George Kehoe of Rocky Bay.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

RARE BIRD: BLACK VULTURE IN BAYVIEW - VISIT

KARLA MACFARLANE: Madam Speaker, we had a very interesting and rare visitor recently to the Bayview area of Pictou County: a black vulture. Bird lovers from as far as Yarmouth and Cape Breton have been flocking to the area to catch a glimpse or snap a picture of this very rare bird. An uncommon sight in Nova Scotia, the vulture was first spotted by local abattoir owner Harold Ferguson and local photographer and retired doctor Gerry Farrell in January of this year.

Mr. Ferguson, also known as Harold, who owns the land where the bird has been hanging out, gave permission to birders to visit the property to see the vulture. It is a rare occurrence to have such a species in Nova Scotia. I hope that bird enthusiasts from across

the province take the opportunity to visit our wonderful community and catch a glimpse of this rare bird.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The time allotted for members' statements has elapsed, and we are going to now take our 15-minute COVID break. We will be back at 10:45 a.m.

[10:30 a.m. The House recessed.]

[10:45 a.m. The House reconvened.]

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE SPEAKER: Order, please.

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: Madam 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 Cumberland South.

TORY RUSHTON: I do want to take a few minutes and speak a little bit about the budget. Before I do that, I would like to recognize the staff of the Legislature. I know there is a lot of hard work that went into making this legislative process work. It was just to prove a fact that we could have been sitting here for the past 12 months. Their dedication to making this work is greatly appreciated, from the Pages right straight up to Legislative Television, the counsel, and the security and such. I thank you very much on behalf of our caucus.

I would also like to take a quick second and say thank you to our caucus staff. They ensure that we are ready, on a daily basis into the late hours of the evening, ensuring that we are updated on questions and the issues of the day while we are sitting in the Legislature.

I can certainly not forget our constituency assistants who are left in our offices, even though we are here virtually in Zoom, taking care of the day-to-day operations like they do every day, but they take that extra step up while we are occupied in the Legislature.

I just want to also recognize my family. Even though we are on Zoom and in our home environment regularly, we are sitting late nights. There are times when other family members, not necessarily immediate family, may have to fill in the gaps where we are missing as MLAs. That goes for all Parties. It is a commitment to be here; it is a privilege to be here, but our families certainly do step up, and we should give them thanks.

Last but not least, I do want to say a special thank you to all Nova Scotians. For over 12 months now, Nova Scotians have put the hard work and dedication into ensuring that we are the envy of the world during this pandemic.

It is the hard work of Nova Scotians and our frontline health care professionals and our frontline workers to ensure that we have pulled through on the brighter side. I know the commitment will stay up and we will get through this pandemic.

What I am here for is to just say a few words about what this budget may necessarily mean to the residents of Cumberland South and what a billion-dollar capital investment may mean to Cumberland South.

As I asked in the form of questions over the past few weeks, what can I really sum up of answers or where are we leading into this budget and the eve of what, potentially and probably will be, an election call in the future weeks, months, or days to come - whatever that may be.

We still have over 60,000 residents who fell short of the promised doctor for every Nova Scotian. We would have this government lead you to believe that it is because we have had many, many Nova Scotians come into our province. Have we had 60,000 new residents? No, not really.

There has been progress in Cumberland South; I want to recognize that. To the dedicated team of volunteers and recruiters who have brought doctors not just to Cumberland South but to Cumberland County as a whole, it has been a job well done, and I want to take that opportunity to say thank you.

While I am talking about health care - ERs were a huge issue in Cumberland South, even before the pandemic. Cumberland South is one of the largest geographical constituencies in Nova Scotia. ERs were plagued with closures before COVID-19. Still, on the eighth year of this government, they still plague us after the initial days of COVID-19.

Have there been some improvements since taking away the local health authority's decision powers? I think not. We have placed those decisions, a large majority of them, in Halifax. Since COVID-19 started, the South Cumberland Community Care Centre in Parrsboro has been closed for over a year.

Just let me read what the notice says on the website, and I will table this for the benefit of the House: “South Cumberland Community Care Centre emergency department is closed until further notice.” The notice for All Saints Springhill Hospital says: “The emergency department is closed until further notice. During daytime hours (7 am to 7 pm, seven days a week), we are operating as an urgent treatment centre treating injuries or illnesses requiring immediate care but not serious enough to require an emergency department. We are open for urgent treatment when a physician is available.”

Madam Speaker, some of that doesn't even make sense, but the fact remains that we still have ERs, not just in Cumberland South but all over Nova Scotia, that are still remaining closed.

During this session and prior to this session, I've reached out to the Ministers of Health and Wellness - and I recognize that we have had two in the recent few months. As we heard a couple of years ago during budget debate, the dialysis seats at All Saints Hospital were being promised to be updated. This has been a service of pride, Madam Speaker: pride for this hospital, pride for the area, and pride for the All Saints board.

In the past, the government has led staff and users to believe there would be updates to these seats. I've asked the questions, Madam Speaker. Have you heard the answers? Nor have I.

More recent issues, since July, I've heard in our office, even up to last week, of blood collection services. I'm still hearing from residents not able to get timely appointments because of the way the system - not those ones that are giving the care once they are there, but because of the system. The booking would have them book weeks in advance, and you can only book within certain time frames in the afternoon. This is health care; it's not an oil change centre.

The budget does not have mention anywhere in it of the attention to the roads that I have brought to the minister for the past three years of being in this Legislature. The budget has no mention of the raising of Two Islands Road and the replacement of the aboiteau bridge, although I did have good dialogue with the minister last week at Estimates. Dialogue can be cheap, but I do look forward to possibly him, or his staff, coming to visit the area and discuss with local municipal officials.

We have a site located for the new Springhill school, but residents are still waiting to see tenders announced, to get students and staff into a proper and safe building, something that has been promised to them since 2013.

I've asked many questions over the past few weeks here in the Legislature. What do we hear, Madam Speaker? We hear this budget will have a little bit here and a little bit there, but no steadfast commitment or plans for issues in Cumberland County in Nova Scotia.

We have health care issues in different variations. We have mental health service shortages here in Cumberland South. We have road and infrastructure issues, and we have a budget on the table that states we have new funding. We have the biggest funding ever - new and big - but words need to be followed up with plans. We hear the funding announcements coming fast and furious, but without the steadfast plans that regular Nova Scotians can see and understand.

Why do I bring this up, Madam Speaker? Because we in the Progressive Conservative caucus have tabled some good legislation over the past few weeks, thoughtful and well researched legislation to bring to this session, to bring on behalf of Nova Scotians, legislation that would put Nova Scotians first. Hope for Health, Dignity for Our Seniors, and universal mental health care. These are plans with well laid-out roadmaps of how a Progressive Conservative government would lead this province and put Nova Scotians first.

How does this government - or administration, as I've heard them refer to themselves in the last few weeks - defend when they are asked questions about their announcement funding and their plan to back up their announcements? They state there will be more announcements to come. Well, that is no surprise on what we are nearing - the eve of a provincial election announcement. But Madam Speaker, this is the people's House, and this is where people should hear of ideas and plans.

How does this government defend when asked questions on health care or, more recently, questions from our residents in our constituencies about the vaccine rollout? We're accused by the members of the government of being against health care professionals or politicizing the issue. Well, Madam Speaker, this is not just an insult to our comments here in the House, this is an insult to those Nova Scotians who bring their concerns to our office, who want us to ask these questions here in their House.

If we ask about pre-Primary rollout or an educational issue or the need for pre-Primaries to have access to playgrounds, we're all of a sudden labelled as being against four-year-olds. Can you imagine that, Madam Speaker, any single one of us in any single Party here in this House being against our children?

I think Nova Scotians see through these comments. We saw last week a minister who was interested in paraphrasing and misquoting my statements and statements of the Opposition - more interested in that than speaking about the bill at hand.

Madam Speaker, if this is the defence mechanism of this government - or this administration, as we've heard them refer to themselves - then we are in more difficult times to come.

We need recognition past the tolls, northside of the tolls, here in Cumberland South, in Cumberland County, along the Fundy Shore. We have the opportunity here in

Cumberland South to perform with all Nova Scotians, but we need well thought-out plans - Hope for Health, Dignity for Seniors, universal mental health care.

We do need more announcements - we do hear more announcements after announcements in Cumberland South, but we need to see the plans laid out. We need commitment to work, commitment to secure, and most importantly commitment to the people and businesses of Nova Scotia and Cumberland South. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Inverness.

ALLAN MACMASTER: Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise here this morning. I want to acknowledge the work and the potential of the Strathlorne Forest Nursery near Inverness. Natural Resources Canada intends to plant two billion trees. This represents an opportunity for Strathlorne. We know that trees absorb much of the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, nature rejuvenating itself and maintaining its delicate balance.

Implementation of the Lahey report and changes to forestry practices will create three zones of forest management: areas not to be touched, areas to have moderate activity, and areas to have intensive activity. Areas of intensive activity will help protect all the other areas of the province. Where this activity does exist, extensive tree planting will be required. These trees will create a carbon sink, which can help our planet digest the carbon created by human activity.

Madam Speaker, may we wish management and staff of the Strathlorne Forest Nursery well as they embark on this important mission. I know they have had many years of dedicated staff at this facility. I know in its formation back in the day, there was some question as to where this facility should be located, but I can tell you that Strathlorne has proven itself to be a great location with a great workforce. I think with this initiative, Natural Resources Canada, and this opportunity, we'll be seeing the Strathlorne Forest Nursery proving itself once again to be a great resource for the people.

Madam Speaker, I want to take some time to acknowledge a couple of people from the constituency of Inverness, who have worked in the civil service and whom I have gotten to know personally over the years. I've known one of them since I was a child. These are people who have worked in our civil service and made great contributions.

I want to congratulate David MacNeil, who is finishing his career after 32 years. David, or "Straight," as we know him, hails from Judique. He grew up in the same community I did, and I can tell you that he has inherited the same ability to tell stories, just like other greats in our community. I think of fellows like Jackie MacDougall, Alec William MacDonnell, and Cyril MacDonald, as only a few.

David's keen sense of judgment, balanced with his ability to enjoy humour, provided great counsel for many over the years within government, including a couple of

premiers. We will miss him around the government circles, but I know people in Judique will now get to enjoy him more during his retirement years, and that's a good thing.

Another person I think about is a native of Port Hawkesbury, Terry Spicer, whom we all know has been acting as the Auditor General until very recently. He is retiring after 30 years of service in our province. Terry has always been accommodating to the MLAs of this House, and he has done important work to ensure financial oversight of the public's dollars. His work on P3 schools, the Office of the Fire Marshal, public drinking water, and what led to changes to improve the security and validity of MLA expenses come to mind.

[11:00 a.m.]

I got to know Terry during my time on the Public Accounts Committee, and I can say I always enjoyed his demeanor and his willingness to help on any matter that was put before him. I want to ensure that we all take a moment just to think about him and that we wish him well in his life post-retirement, and for him to know that he has contributed to important changes that have made our province a better place.

I want to acknowledge a couple of people who have passed away in the constituency of Inverness.

I think about someone who has lived a life dedicated to his community and his family. Ian MacKeigan passed away a couple of weeks ago. His generosity and impact can be seen in the community of Whycomagh at the fire department constructed a little over 10 years ago, within the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 123, and the Waterfront Centre, which has become a focal point for community events in Whycomagh.

His heart was also in large Cape Breton and the value they place on the lives of their community members. I first recall Ian when I would visit the drug store in Port Hawkesbury with my father. He was a warm, friendly man who knew his customers, and he took the time to connect with them beyond the transaction. In later years, I would come to know him as someone who would make a contribution to the political process. But for Ian, it was not about partisan bickering or gamesmanship; he was all class. Politics for him was about building the community and helping society with the kind of thinking that comes from someone who not only wants to help people, but who can take the responsibility needed to procure the resources to help. I guess what I am saying here - if people will take this in good humour - is that he was a good Tory. More importantly, Ian was the kind of person who was liked and respected by all who knew him.

Leo Cox was just 14 when he immigrated from Holland with his family to settle near Baddeck. He would later move to Mabou, but his leadership in the field of agriculture was felt across Nova Scotia. Leo endured the occupation of his country as a boy during the Second World War. No one understands war like someone who has lived with it, and Leo's heart was deeply touched by his experience and his appreciation for the liberation of

Holland by Canadian soldiers. His stories helped many children and adults learn why it is so important to remember those who gave their lives fighting for their country and for the cause.

The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame recognized Leo in 2014. He spent his career as a provincial community pasture supervisor and as agriculture representative for Inverness and Victoria Counties. During years when farming formed a more significant component of our local economy, he helped smaller farm operators to become more productive with cooperative purchase of equipment and trucking services. He organized woodlot owners, and he encouraged the production of fur and blueberries. The 4-H movement and the impact it has had on the formation of young people was always dear to his heart.

In the community, the Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital Foundation benefited from his leadership and his ability to generate support for their work through the strength of his own personal reputation in the community. Leo had a good heart, no doubt touched by his boyhood experiences, and his sense of duty to the country he came to love serves as an inspiration for us all.

On the weekend, I had a chance to attend a special birthday party for Catherine “Kaye” MacDonald of Judique, who has turned 100 years old. If you can believe this, she still does her own banking and her own grocery shopping. Clearly, she values her independence, and why not? She can do it. She can do all these things for herself. Family and friends gathered yesterday, on Sunday, to mark her amazing milestone.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize her and to say that she’s still living in Judique Intervale and she lives on her own at the age of 100. She does get some help from home care, but she remains an independent woman. She has all her faculties about her. I want to take this moment to recognize her and to wish her well from our Legislature here this morning.

I think perhaps aiming to have a bit of a humorous note here, recently we had one Nova Scotia hockey great pass another Nova Scotia hockey great on the all-time leading NHL scorers list. Sidney Crosby passed Al MacInnis for 36th on the all-time leading point-getters list. For the people of Port Hood and the constituency of Inverness, Sidney Crosby has proven only one thing: that he’s not been able to do it as a defenceman.

Al MacInnis carried the Calgary Flames to the Stanley Cup in 1989 and has a playoff MVP Conn Smythe Trophy to prove it. He was doing it 10 years later when he won the Norris Trophy as the best defenceman in the NHL. In the twilight of his career, he won an Olympic gold medal. Let us acknowledge these two great Nova Scotians, both fine gentlemen, and let us congratulate Mr. Crosby on his continued achievements.

To close here, Madam Speaker - and recognizing that this may be one of my last opportunities to speak here in the House, certainly for this sitting and perhaps for longer, I won't speculate further on that so as not to tempt fate - I want to acknowledge Florence MacDonald, who works in my constituency office. What a kind person she is. Always giving of her time to people.

She cares. I know we're all supposed to care in this business, but I think to find somebody who truly cares and cares all the time is a special thing. Florence is that special person. She is loyal. She always takes the high road even when others do not. Isn't it wonderful to have somebody working in one's constituency office whom they can look up to as a reminder in this business of aiming to take the high road whenever we can?

I think the greatest example of her value to the people of the constituency of Inverness is found in the constant compliments I hear about her almost every week. Thank you, Florence, for your service to the people of the constituency of Inverness. Madam Speaker, with that, thank you for this opportunity.

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

ALANA PAON: It is my pleasure to be able to stand for a few moments here to be able to speak in reply. We're here at the last day of the sitting of this session of the Legislature, likely the last sitting before we dive into election mode. I want to take an opportunity not only to say a few words in reference to, of course, the budget that has been tabled, but also in reference to some of the folks at home.

Everyone is, obviously, impacted by the decisions that we make here in this House. I just want to make mention of some of those groups and some of those people at home. I foresee that they are not being, basically, represented or reflected, as far as assistance in the House goes.

It's not all bad news. It's not all negativity. I don't want to speak today in that way. I do want to start off by saying a most sincere thank you to my constituency assistant, Cassandra David, who has been a rock and a friend. She has been by my side through some extraordinary circumstances that have happened in the last couple of years.

She's very quiet about what she does, which are extraordinary things for the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond. She's very organized, very dedicated, very detailed, and extremely diligent about what she does. She cares.

I always say that compassion is one of the greatest qualities, I believe, that we need to have when we're serving in these types of positions - as elected officials or serving within our offices on a constituency level or caucus level. We need compassion. We need to be able to meet people halfway there and certainly never stand in judgement of anyone who comes to us for assistance. Again, I would like to thank Cassandra for all of her

dedication and the time that she puts in to assisting constituents and assisting myself, as well, over the last couple of years.

I also would like to thank someone who is a little bit newer to the office environment. I'll give you guys a bit of a chuckle here. It usually raises a couple of eyebrows when I say her name. Simply, with most of you knowing, of course, the previous MLA in my constituency, my assistant's name is Michelle Sampson. That would be Michelle Sampson with a P.

She started working with me to take care of legislative affairs here in the Halifax office and has been an absolute Rock of Gibraltar, reminding me that I need to eat because I often forget to do so, keeping me organized, and simply constantly being there and the conduit and liaison for all of the many and various moving parts that we have when we sit in this Legislature. The hours are long, and the staff - Michelle and Cassandra - are very, very much appreciated. I could not do this without them.

I also wanted to give thanks as well to my family - my mom, whom I cannot wait to see when I get home. It has been a very long while, it seems, since we have been able to have just a day together. Of course, thank you my wonderful and steadfast fiancé, Chuck. No matter what happens, he always stands beside me and defends me very quietly, but is always there to support me. I can just say, Madam Speaker - and I'm sure that you can appreciate this - that finding a man with that type of a quality who loves you unconditionally is a blessing.

I want to now move into speaking a bit about what I see at home and the difficulties therein that are not being reflected in the budget. We obviously have - and we keep using this word - a crisis in health care. It has been an ongoing issue about which I spoke for the first time last week, a clinic that is in serious trouble. It's unfathomable to me that we can't understand that not only, of course, does the lack of family physicians - we always talk about the list and 60,000 or 62,000 people without a family physician. To me, that is bordering on - and I will use this term, and I don't utilize it lightly - gross negligence that we have allowed the situation to become so out of hand.

When there is a lack of family physicians in one's constituency, as is the case in Cape Breton-Richmond, there are people who not only cannot access primary care, but also they cannot get the services moving forward to be able to get a referral to specialist appointments. The phone calls that I receive are heartbreaking. It annoys me to no end to hear that, basically, these patients with chronic illnesses are simply being told, just put your name on the waiting list.

This waiting list - I know, I was on it myself for a while, many years ago, a decade ago - it seems to be never-ending. There is a couple who called me who have been on the waiting list since February. They continue to call to get an update and are told, don't bother calling us because you will get a call when someone decides to basically take you on as a

patient. This does not help them in the interim with the chronic illnesses that they have and the referrals they need to get proper health care.

[11:15 a.m.]

I'm going to say this very frankly, Madam Speaker, and again I just use the terminology "gross negligence" - I am going to say that I do not understand how it is that we are not putting our full emphasis on this situation. I do understand that there are small steps being taken with increasing the amount of seats that are available within our medical schools, but we are never going to catch up. We know what the statistics are across Canada. We are never going to be able to produce - and historically it has been the case - enough physicians to be able to fill all of the openings that we have and that are currently, obviously, going to be even more of a crisis because for the most part retiring physicians have a caseload that sometimes is triple what a new physician, who wants a life and a family and some time off, which is understandable, what they are willing to take on.

I truly believe that when a government - and I am going to implicate all of us here because we all sit in this House and we all have a job to do - when we are not taking care of some of the most basic needs of our citizens, I do not think that we have the right to make decisions to be putting money elsewhere. I know \$1 million would go a long way in my constituency: for the Strait Richmond Hospital, for a lot of seniors' programs, for a lot of programs related to those who would have disabilities, either physical or intellectual. There are a lot of things that \$1 million buys. You often hear that \$1 million goes a long way in Nova Scotia, yet constantly we see this kind of doling out of funds prior to an election.

I ask myself, if it is so easy to kind of dole out these \$1 million and \$1.5 million, \$2 million, why is it so difficult to get even sometimes a \$25,000 investment or a \$50,000 investment in our local hospital? Why are my constituents, the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond, even having to do this type of fundraising? Again, it is unfathomable to me that we have allowed this situation to get so out of control.

The other area which to me is a basic type of responsibility that government has - and I am just going to talk about the basic building blocks here - are roads and infrastructure, bridges, pavement, gravel roads, making certain that the brush is cut on the side of the road, making sure that the grass is cut in the summertime so that not only does it look respectable when we have tourists and visitors, but it is also safe for residents to be able to drive the road as well as walk on the side of the road.

We are constantly trying to encourage seniors, of which there are many in my community, and families to get involved in active transportation and outdoor type of exercising. Yet when you don't cut the side of the road - and somehow we are not able to make this type, to me, of common-sense jump - if you don't cut the weeds on the side of the road they grow up - sometimes they are literally over my head. There are people who

are driving - including myself - and the weeds are hitting the side of the car, and you are just waiting for a deer or an animal to jump out. It is a serious safety issue.

It is a serious safety issue to be driving on roads through Dundee and through to L'Ardoise, Forchu and many other places in the constituency where there are potholes so big that you have residents going out trying to fill them themselves or spray red paint around the holes and put up homemade signs to say: Drive with Caution. This is unacceptable. These, again, are the basic pillars of what government should be able to provide to its citizens - health care and basic infrastructure.

If you do not have safe roads, and roads, in fact, that not only your citizens (because their safety comes first) are able to drive on them and be able to get from point A to point B safely and without tearing the underneath of their cars off - and I can tell you it happens a lot in my constituency. They never, of course, get compensation for it because the Department of Transportation and Active Transit or Department of Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services are always basically able to like, you know, slough it off.

Madam Speaker, I am going to say right now that if anyone has an issue in my constituency with regard to that type of thing, I would really like for them to call my office because I would like to be able to help them with that.

So, we have talked health care. We have talked roads. Now, the other aspect that government, I think, is extremely or needs to be responsible for is to take care of its most vulnerable citizens. Vulnerable citizens I think of as obviously those who need extra care and also those who are the youngest in our population and, as well, the elderly.

In my community, we care for our seniors. As we say down home, like the eyes out of the back of our heads. Our senior citizens and our elders are the pillars, the cornerstones of our community. We want to make sure that our seniors are properly cared for and that they have the services as well as the health care that they need.

I know we are coming down to just a couple of minutes left here for me to be able to speak. I would like to be able to see in this budget - and I know the Minister of Transportation and Active Transit will espouse it back that we are spending a half a billion dollars in transportation. Well, a lot of that money is going towards the Trans-Canada Highway and I agree that that needs to be done, but if we want rural communities to thrive, we also need to get better cellular coverage. We need to make certain, and I know the government has invested money into broadband service - we need better roads, and we need, above all, access to health care when we need it.

I do not see in this budget how it is that we are going to take care of immediately, or within the next six months, those 60-plus thousand people, almost 9,000 of which are in the Eastern Zone, and many thousands of which are now in my constituency because of family doctors having left to go to other positions or just leaving for elsewhere.

I am concerned, Madam Speaker. Moving forward, for my constituents, I will continue to advocate to government on their behalf to make certain that these issues become resolved.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

The House will now resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole on Supply and we will take a 15-minute break, while we do that.

[11:23 p.m. The House recessed.]

[11:39 a.m. The House resolved itself into a CW on Supply with Deputy Speaker Susan Leblanc in the Chair.]

[4:46 p.m. CW on Supply rose and the House reconvened. The Speaker, Hon. Kevin Murphy, resumed the Chair.]

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

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole on Supply has met and has come to agreement on 44 Estimate Resolutions, including votes on capital. The Chair has been instructed to recommend these Estimates to the favourable consideration of the House, each without amendment.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House concur in the report of the Committee of the Whole on Supply.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 136 - Entitled an Act to Provide for Defraying Certain Charges and Expenses of the Public Service of the Province. (Hon. Labi Kousoulis)

[PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING]

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 136, the Appropriations Act (2021) be now read a second time.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 136. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

[PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING]

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 136 be now read a third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 136. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 105.

Bill No. 105 - Financial Measures (2021) Act.

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

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 105 be now read a third time and do pass.

This bill provides legislative authority to implement the measures that can have financial implications. The Financial Measures (2021) Act makes changes to several pieces of legislation: the Equity Tax Credit Act; the Finance Act; the Income Tax Act; the Corporation Capital Tax Act; and the Pension Benefits Act. These changes will help bring consistency and clarity across our financial legislation and with the federal government.

Through the Financial Measures (2021) Act, we are also transferring oversight for some activities to the Department of Environment and Climate Change. This responsibility has already been transferred through Order in Council and we are updating the legislation to match.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

TIM HOUSTON: I just want to take a few minutes to speak to this piece of legislation today. As we think about this budget that's essentially passing through here today, we're conscious of reports out of other parts of Canada and how scary they are with the situation happening there. I understand the Premier has been asked to help and that this help could include support from staffing and any other thing as well. Nova Scotians have many ties to the other parts of the country, but above that, we're a kind, compassionate people, so the urge to help is always there.

Or course, we're concerned about what's happening across the country, and we understand that what is good for one region of the country is good for others as well, but we need to be conscious of the state here in our own province. As much as this government pats itself on the back and says that it was all their planning and financial stewardship that allowed us to weather the COVID-19 storm, what's happened here in the past year is the curtain has been pulled back.

Fiscal responsibility is a core value of the PC Party. It's something that we've always remained true to. I can tell you that, just like I can tell you the core values of the PC Party, because our core values never change. We always stay true to our values. They are the values of Nova Scotians, and fiscal responsibility is one of them. I get a bit of a chuckle when I hear this government talking about their balanced budgets because, sadly we've known, and many Nova Scotians have now learned, how they did it.

We've learned how they balanced the budgets, and from their own forecast in this budget, looking out at the later years, it's clear that they want to run the same play again - that is that their budgets were balanced by withholding services from Nova Scotians. Their budgets were balanced by ignoring the needs, ignoring the responsibility of government. Government has a responsibility to deliver certain services. Nova Scotians have the right to expect that those services will be delivered.

What we've seen from this government for eight years now is a pattern of withholding services in order to balance the budget, and we see that the intention is for that pattern to continue on into the future. We've talked about the obvious cuts in the out years. When we're talking about fiscal responsibility, I personally like to use the phrase "economic responsibility," because economic responsibility means that governments make good economic decisions that are to the benefit of the citizens, are to the benefit of Nova Scotians.

I think the Liberal government believes that financial responsibility just means that if you look the other way, you can save some money. That is not economic responsibility. It's the exact opposite. The PC Party knows that making economically responsible decisions means making the right decisions.

If you try to figure out the difference between fiscal management and economic responsibility, the tragedy at Northwood becomes Exhibit A. We know that this government had years of requests for financial assistance - 2016, 2017, 2018 - requests for help to prepare the facility to make sure that our seniors and the residents could live with dignity. Those requests - 2016 were ignored, look the other way; 2017, ignored, look the other way; 2018, ignored, look the other way. All in the name of what this government was calling balanced budgets.

Here's why it matters. Sure they kind of balanced the budget, but when you think about the cost that was on the other side of that - if you look at cost benefit, we know about the tragic loss of life. We all understand that incredible loss of life at Northwood. Who knows what could have been prevented? Certainly health care professionals think that with those changes that they had been - I'm going to say requesting of this government, but I think the word is a little stronger word that could be used - that all factors into the impact of a government decision.

Then from an economic point of view, every Nova Scotian knows that we all stayed in our homes. The lockdown lasted for another two or three weeks, maybe a month, because they were trying to grapple with the tragedy that was unfolding at Northwood. When you think about this government waving its arms and saying we "saved" \$8 million by ignoring that request, what's the cost of an economy being shut down for weeks and weeks and weeks on end? It didn't turn out to be an economically responsible decision.

Some people may think that the difference is subtle between fiscal responsibility and economic responsibility. I would say it's not subtle to those 53 families. It's not subtle to every Nova Scotian who, at that point in time, if we cast our minds back to when things were starting to open up at the end of the first wave - slower here because of decisions made by this government to ignore requests. If you want to call that fiscally responsible, I say no. I say no - big fail on that.

Now we see more of that same type of thought process that led there, we see that forecasted out in the out years. I know that the Premier makes a very admirable statement that he won't burden future generations, but the reality is that you have to find that balance because it's the responsibility of government to provide the services that Nova Scotians have a right to expect. That has not been happening.

On the one hand, the government says, Nova Scotia could weather the COVID-19 storm because of the fiscal capacity, because of the good decisions of this government - they created this fiscal capacity, and that's how they could weather the storm. But we know

that it was a house of cards. I go back to the rest of Canada thing. We must support the rest of Canada however we can, I do believe that. But we also need to ensure that we keep the health of Nova Scotians as a priority.

Our own health care system was already in crisis before COVID-19. I worry, and members on this side - I think I can probably speak for most of them - that the crisis that was already here on the doorstep, you really ain't seen nothing yet. There is a potential here for our health care system to really crumble. We have yet to fully see the real effects of COVID-19 closures and COVID-19 delays. We've yet to really see the impact of the lack of access to care, the increased stress levels that were on people and our health care system.

[5:00 p.m.]

You wouldn't know it from listening to this government and the picture that they paint of the province and the talking points and the glossiness. You wouldn't know it if you just listened to their assessment of the world. They make up their own statistics on, we're first in this and first in that. We've challenged them time and time again, because what we believe is you need to have the baseline of the facts. The facts do matter.

Here are the facts of this province that you won't hear in Question Period, that you won't hear in responses to the budget Estimates. The reality is that the QEII is overcrowded. Emergency room wait times are pretty terrible for most Nova Scotians. Oftentimes there are just too few ambulances available for patient transfer, for emergency calls. This is commonplace.

I've used the example in here - I first heard it from my colleague for Argyle-Barrington, a former - well, he is an advanced care paramedic. He used the analogy that in this province, if you pick up the phone and call 911, and then hang up the phone, pick it back up and call a pizza, you're probably going to get the pizza before the ambulance gets there. That's the reality of this province. No amount of flowery talking points can make that go away.

We often have no beds available to admit patients. The people working in the health care system are encountering these challenges every single day. Every single day. I hear from them, and I heard from a health care professional just on the weekend who was talking about some of the issues that she had encountered just over the last week. I'm going to take the specialty out of it just because I don't think it's necessary. It applies across our health care system.

Some of the things she had mentioned that - issues to the surgical wait-list due to COVID-19 closures mean that patients are ending up in the emergency room while waiting for their surgeries. We can all imagine that's pretty commonplace. You're waiting for a surgery for something - you have some condition, you have some illness, you've been

waiting for a surgery, you're not able to get it, you're on a wait-list - it's going to have other impacts. Many times, those people are having to show up at the emergency room. That means that many more patients are coming in and presenting at the emergency room or elsewhere with advanced illness. She went so far as to say patients are actually dying because of their conditions and waiting, and dying from complications that are arising from waiting. That's the reality.

The Nova Scotia Health Authority has been discouraging certain types of testing, has slowed down on certain types of testing, because they wanted to keep the capacity for the COVID-19 tests. This is what I'm told, and I absolutely believe that. I've heard back from the Nova Scotia Health Authority when advocating for - in this particular case - a constituent of mine around Lyme disease and treatment for Lyme disease and some of the testing. The answer that came back was very blunt: We're not talking about Lyme disease until COVID-19 is over.

Can you imagine? That was about eight months ago.

Everything else is on hold. We understand the impact of COVID-19 on our society, and certainly nobody would ever minimize that. The reality is that that doesn't mean all other medical conditions got hit on pause. People are still getting sicker.

When you defer tests or when you say we're not doing this type of test, you have an impact. There's an impact, and it's a negative impact. What I'm hearing from health care professionals is they're seeing patients who are more septic patients because they are not getting proper investigations done early.

I could go on about what is happening in our health care system, right down to busy ERs maybe not able to do the type of proper imaging in all instances. This stuff is happening across our health care system because our health care system is stressed because of eight years of a government looking the other way.

That is not good fiscal management. That is very poor; that is a very poor example of not understanding the economic responsibility. Advancing cancers, people showing up in emergency rooms with advanced stages of cancer because they do not have a family doctor. In some cases - this is again referring to one of the things I heard on the weekend - patients do not have a family doctor and they have been to a number of walk-in clinics. The pain was not going away; the pain was very severe. They finally got the testing and realized this person is quite ill, likely too late for treatment. These are the things that are happening.

Missed procedures - I want to take that back as to, what is the impact on families? What is the impact on mental health? What is the impact on communities? A government that really understands the economy and their need, their role to play in economic responsibility, would be looking at these decisions and saying that we need to invest in

people because if we invest in those people, if we give them the care they need when they need it, where they need it, then they can be more productive. They can contribute to their family, to their community, to our province. Those are the types of decisions that have been missed by this government.

I wonder how much money the government thinks they have saved from looking the other way. That is what I wonder. If they really would stop and think about it and say, well what was the cost of that saving? What did we do here? I think they would be embarrassed of their record on health care, and I think they are embarrassed. When you ask tough questions of this government, they follow a certain process to respond. One is to say you are misrepresenting or you are being untruthful, or you are attacking. That is what you see when there are no good answers. We have seen a lot of that in this session of the Legislature.

I think every question we asked was about health care; every question in the entire session was about health care. We stuck to health care. I don't know from all those questions we asked - I should have researched it, Mr. Speaker, on how many questions we asked during this session - but I could tell you how many answers we got. Very few. I could tell you how many aggressive responses we got - it would be a lot.

I wonder if you are a health care professional just trying to do your job and save lives and help keep people healthy, I wonder how effective you feel you can be when you do not have access to the testing, when you do not have access to the diagnostic imaging, when you are left without access to those tools I wonder how effective you feel you can be - and I wonder if you want to practise medicine here. I wonder if you want to practise medicine in a province where you feel like you are probably handicapped - and remember what my colleague from Pictou West always says: happy people recruit happy people; happy doctors recruit happy doctors.

Well imagine if you are trying to practise medicine and you can't have access to what you feel is important for the health and well-being of your patients, and instead you are watching their conditions get worse and worse. I don't think that is a good feeling. I think it is shame on this province for putting our health care professionals in that position.

Now imagine that all the while that is happening and you are just struggling with the culture of your environment. Every time you turn on the TV, you hear the Minister of Health and Wellness say, everything is great, there's nothing wrong. All of your pleas for support and for help are totally dismissed by a government that just says, there's nothing wrong here. We know the Opposition is trying to politicize something or trying to make something. Imagine if you hear that.

We don't actually have to imagine what that must feel like because I read a little bit about it in *the Coast* exposé on the situation at Northwood. One of the family members describes to the reporter watching one of the briefings and hearing this from the people in

authority: "I do know that all necessary steps that we can take to minimize the spread and have an outbreak under control are taking place at Northwood." This family member went on to say, "If someone has COVID, they're secluded from those that don't."

This is a family member listening to this statement from the people in authority in this province and knowing the exact opposite is true. Their comment was that they were just looking at it in disbelief saying, that's not true. Imagine how frustrating and terrifying that was, to be pleading with the people in authority to keep your loved ones safe at Northwood and, on the other hand, watching them on the TV saying we're doing everything when you know that what they are saying they're doing, they're not doing.

I'm going to say that that pretty much covers the feelings of a lot of health care professionals in this province who are doing the best they can and hearing their government say, there's nothing to see here. Everything is great. Our wait-times are down. Our recruitment is up. Everything's great. It has to be pretty demoralizing.

I know that this government literally has a sound bite for everything. They're masters of that. They really do. They have talking points about their talking points. I think what has been exposed in health care is that it's all an illusion because here in the real world, the staff are overwhelmed and overworked. They are doing what they can, but just lately I have been thinking of the situation in the nursing profession, where there is a lack of coverage for sick calls, even on the wards. That's just adding to the workload, adding to the stress, in an incredibly stressful environment anyway, under normal times, but imagine now. If we lose nursing staff, all of these issues that are a huge problem right now will be even worse.

I have been pretty surprised and humbled by the resiliency of Nova Scotians, of our health care professionals over this time. Even they are reaching their boiling points. We know because we hear from them. They need to vent. They're trying to manage, and they're trying to manage through the havoc of the COVID-19 closures and that backlog unwinding. Many of them, I know, feel like it's a losing battle.

I gave some examples, but I am sure every physician in this province and every health care professional would have their own list of symptoms of a crisis in the health care system in this province. It's truly getting worse, and it must feel incredibly bad for them to feel that nobody is listening. I want them to know that we're listening. We hear them. We have listened to them and respected them, and we have put forward our plans.

We have been putting our plans out there around what we think is possible to make sure that our seniors live with dignity, around what we think is possible to make sure that those who need addictions and mental health support can access it, around our primary health care system and the challenges that it faces, but that there is hope for health care. There is really only one Party that can fix health care in this province, that is being open

and transparent about what is possible and all these issues in our health care system, we need to be mindful of them.

[5:15 p.m.]

I want to go back to the economic responsibility versus fiscal accountability. The former Premier used to pride himself on calling himself a fiscal conservative. In fact, he used to say sometimes that he was more fiscally conservative than even I was. I know at least one of the leadership candidates in their leadership race - it came back to me a few times from a few different people as saying, he's more fiscally conservative than even Tim Houston is.

Those are the words of people who don't understand the economic responsibility that a government is supposed to carry. I would say to them, just like I said to those people who shared those comments with me: you can go for the imitation, or you can have the real thing, and you'll get your chance soon.

I want to talk about the importance of government accountability in general. It is a core value of our Party that government be accountable to the people, that government listen to the people. We have not seen any evidence that this government, over eight years now, believes that it needs to be accountable to the people. We have seen very little evidence that this government believes that it needs to listen to people. I can go back about the treatment of the FOIPOP office over the tenure of this government, and the amount of FOIPOPs we'd get back - and I'm sure we're not alone, I hear from Nova Scotians as well - sometimes just literally pages and pages of completely redacted information.

I actually had somebody share a FOIPOP response that they got with me. They had sent an email to the government, and in their FOIPOP request, it included a copy of their own email, but it was completely redacted. Everything that he had sent to the government was redacted in the FOIPOP response that came back to him. I think that's probably not uncommon, because I think that's just a mindset of, we're just going to redact everything and, there, we'll put a tick in the box and say that we responded to it.

We know in our own experience around the ferry situation. We had to take that all the way to the Supreme Court to get the government to do what they were told at the very beginning to do, which was tell Nova Scotians where their money went. They wouldn't do it; they challenged us to go all the way to court. Years in the making. We won at court, and still - do you know this government still did not release the information to the taxpayers? Even after all that? The operator did. The operator realized that it was time. They released the amount, but this government still did not release the information they had been told to release right away.

The FOIPOP example sheds a lot of light on the mindset of this government. Of course, the Public Accounts Committee - what's happened to the Public Accounts

Committee in the way that this government has watered it down. The Public Accounts Committee, a very effective tool for holding the government to account. Turns out when you're a government that doesn't like to be held to account, you don't like the Public Accounts Committee. You don't like it so much that you basically dismantle it, which is essentially what happened here.

News flash - I think every government has been uncomfortable with the Public Accounts Committee, but it took one that had so little respect for Nova Scotians that it got rid of it. Everyone else realized that this is not your best day, maybe, in Public Accounts Committee, but it's part of the process, it's part of being held accountable that we'll live with it. This government would not live with it.

Of course, around the consultations, we've heard a lot about this government that still through it all believes that they consult. In fact, I wish we hadn't run out of time the other night, I was desperate to hear the member from Hants West, the minister who tabled the Biodiversity Act. I don't think he actually talked about the bill yet in his response, which was a little, I'm going to say incoherent in the way he was conducting himself in the Legislature that night. There was a lot of foot-stamping going on. I do feel bad that we now know that that would turn out to be his last words in the Legislature, and they were delivered in that fashion.

I think what happened is the pressure of knowing that they were wrong, that there was not real consultation, kind of bubbled up with him and he lashed out with some of the aggression that we have seen from this government when they are made uncomfortable. What I would like to inform that member and the rest of his caucus and former caucuses, caucus members, including those who were asked to leave their caucus, what I would like to inform them is that an MLA sitting down with department staff is not public consultation - it is an MLA talking to department staff.

People being invited to a presentation is not consultation, it is just a one-way push of information. True public consultation comes from a process where there is an interaction and views are accepted. If true consultation had happened on Bill No. 4 over the last two years, as this government would have you believe - remember the words of the Premier when he amended his bill from 55 clauses down to 19 clauses. On his marquee piece of legislation, he heard from caucus members their concerns. He heard from his caucus. That is not public consultation - it means you did not do public consultation. What we saw was not public consultation, it was political survival, it was election concern.

All of this to say that Public Accounts Committee, FOIPOP Office, public consultations or not, was almost just an audition for the greatest feat of all where now they do not want to come to this Legislature for major spending changes. They say, well why would we have to go to the Legislature, we can just do them outside of the Legislature. That is the little cherry on top of what they have been building up. This is not a government

that feels it needs to be accountable to the people. I think people more and more are understanding that.

In terms of where this province goes from here, we know we have more cases of COVID-19, 15 cases today. That is a consistent increasing pattern, a concern for all Nova Scotians. The thing that I am hearing from Nova Scotians is they did have a sense of the former Premier and Public Health being in lockstep. I am hearing from many people they do not have that feeling now, so it is undermining the confidence of Nova Scotians. I understand why.

In the early days of the new leadership, we all saw the Premier on national TV talking about the vaccines and how he was not sure if he was going to accept these vaccines. The very next day I read a press release from the government, the Rankin government, where the Premier had directed Public Health to do something - that was kind of a new one, that was new language.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. I would just like to remind the honourable Leader of the Official Opposition not to use the proper name of any member of this Chamber.

TIM HOUSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I apologize for that. Of course, I am quoting from government press releases and how the government refers to itself and I just didn't know how to substitute that for something else. It was the government press releases.

The language was that the Premier was directing Public Health to do something. That was the first time we kind of saw that type of language. Then shortly thereafter we know that - well we saw in the news the Premier of New Brunswick was quite surprised when Nova Scotia opened up the border. It was out of lockstep with the other provinces. That was new.

Of course, that had to be reversed but it just seems to Nova Scotians, and I certainly agree with them, it does seem like something is amiss here. This is why we have been asking so many questions around the vaccine rollout, around where we are going with COVID-19.

People are noticing the issues in health care. They're noticing that their government doesn't seem to respect their opinions and their feedback on stuff. Those are two things for sure. We're all nervous about COVID-19, every single one of us, and a lot of similarities as to the why in that. That goes back to when the pandemic first arrived here. We as a caucus - and I know that the NDP did as well - made a decision to support Public Health and therefore support the Premier because Nova Scotians needed to know that their elected leaders were all on the same page in keeping them safe. That's what we have done. As we asked questions, we were told, you're politicizing the pandemic. That was a nice response from them.

Then again, the curtain came back on that, and it was really obvious to Nova Scotians who wants to politicize the pandemic, culminating in an ad on the front page of the *Chronicle Herald*. We will continue to support Public Health. We will continue to put Nova Scotians first. We will also continue to do our job on behalf of Nova Scotians, and that's ask the questions that are on the minds of Nova Scotians. We will continue to do that.

Through all of this, there's one guiding principle that's true, and that is that you can't distribute wealth until it's created. All these programs that we need to support, they need to be funded. That means that we must grow our economy. We have heard a number of sound bites about how the economy is doing well. Some of them are true, actually. Some of those sound bites are true, but some of them are just not. They're misleading.

I want to just put into perspective how important it is that we get our economy going. I want to orient Nova Scotians on where we're at on the spectrum of future outlook. According to TD, looking ahead at the nominal GDP growth going forward for 2022, Nova Scotia would rank fifth - I think we're fifth. For 2021, they're ranking us fifth. In 2022, I think it's fifth there. Fifth isn't bad. It's not first, but it's not bad. I actually think we should be first because we have everything we need in this province, especially post-COVID-19.

People are re-evaluating their lives and reassessing what's important to them. They're totally focused on quality of life - millennials, Gen Zers - quality of life. Canadians, North Americans, people around the world are focused on quality of life. We have the quality of life that people want. We can attract people here, and we should attract them in great numbers. Our population going up by 5,000 people is good, but we should have 50,000 more people. We can grow the population of this province because we have what people want. When we do that, we can push our economy forward.

Our population has been growing through - I'll give them a little bit of credit around some of the immigration quotas, but the migration numbers that are coming here, I think, have taken this government by surprise. They clearly didn't have the respect for what we had to offer in quality of life that others have seen and that we've seen for quite some time. If they had, then we would have had more infrastructure ready, like housing, like sewer and water - all these things where there's no preparation.

If we could increase our nominal GDP by 1 per cent, that could be almost \$400 million for Nova Scotia. If we can increase it by 2 per cent, you can imagine now much better we can provide services to Nova Scotians when we grow our economy.

I think, in the fullness of time, when people look back at this period in the history of Nova Scotia under this government, they will realize that the government focus on controlling costs, on withholding services, had a negative impact in the fullness of time, but it will be coming incredibly obvious that the government had zero vision on what was

possible and zero insight on how to grow the economy, and that is where we need to be here.

[5:30 p.m.]

We have a budget that is going through this House. There are 65,000 Nova Scotians who do not have a family doctor and I do not see the answer in this budget. There are 1,500 people on a waiting list for long-term care and this government's answer is 237 beds. I do not see an answer for all those other people. I do not see an answer in this budget for all those people who are waiting for a test, waiting for a surgery.

This budget does not do it for them and for all of those people who are saying, can my family thrive in this province, can my grandchildren come home. I don't see an answer in this budget. I think that is a major disappointment for a government that had an opportunity to do a lot better for Nova Scotians but decided to look the other way at the exact time that they should not.

This is not a good budget for Nova Scotians, but a bit of good news: there is an election in the air and Nova Scotians can know that change is coming. With those few words, I will take my seat.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on the third reading of the Financial Measures (2021) Act. I will, in fact, be brief - I know there are other speakers to follow.

I want to revisit in particular the way in which we tried to adopt and change this bill in the recent days. The Financial Measures (2021) Bill enables the government to enact the budget. That budget has now passed. We have, in other places and in other ways, expressed our opinions on that budget and probably others will tonight.

I want to talk about this bill because when this bill was introduced, all eyes, all commentators came together on this procedural bill around a single provision, and that was Clause 8 of this budget. What that does is authorize or clarify - depending on who you are talking to - the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board to borrow beyond the appropriations in the budget as long as he tables a plan with the Governor in Council.

That immediately raised eyebrows. We raised this issue at second reading of the bill, and we were told that in fact this strengthened the financial oversight of government. Again, this is allowing government, or clarifying the government's power, to borrow whatever it wishes for a period beyond 365 days. So with respect to the notion of expanded oversight and the usefulness of this provision, we obviously disagree and therefore introduced an amendment.

Did our amendment call for every additional borrowing sum to be debated in a partisan fashion on the floor of the House? No, we introduced what I referred to as a friendly amendment. What that amendment would have done would have been to propel the government to file any such additional amount borrowed in this House, and all that does, Mr. Speaker, is make the amount of that borrowing transparent.

To us this was a very simple and uncontroversial change that we were asking for. There has been lots of conversation in recent years about government transparency and accountability and, in fact, Newfoundland and Labrador has a Transparency and Accountability Act. In that Act, their Finance Minister is required - just as we suggested here - to table additional borrowing amounts in the Legislature.

I gave a number of other examples last day, but I will say that at the federal level, when the Act was passed to authorize emergency borrowing power by the Finance Minister federally, he was required to report on the use of those powers every two weeks. I tabled numerous other documents that suggest but should by no means be required that back up this sort of common-sense approach that I believe we have taken here, but nonetheless the amendment failed.

In Law Amendments, we heard from Dr. Christine Saulnier of the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives, and she also appeared to speak against Clause 8, and what she said is that this clause sends the message that democracy is inconvenient. I think that that really sums it up, because in the past eight years, as has been referred to in tonight's debate and previously, we have seen this. We have seen the weakening of the Public Accounts Committee, one of the truly functional, I would say, committees that we have here in the Nova Scotia Legislature in terms of genuine oversight of all members of the House. We have seen a resistance to strengthening the office and order-making power of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in this province.

Of course, since COVID, we have all stood together. We have stood with the Premier, current and past, in deferring to Public Health and maintaining our public safety. Nonetheless, as that was happening, we saw legislative committees cease to function when schools and workplaces were open. We didn't have a Fall sitting of the Legislature, which I should mention is in fact contrary to the Rules of the House of Assembly, and it is our position that the sitting such as it was, the prorogation - I had better choose my words carefully - was a swift procedural step that was taken. Let us put it that way. I see the Speaker's microphone on, but I do not think he can catch me on that one.

Anyway, we did introduce a bill this session to get around that and to clarify what a sitting is - what it means to have your public representatives sit in this House and fulfill their legislative duty. Respectfully, witnessing, in protest I might add, the prorogation of this Legislature again at a time when children are in school, people in their workplaces, did not constitute that sitting. When we talk about the message that democracy is inconvenient, this is a signal that is being sent for quite some time. I think this is one of the reasons

that this particular little provision of this, what is generally essentially a pro forma bill, stood out. It stood out to policy-makers, it stood out to legislators, it stood out to those following the Nova Scotia Legislature and its legislative work.

With our amendment, what we were asking for was basic accountability and transparency. We will continue to push for a great deal more than basic, and I referenced another bill that we introduced, and there are several that are available to view, but the notion that such transparency would be an encumbrance is anathema to the way that we think about government in the New Democratic Party. We think it would be a commitment to responsible government.

The minister, in responding to one of the few back and forths we have had on this, has said - and also has said in the media - that Nova Scotians have the opportunity to participate in and pass judgement on government spending every four years. Certainly, at some point in the next year they will have the opportunity to do that again, and that may be true in terms of the direct ways that constituents can have their say on exactly how government money is spent. But we believe, I believe, that as legislators we deserve a different opportunity, so this change we suggested was one such opportunity. That's an opportunity for the government to show that they value accountability and transparency, that they value Nova Scotians, that they value our basic intelligence and ability to look at and understand financial documents, and that basically we have a right to know what the government is doing.

When I spoke last day in Committee of the Whole I used the analogy of a family. It was a bit off the cuff, but I'll use it again here. We've heard many times from this government and from other governments how it's like a family budget: we need to make sure we look at what's going in and what's going out and we need to balance our chequebook at the end of the day - for those of us who are old enough to have had chequebooks. I think that's probably most of us in this House, but not all of us. Sure, I'll take that analogy, as far as it goes, I guess.

My response to that is show us, don't tell us. It's true that up until recently I probably wouldn't be able to go out and get a loan without asking my husband, and conversely, my husband maybe would have put our major assets in his name only and would have gone out and leveraged that, whether or not I wanted him to.

That's not the case anymore, Mr. Speaker. In my family - in most households, I think - we don't make those massive decisions without at least a heads-up to those of us who are sharing the burden and who are directly implicated in the best interests of our household and how it functions.

Similarly, I would submit that we are all grownups here. We all have capacity. We're all trying to do this work. Certainly Executive Council and the Ministers of the Crown have a certain responsibility, but we all stand here representing our constituents,

representing their desires and their wishes. I submit that we all stand here wanting the best for our province, so to be constantly curtailed and shut down when we try to understand and contribute to the ways in which we achieve that is frustrating.

Mr. Speaker, I'll close with a short quote. Albert Einstein once said something like, we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that created them.

With the unprecedented challenges facing us as a province, I hope this government and all of us really take this to heart and start thinking differently and working differently to achieve the same goals, ultimately, that I think we all have in mind. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

MURRAY RYAN: Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to take a moment to thank the staff of the Legislature for working tireless hours so that this virtual session could work and work so seamlessly. Although there have been a few bumps in the road, technical glitches have for the most part been the result of members - myself included - forgetting to unmute ourselves.

One thing is certain, Mr. Speaker. Not that there was any doubt, but this session has proven that this Legislature could have effectively sat in the Fall. During this session we have spent many long hours debating government legislation introduced this Spring.

Understandably, the budget has occupied a significant portion of time, and rightly so. As part of this process and the vetting of the government's 2021-22 budget and its ministers, we find ourselves now at a crossroads of the Financial Measures (2021) Act. Introduced by the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board on April 8th, through first reading, second reading, Law Amendments Committee, and then Committee of the Whole on Friday past, the government has used its majority to move this bill along.

Mr. Speaker, during this government, we have seen the abilities of the Public Accounts Committee severely constrained, the centralization of health decisions with the NSHA, the elimination of our local school boards, all in the name of efficiencies, and now Bill No. 105 - The Financial Measures (2021) Act - is another example of the government seeking to change the rules.

The issue of concern lies with the amendments to Section 36 of the Act in relation to additional appropriations beyond those provided for within the Appropriations Act. The amendment as laid out in the Financial Measures (2021) Act through two clauses state, in summary, that where appropriations are insufficient, the minister shall prepare an additional borrowing plan to be submitted to the Governor in Council, and upon receipt of said plan, the Governor in Council may authorize the minister to borrow any sum up to the amount shown in the plan.

[5:45 p.m.]

The minister states that the government already has the authority to do additional appropriations, that these amendments merely add clarity to an existing power, that the amendments actually add oversight on the government, actually giving less authority to the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board, and requiring extra borrowing to be approved by the Governor in Council. In essence, as I read it, the minister is saying that he now has to prepare a plan and send said plan to the Lieutenant Governor for approval. Given the Lieutenant Governor is appointed and not an elected representative, I do not see how this is truly an added level of legislative accountability.

Another Liberal government a generation ago also sought to increase government oversight and accountability. This was when the Savage government embedded the requirement for the Legislature to sit twice a year - Spring and Fall - so the government couldn't escape accountability for months on end. The intent was clear and not intended that the Fall session last 15 minutes.

The oversight of the Lieutenant Governor granted the government's request to prorogue the Legislature. It is hard to imagine that the Lieutenant Governor would not approve the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board's additional appropriation plan. Given this government's track record with accountability, I will take the additional oversight these amendments are purported to provide with a grain of salt.

In defence of these amendments, the minister referenced past governments, both Progressive Conservative and NDP and their borrowings. Let's look at those additional appropriations for a moment, that the minister referenced. The minister mentioned the last year of the MacDonald government in 2009, which added \$1 billion to the provincial debt. Well, the government presented its budget in May 2009 and was defeated a few days later. After the election, the new NDP government stated it was presenting the previous government's budget with a few tweaks added in.

This begs the question: how much of this \$1 billion in debt was truly the MacDonald government's? The minister compared this \$1 billion of debt for 2009 of the MacDonald government to the pre-COVID-19 years of this government. As I recall, the period of 2008-09 would have been one where the government aimed at helping the province so that it could recover from the great recession, and as such, this kind of comparison is sort of like apples and oranges.

Furthermore, the government of the day received only 8 per cent of the HST, not the current 10 per cent. This translates, at the time, to an extra \$294 million to revenues in 2008, and \$297 million in 2009, had the government of the day benefited the way this government has from the increase that the NDP government brought in in 2011.

In fact, in 2011 when the new NDP increased the HST by 2 per cent, this generated an additional \$947 million, approximately, in tax revenues during their term. This government has benefited to the tune of over \$2 billion thus far.

The minister and the government are not shy to refer to their financial prowess over the past eight years, but for a moment I would like to look a little deeper. From 2000 to 2009, under consecutive Progressive Conservative governments, Nova Scotia saw its net debt increase \$500 million, from \$10 billion to \$10.5 billion. As the minister stated, the following four years of the NDP government saw the provincial debt increase \$3.2 billion to \$14 billion.

Mr. Speaker, to this point, after eight years of this government, our net debt has increased \$2.7 billion to \$16 billion. This government takes great pains to reference its capital spending as being a major driver of this debt, yet all governments engage in some level of capital spending year in and year out, and this equally applied to the Hamm/MacDonald years.

As I stated Friday, I will stake the Progressive Conservative Hamm/MacDonald government's record against this government any day of the week, but we are not here to talk about past governments and past challenges. We are here to discuss this year's Financial Measures (2021) Act and this year's budget.

Indeed, in this session we had two apparent extremes. On the one hand, we have Bill No. 105 adding clarity to a power they say the government already has, yet Bill No. 4, the Biodiversity Act, lacked this clarity with a government saying it will come later. We saw the results earlier this session. This lack of clarity resulted in the government self-amending Bill No. 4 to the tune of going from 55 clauses to 19.

My takeaway is that clarity is good, but only when it serves as a means to an end. In Bill No. 105 it does, and in Bill No. 4, it did not. Accountability to the people is good, but only every four years during the election process, apparently.

The budget, as presented by the government, projects a deficit for 2021-22 of \$585 million on revenues of \$11.8 billion. This year, as a result of this deficit and the capital plan, the government is projecting our provincial net debt to increase a further \$1.3 billion to \$18 billion.

With the current capital projects and the projected four years before provincial revenues catch up to spending, the province's debt will be increasing at a further \$3.2 billion over these four years. When the government came to power in 2013, the provincial debt stood at \$14 billion, and based on this budget and the full-year projections therein, the province's debt will have increased \$7 billion, or 50 per cent by 2024-25, when it will be \$21.2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the past year was a difficult one for all Nova Scotians, yet the budget and the Financial Measures (2021) Act do not rise to address the needs of Nova Scotians. The 2021-22 budget contains increased departmental spending, net of COVID, of \$510 million, with the majority - \$424 million - going towards health, long-term care, community services, and education.

The budget documents are littered with soundbites to describe much of the spending in programs. What Nova Scotians need to hear is access: faster access to health care, be it an emergency or a family doctor; timely EHS services; reduced wait times for surgeries; access to a long-term care bed when they need it, not in five years' time when one-fifth of the current demand will be built; access to housing in the hour of need; and to mental health services. They don't need more programs. They need more access to existing ones.

The budget for the coming year contains \$275 million Health and Wellness spending related to COVID-19, yet with the third wave well under way in the rest of the country - a wave that by all appearances is worse than anything that has come these past 13 months - one can't help but wonder if this will be sufficient, should we enter this third wave here in Nova Scotia.

Indeed, Nova Scotians must remain vigilant, and the need to follow Public Health guidelines is more important than ever, but one only needs to look to our neighbours in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, or further afield to appreciate how quickly things can change and the ever-present danger of COVID-19.

Much like any constituency in this province, the residents of Northside-Westmount are diverse. You have fishers, construction, industry, health care workers, educators, retail workers, small business owners, and the retired. What concerns these residents, regardless of where they live or what they do, is variations on the same list: employment, housing, poverty, roads, schools, health care and, of course, getting vaccinated. Mr. Speaker, the 2021-2022 budget is a step that does not go far enough. It identifies some issues, but provides band-aid treatment.

With regard to Bill No. 105, the Financial Measures (2021) Act, previous governments had no issues with the existing legislation as it related to appropriations, additional or otherwise. Given the minister's statement that all governments have made additional appropriations, I can only infer that this applies to past years of this government. This begs the question: why does the government feel the need to add clarity now if it hasn't had an issue in the past?

Mr. Speaker, oversight and review of appropriations for the upcoming year is what we're doing here now. May I propose that if it's truly clarity the government feels is lacking, that this government find it in the form of an amendment that would recall the Legislature for its consideration, not simply presenting a plan to the Lieutenant Governor for approval. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The House will recess for its mandated 15-minute COVID-19 break and proceedings will resume at 6:11 p.m.

[7:56 p.m. The House recessed.]

[6:11 p.m. The House reconvened.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I would like to just say a few words at this final opportunity regarding the budget. I want to say - it is probably the nurse in me - remind us all that we are in a war against a deadly virus. We can't really afford to waste energy and be in a war against each other.

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The reality is that we're about to vote on a budget that is an estimate at best. We think back to over a year ago when we voted on the last budget. The reality is that what actually ended up happening with those funds was far from what we voted on a year ago. We could be facing a third wave right here in Nova Scotia. We could be facing a third wave affecting our health care system which is already at a breaking point.

Does this budget have the flexibility to adjust in a continued war against this virus? If there are significant changes needed to this budget - several other members have already asked this question, and I want to ask it as well - how will this government govern? Will they recall us to the Legislature to vote on proposed significant changes? Or will they ignore the legislative branch, removing true democracy?

I believe that is a slippery slope when you take away the voice of the elected people. It is a dangerous sign. I don't care who the Leader is. When you start to see that happen, Mr. Speaker, that should be a concern for everyone.

The fact is that we need to respect that each one of us in this Legislature has a responsibility to represent the people whom we represent, and we need everyone rowing in the same direction, working for the greater good. It has never been needed more in the last 100 years. We are facing more challenging days ahead. That's just a fact when we see the challenges in central Canada.

I'm asking, in my final words on this budget, for this government to consider all Nova Scotians and ensure that all Nova Scotians receive equity, including the people that I represent in Cumberland North. That is my job, to represent the needs of the people who elected me.

All Nova Scotians deserve equity. All Nova Scotians deserve access to health care. All Nova Scotians deserve to be able to pursue the gaining of a livelihood. Leaders and

government have a responsibility to lead and govern fairly, no matter for what area of the province. No matter if they have a female MLA or an Opposition MLA, because it's not about us. It's about the people. It's all about the people. For gosh sake, that is why we are all here. Regardless of where people live in this province, they should be considered when decisions are being made and how those decisions are going to impact them. Every Nova Scotian should have the same access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

[6:15 p.m.]

As I finish, I have a couple of direct requests of this government. The first one is, if this government is going to make a decision to close the entrance to our border town, causing harm to our businesses and families, then for gosh sakes, provide financial support, because it's no fault of their own that this government is choosing to close up the entrance to our community and our town. This province has provided nothing in support to our border community.

Number two: stop charging the people north of the Cobequid Pass an additional tax in the form of a toll that no other part of the province is forced to pay.

Third: roll up your sleeves and start doing the hard work of working with our neighbouring province. Start working together. It does take more effort to work collaboratively, and I'm asking this government to roll up your sleeves and do it so that all Nova Scotians receive equity, so that all Nova Scotians receive access to timely health care, so that all Nova Scotians can pursue the gaining of a livelihood.

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

GARY BURRILL: The Financial Measures (2021) Act and the budget it codifies, which are before us, are measures that are full of danger and of disappointment for the people of Nova Scotia. The disappointment was apparent as soon as this budget was presented. After a year of COVID-19, when closures of schools and daycares have made so obvious our need for a system of universal, affordable child care in Nova Scotia, we have a budget in front of us that brings forward exactly zero new resources to address this gaping necessity in our province.

The opportunity missed is painful, and it is not being missed elsewhere. British Columbia is three years into a plan to implement \$10-a-day child care over a decade. Alberta is in the midst of a pilot project to provide \$25-a-day child care spaces. As of January 1st, 2021, all child care spaces in Newfoundland and Labrador are \$25 a day. The same will be true in P.E.I. in nine months, by January 2022. Meanwhile, here in Nova Scotia, parents pay an average of \$45 a day for child care, and the Liberal government brings in a budget that takes utterly no action on this issue.

Nor is this the case with the federal budget, which has just been tabled. That is because a new understanding about child care is finally penetrating into the world of public policy across our country. Namely that public investments in child care yield double dividends, in that they're not only an economic growth program from the point of view of creating positions for early childhood educators, but also child care investments are virtual rocket fuel for economic development because of the increase in the labour force participation rate that they by making it possible for parents - primarily women - to go to work.

What a failure, Mr. Speaker. The recently issued 2020 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia points out that the poverty rate for children under six in Nova Scotia is considerably higher than is the case for older children, at 28.5 per cent.

Now, we don't need an army of economists to explain this to us. The median pre-school age child care fee in the HRM was, in 2019, \$861 a month. Plainly, until the child is in school, in the absence of an actual system of affordable child care, it is considerably less likely that one or both parents will be in a position to take a full-time job, so 28.5 per cent. Nor is there any acknowledgement in this budget of the additional costs incurred by families who have had to find care for school-age children so that they could continue to work while schools were closed in COVID-19. Nor is there any acknowledgement of the cost incurred for alternative child care arrangements that had to be made while child care centres were shut down. Nor was there any acknowledgement of the income parents lost when they had to turn down shifts because no such alternative child care was available to them.

Our caucus has put forward a proposal to this government for an immediate, one-time payment of \$200 per child, in consideration of these expenses, which is about equivalent to the cost of one week's child care. We were pleased to provide our costing for this proposal to the Premier's Office, at the Premier's request, and we are disappointed to see that no such child care provision is present in this budget. Key word, Mr. Speaker, we are disappointed.

Additionally, it is simply very disappointing that in a time when Nova Scotia needs 3,000 new long-term care beds to move to a model of one resident, one room, one washroom, and to move nursing home residents out of hospital beds and to clear the waiting lists - in these circumstances, to find provision in the budget for opening just 230 new beds in total. That is literally less than one-tenth of what is needed.

What is particularly disappointing here, Mr. Speaker, is the lack of a sense of focused urgency that it demonstrates. Had this Liberal government proceeded over the last eight years at the same pace of new long-term care facility construction as the NDP government that preceded it, we would today easily be in a position where the next government in Nova Scotia would straightforwardly, within a single mandate, be able to

complete the transition to one resident/one room, and would be able to do that without even accelerating the construction program.

Because this government has opened a microscopic total of 57 new beds over the eight years of its two mandates, new long-term care facility construction now calls for a highly prioritized, highly focused, highly energetic program in order to recover the ground that has been lost, but one looks in vain for anything resembling this kind of urgent focus on nursing home construction in this budget and that is disappointing.

In general, Mr. Speaker, there is an air of performative superficiality about this budget which underlies this overall sense of disappointment. How wonderful and full of vision some of these new departmental names sounded when they were announced just seven weeks ago - the Department of Inclusive Economic Growth, the Department of Transportation and Active Transit, the Department of Environment and Climate Change. But in fact what have we got? Under economic growth we've got an Economic Growth Council that is exactly the pure opposite of inclusive. It includes no voices from labour. It includes no voices from the world of environmental advocacy. It includes no voices from municipalities, et cetera.

Under Active Transit, we have an actual active transit budget, within the newly named department, of \$400,000 out of a department total of \$550 million. This must set some kind of record for the worst ratio of departmental naming to actual resources in the history of Canadian public administration.

We have a Department of Environment and Climate Change in a government which is actively embracing an LNG plant in Goldboro which everybody but the government behind this budget knows and recognizes, if it is developed, will blow the top off Nova Scotia's legislated ceiling in greenhouse gas emissions. Just two months on the stage, and we see that it was all show.

The emperor, it seems, is like that unfortunate parliamentarian who forgot to turn his House of Commons Zoom camera off last week while changing. It turns out he has no clothes. Disappointment everywhere, including in the area which my friend, our Party's Finance Critic, the member for Dartmouth South, has spoken to, the provisions of the Financial Measures (2021) Act which facilitate diminished legislative oversight of government appropriations.

I won't retread this ground which she has articulated so clearly both now and in debate on our defeated amendment to this provision of the bill at the Committee of the Whole House on Bills, except to say that at some fundamental level, this government seems to have never properly absorbed the core concept of responsible government. At the heart of responsible government, there is a pact. There is, at the heart of responsible government, an agreement, a covenant, even, between an elected political Party and a people. When a political Party is elected, it is extended the right to govern by the people, and in return, its

part of the deal is that it presents its decisions, its priorities, and its spending to the scrutiny of the public through the mechanisms of the public's House.

This government has been trying to wriggle and slither its way out of their side of the democratic deal ever since they came to power. The appropriations provisions in the Financial Measures (2021) Act are a further significant slither in the same direction. What can we say about this in this Chamber where responsible government was brought to life before anywhere else in British North America, other than that it is very disappointing?

I also want to say that this budget, in addition to being a disappointment, poses very real danger to the people of our province. The danger this budget poses is contained in its four-year fiscal plan, 2021-22 to 2024-25, where the government projects to eliminate its deficit four years from now on the basis of a decrease - a reduction - in departmental spending next year of \$208,900,000. This is a proposed reduction of departmental spending of dramatic and drastic scope. It is more than the budgets for the Departments of Agriculture, Energy and Mines, Environment and Climate Change, and Fisheries and Aquaculture together. Prorated to the proportion of the global provincial budget that is spent on the Department of Health and Wellness, it would mean a one-year reduction in the health budget of \$96 million.

I have questioned the Premier on this throughout this session. We have asked him repeatedly: Where is this \$209 million reduction that the government plans for departmental spending next year going to come from? At first, he said it would be from reductions in COVID-19-related spending. I asked him about which COVID-19-related spending would be discontinued. Would it be PPE for our frontline health care workers, or would it be in infection control in nursing homes? When I asked him that, he said no, perhaps it wouldn't all come from COVID-19-related spending. When we asked him if it was going to come out from pending contracts with health care workers like CCAs and nurses, he was similarly evasive.

[6:30 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, when a government tells you that it is going to take \$209 million out of its budget in the year following the next election and the Premier will not, cannot, does not tell you where the projected \$209 million in cuts is going to come from, people have every reasonable reason to feel very worried, because we remember vividly what happened in the budgets six and seven years ago when this government, on the lee side of an election, made cuts of parallel proportions in the 2014 and 2015 budgets.

Every grant program in the Department of Seniors was cut by 25 per cent. Community grants for groups involved in mental health or addictions were cut by 40 per cent overall. Funding was cut to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Eating Disorders Nova Scotia, the Schizophrenia Society, and the Nova Scotia Association for Community

Living. Funding was cut to the CNIB and the Deafness Advocacy Association. Funding was cut from People First Nova Scotia.

Writing about it at the time, then-executive director for the Community Sector Council of Nova Scotia, Kathleen Flanagan, called it a “swath of destruction.”

Paul Schneidereit wrote about it in the *Chronicle Herald* under the headline - and I will table this - “Liberals attacking deficit through most vulnerable.” That is exactly what this government did. Three hundred and twenty full-time jobs were removed from the Public Service, and \$8 million was removed from the budget that sustained recreational, dietary, and staffing budgets in nursing homes. The Film Tax Credit was done away with and a three-year wage freeze was implemented in the public sector.

When I have questioned the Premier in this session, comparing those cuts to the \$209 million reductions he is proposing for next year in Nova Scotia in this budget, the answers we have received have been dismissive. He has offered disparaging comments about the NDP and self-congratulations about his adherence to the creed of balanced budgets, but I wish for him and for his government to be reminded that it was not the NDP that caused those people to no longer have the programming that helped them at the CNIB, the CMHA, and all those other supportive organizations.

I wish for him and his government to be reminded that it was not the NDP that caused dietary workers, environmental services workers, laundry workers, and care staff at Northwood, following those budgets, to hold a protest out on Gottingen Street about how care was being curtailed and diminished and affected there by those cutbacks. Nor was it the NDP that separated the families of the Nova Scotia film world when, following the abolition of the Film Tax Credit, such a major percentage of the film workers of this province had to go elsewhere in this country in order that they could work.

I would remind him, and I would remind his government, of something else that neither he nor they seem to register very deeply: that is how badly people were hurt by those reductions in those budgets; that people were hurt in nursing homes when program directors couldn't organize this or that excursion anymore because their recreation budgets no longer could afford it; that people were hurt when they shut down completely the Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism and handed out layoff notices to 75 members of that staff; that people were hurt when they took away the jobs from 38 people who worked in the provincial parks of Nova Scotia.

I remind him and them that every member of this government who stood and voted for those cuts and reductions carries the responsibility for having caused that pain. I submit as unequivocally and as directly as I can that they cannot take \$209 million out of departmental spending next year, as they here propose, without causing more of this same hurt and pain.

The government has stated openly in this budget that reductions at this level are at the centre of their four-year fiscal program. For this reason I say that this is a budget that is full of great danger for the people of our province, and not only danger but also folly. It is simply fiscally foolish in the midst of an unprecedented worldwide pandemic, in the midst of the most severe economic contraction experienced in the lifetimes of anybody in Nova Scotia under the age of 85, to build a fiscal plan, to construct a fiscal foundation in Nova Scotia on the basis of getting to a no-deficit position within just four years. To begin with, it flies in the face of the great public health uncertainty of the present moment.

What guarantees does the government have that by the time the year-two provisions of this budget plan come into effect, major levels of public support, business support, and public health investment will not any longer be needed? I feel fairly certain that the government has not received any such assurances from Dr. Strang.

It is simply foolhardy, with an economy that is being held together as ours is today by, in effect, the chicken wire of the wage subsidy, to look at the economy of Nova Scotia and say, as this government is saying with this budget, oh, that looks like a good place to take out \$209 million. I don't think so, Mr. Speaker.

We are at the 13.5 month mark of this pandemic, and it is government that has got us through COVID-19 to the point where we are today. It is the wrong time, it is a terrible time, it is a foolish time to tie government's hands by depriving it of the resources it needs to guide us through the rest of the COVID-19 era by reducing departmental spending, as this budget commits to do next year by \$209 million.

Mr. Speaker, we do not see this kind of fiscal folly in the federal budget tabled in Ottawa this afternoon, nor do we see it elsewhere. Consider the fact, weigh the fact that three of the most fiscally conservative governments in Canada are not on this kind of foolish fiscal course. The government of Quebec has committed itself to a six-year path to balance. The governments of Saskatchewan and Ontario have committed themselves to six as well. That is because they recognize it is going to take years for incomes and, hence, for government revenues to return to pre-pandemic levels.

So why in Nova Scotia, why is Nova Scotia - the province with the lowest median income in Canada going into the pandemic - presenting a budget that projects inflicting pain on its people in order to squeeze the trajectory to balance into a four-year framework? Why? It is a very good question, Mr. Speaker, to which I do not exactly know the answer, but I suspect it is because this government has a slavish and mechanical adherence to the thought of balanced budgets, a slavish and mechanical adherence that is, unfortunately, greater than their understanding of what is required for the people of Nova Scotia in this fiscal and economic moment. The result is that the government has put forward a budget here which is, as I have outlined, both dangerous and disappointing.

The New Democratic Party will be voting against the Financial Measures (2021) Act. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens-Shelburne.

KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take some time during third reading of the Financial Measures (2021) Act to talk about how this government's mismanagement is impacting a health care institution in Queens - 64,154 people are waiting for a doctor in this province. Way back in 2013 this government promised a doctor for every Nova Scotian, a campaign headline that gave Nova Scotians hope, but this Liberal government has failed miserably.

In Queens County we have 1,069 residents on a list waiting for a family doctor. We know that number is much larger as many residents have not even registered. We have incredibly cherished doctors in the constituency of Queens-Shelburne, highly trained, dedicated, compassionate family physicians.

I will never forget the day my Leader and I visited Queens General Hospital and we had a conversation with a very strong, strapping family physician who shared with us, "I am sacrificing my own health trying to care for the health of others."

Although I thought I understood the scope of what was happening, or not happening, in the health care system, his words took me aback and it created tremendous worry and anxiety for me. This big, strong, strapping family physician, he was now fragile, and he was at risk because of this health authority and because of this government. Doctors are the foundation of our health care system, and without them we are in a state of demise.

We have a gem of a hospital in Queens County. Queens General Hospital opened its doors in 1949. Members of this House have heard me say many times in this Legislature that the doors of Queens General Hospital Emergency Room have never closed. And I take tremendous pride when I stand in this House - the seat that belongs to the residents of Queens-Shelburne - and say that. I know members who have stood in this House before me, like the honourable John Leefe, the honourable Kerry Morash, the honourable member Vicki Conrad, have said the same - over 70 years, and the doors of our local ER have never closed.

That is not a certainty any longer for the residents of our community. The doctors, nurses, and other dedicated health care professionals at the Queens General Hospital Emergency Room take tremendous pride in their long record of service to the community, and they are fiercely proud of being there for the residents day or night, rain or shine, decade after decade.

Since becoming the MLA for Queens-Shelburne, I have heard of nurses who have worked their full shifts, grabbed a few hours of sleep, and come back to our local hospital

to ensure we would have coverage in our ER, to ensure the doors would not close. I remember shortly after I was elected, I actually delivered a flower arrangement to the doorsteps of a registered nurse who came back to work with no sleep to ensure the doors would remain open.

The Queens General physician family as I know it is aging. Many of our comprehensive family physicians have retired. I think of Dr. Al Doucette, Dr. Susan Thorne, Dr. Gary Morash, internist Dr. Kim Crawford - and, sadly, Dr. Tim Woodford will be leaving at the end of June. Although we have been so blessed to welcome new family physicians and nurse practitioners to our health community, we need more so that residents can access health care when they need it.

Sadly, the 1,069 people in Queens who wait on the list, and many more who are not even on the list, are accessing their health care in our emergency room, a place that is overcrowded, creating wait times and an environment that is fragmented and unsatisfactory. Although we have a dedicated community of family physicians recruiting family physicians, and a hospital foundation that financially assists in recruiting family doctors, our hospital here in Queens has been put in a terrible situation by this health authority in Halifax and by this Liberal government.

The family physicians at Queens General have been left running on the treadmill, doing all the work without an available stop button. They have asked for help, they have offered solutions, only to be ignored.

I am sorry to say that over the weekend, I heard that the unbroken record of service of our ER doors at Queens General could possibly come to an end. Think about that - 70 years. This news will be a shock and a disappointment to all of those who rest easy knowing that our ER was always there for them.

I can only imagine how disappointed, heartsick, and demoralized the dedicated health care professionals who worked so hard to keep the doors open every day at the Queens General Emergency Room must feel. These doctors cover their very busy ER shifts with increases in workloads coming from adjacent counties. On top of looking after the patients in their family practices, they also care for nursing homes, palliative care patients, and in-patients. They literally have worked their guts out, Mr. Speaker, making sure the ER doors are open.

Now we do not have enough doctors to do the ER shifts. Our doctors are suffering from tremendous burnout from this government. They're frustrated, they are demoralized, they feel a sense of powerlessness to help residents of their community access the care they need in a timely manner. They are beyond tired.

Our family physicians practising in our community have been doing everything they possibly can to keep those doors of the Queens General ER open, shift after shift. I'm

sure they feel like they've failed. I want to assure them that the only failure in this situation is the failure of this government to understand the ramifications of its actions. Let me explain.

[6:45 p.m.]

This government provides incentives for hospitalists and ER physicians to cover shifts in Shelburne, Lunenburg County, and Digby. I'm told these physicians can make \$1000 more at these hospitals in a 24-hour shift than they can make at Queens General. So, guess what? Given the choice between Queens General and the more lucrative Shelburne, Lunenburg County, Digby, Queens General loses out. Think about that. If someone offers you \$1000 more to go to work for 24 hours, where are you going to go?

I don't blame the doctors for making that choice. I blame this government for creating a situation that pits doctor against doctor, hospital against hospital and, sadly, community against community. How does this government expect Queens to be competitive in recruiting doctors and hospitalists and ER physicians? It is shocking to me how doctors are being treated here in Queens County. We have the lowest-paid ER doctors in the Western Region. Why would any new graduate, who is saddled with tremendous debt at the onset of their career, choose to set up a practice that would involve overheads such as administration costs, rent, office expenses, incur more debt, work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, when they can be incentivised by this government for not doing so? The reaction of new practitioners has been predictable, and it is understandable.

Think about that again. No overhead for hospitalists who are coming into our community providing a service that is very much needed, but our family physicians, who living in our community, providing a service to our community, are paying tremendous costs to offer that service. Here's the irony. When people who would usually go to the Queens General ER get there and see a closed sign on the ER doors, they will need to travel to Shelburne, to Bridgewater, to Lunenburg. Think about that. For years now, residents from Shelburne and Lunenburg, two neighbouring communities, have been travelling to Liverpool, and now they will need to commute to our regional hospital in Bridgewater. Think of the pressures this will place on what is already an overcrowded ER.

As a 70-year record of service possibly comes to an end next week, I want to thank the doctors, the nurses, and all the health care professionals who have fought so hard to keep those ER doors open every day, 24 hours a day for 70 years, because they care about the patients they see, because they care that Queens General was a place people could depend on and because they did their very best to avoid this from ever happening.

I've stated before that the provision of health care in rural Nova Scotia is in crisis. The fact that Queens General Hospital ER doors may need to close because of physician coverage not being available, that should define to this government the meaning of a health care crisis.

I am fully aware that doctors have been warning, they have been sounding the alarm to this government and Nova Scotia Health Authority for a long time but you both have turned off the volume, you have turned off the sound, you haven't listened.

We in Queens are now at an emergency crisis level. The doors of Queens General Hospital ER, doors that have remained open for 70 years, could close as early as next week because of a lack of physician coverage. Government needs to take responsibility today. Thank you.

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

ALANA PAON: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to stand this evening to speak a bit on the Financial Measures (2021) Act. I'd like to start off by saying that, as we all know, we're heading out of this House and we're heading into an election at some point. After almost four years of standing in my place and sitting in this House, I have to say that the first thing that really comes to mind is, really, the insanity, sometimes, of this place and the way that I feel, that sometimes I do not speak the same language that is being spoken in this House.

I'm not talking about English or French, I'm talking about that feeling you get when you meet someone whom you feel very comfortable with in speaking about ideas and things that are important to you, things which you are impassioned about, things that you would have grown up being taught are correct - right, wrong, good, evil. It's kind of basic, there's a lot of grey area, obviously, in between. But I sometimes think that this place is almost like this alien world that we come into, and we refer to one another across this House, utilizing our constituency names - and I understand that's a very old tradition, Mr. Speaker. But when we're not on camera we obviously speak to one another as human beings, utilizing our given names.

The language of this House, which is, of course, again, a long-standing tradition and, obviously, part of our constitutional democracy, is in fact in some ways very foreign to what would be kind of the natural way of things on a day-to-day basis for most people in Nova Scotia. It takes some getting used to, being in this place. It takes some getting used to - to figure out, basically, the rules, the procedures, the policies. It's an extraordinary amount of research, so if you enjoy, basically, doing lots of research, going through legal documentation, being able to speak to lots of people and being able to bring their issues forward, in hope that they will be resolved, then this is a fantastic position for you.

I would encourage anyone who may want to get involved in an elected position to put their name forward. Now, there's another aspect of me that will say this. Sometimes I am asked, especially by women: What's it really like, Alana, in there? Should I put my name forward? The first thing, really, that gut reaction that I get, Mr. Speaker, is run in the opposite direction - go live your life. Run in the opposite direction because this place - there's a reason why you see all these politicians on media, and their hair goes grey or goes

white very quickly over the course of four or six years of being in an elected position. It's very intense. It's very challenging. I enjoy a challenge so that's not a problem for me, but it's all the other stuff, the part that we kind of call racket down home. It's the racket. It's like the unfortunate backroom stuff - the unfortunate chicanerie, comme on dirait en acadien chez moi. It's that strange underlying - I'm going to call it for what it is - greed, wanting to make certain that you have a bigger piece of the pie.

We're here to talk obviously about the budget, but I'm going to talk a little bit liberally about broad scopes. I think that we're always kind of in the same position. Every three to four years, we go to the polls. We have a constitutional right to be able to go and choose whoever it is that we would like to be able to see as our next elected representative. Before I got involved in this position, I would never have thought for a million years, simply because we have been indoctrinated - and I will utilize that word - to think that really, the only solution or the only options are to choose nominated candidates who have private membership to certain political Parties.

I don't want to speak disparagingly about political Parties per se. I have been a member of a political Party, and I'm now sitting as an Independent. I have come to the realization that I think I understand now why I am here. It has been a humiliating, overwhelming, taxing, exhausting, and extremely gratifying (in many ways) experience to be here. As all other members in this House have, I have worked. I know I and my staff have worked very hard to do what we think is right and just for the people of Cape Breton-Richmond.

To do what is right and just, within this system, is very difficult at times. It's not just talking about budgetary matters. I'm talking really about the system as a whole. There would never be a house in history that wouldn't need renovation at some point. We all get into renovating our homes. It was a huge thing when the pandemic first started to go out and purchase your wood supplies and so forth - everyone is staying at home - and to try and get some of those much-needed and overdue projects done at the house if you are, in fact, so lucky as to own a home.

I would describe, from my perspective and my journey in the last almost four years having being asked to put my name forward, being told that I didn't have a hope in you-know-what of being able to win my seat, being told now that I also don't have a hope in you-know-what of being able to get my seat back because I now sit as an Independent, but I am going to tell you this: I have had an extraordinary opportunity from all of this fallout to do a lot of learning.

You can either give up, and that's probably the wish, because my seat of course, like every other seat in this House is valuable, and any political Party wants to gain majority. I personally think that one of the best things that could happen in this province next time around is that a minority government is voted in, because that in fact makes certain that everybody needs to be collaborating.

[7:00 p.m.]

People say, well, nothing gets done then, the government ends up falling, we go into an early election mode. Well, that's not necessarily the case. We see what's happening in Prince Edward Island. I've got to say, hats off to what's happening in Prince Edward Island. They are doing something right.

I also personally think, Mr. Speaker, that in order for that renovation - that much-needed renovation that needs to occur in this House, the people's House - we don't see any people here now, of course, during COVID-19, but even when we were open to the public, very rarely would you see any people within the gallery. Many people whom I spoke to didn't even realize that they could come here.

You kind of ask yourself, what are we doing for outreach, to make certain that people understand the democratic process in this province? I have had a very unfortunate journey while here, but that unfortunate journey - as I've said, Mr. Speaker, as many that I've had in my life, and difficult roads that everyone has - I have utilized that and turned it around and utilized it as an opportunity to learn what needs to change here.

We're kind of at this crucible moment. COVID-19 is happening, everybody is talking about a big reset in a negative way, but in a way it has - we've taken a huge step into modernity in this House.

I remember when I first started, I had spoken to my caucus at the time regarding the need to utilize better technology and open things up. The reason why I'm talking about this is that by utilizing technology and opening things up, when you're looking at something like this, like the budget, when we're looking at bills that were being put forward, it's very seldom that you would see people come and be able to speak in this House, to be able to basically have an opportunity to give feedback. You have to take a day off, first of all, to come here. You could submit something, but it takes time. It takes effort. You also need to know that that opportunity even exists.

So how on earth is the general public, unless they are in fact consulted, supposed to assist or supposed to have any input on a budget like this? For most people, they rely on us, as their elected representative, to make certain that we're making the best choices on their behalf.

I don't see that reflected in this budget, Mr. Speaker. It's not all bad. It's not all doom and gloom, but when I'm going through the budget, as my other colleagues have mentioned as well, we don't see the supports that are needed for some of our most vulnerable citizens. To me, that's where I start the process of review. How are we doing as far as being able to support and put supports forward for our most vulnerable citizens? We're not doing enough to try and assist those in our communities who need long-term beds.

It is deplorable what the government has put forward as far as a solution to put forward more long-term beds. It's a couple hundred, almost 300 beds for almost one million Nova Scotians. The greater portion are senior citizens, many of whom are obviously waiting for beds in our hospitals, like the Strait Richmond Hospital. It's not going to help.

It also concerns me when I hear the least paid among us. I think of CCAs, many of whom are friends of mine, who are being asked to do the most important jobs in being able to take care of vulnerable citizens, take care of many of our senior citizens who have dedicated their lives, they've paid their taxes, they've paid their dues - and these wonderful Nova Scotians who have decided to become CCAs, not being heard.

Other frontline health care workers such as doctors and licensed practical nurses are not being heard. In fact, many times when I do have an occasion to speak with nurses, doctors, they are afraid to come forward and speak. That is what I find to be the most concerning, is that when you have citizens who are, in fact, terrified of coming forward to speak up about what the problems are for fear of repercussion. How is that democratic? How is that, in any way, encouraging citizens to be fully participatory in their government? It is not, Mr. Speaker.

You know, this is our last day in this House and there are many of us who have decided that they are not going to reoffer. For my constituency, in particular, and I just want to mention this, we are going to go back to a protected constituency.

I've had the distinct honour of being able to work with three different municipalities, three different municipal units, that are obviously helping citizens with a huge host of concerns. It has been, actually, a learning experience in itself to be able to see how those three different municipal units work, one of them obviously being an urban environment, another one being a town, and the other one the Municipality of Richmond, which is rural.

Going into this budget and now, of course, with a majority, as I mentioned earlier, it doesn't matter really what the rest of us would wish to see. I think my colleagues from across the floor had a good suggestion in their amendment to want to make certain that we have an opportunity, for when government wants to make more appropriations, that we have an opportunity to be able to have some say in that.

I would also like to state, and I know that other members would like to see more accountability when it comes to these regulations that are being set without any involvement of any of these members in this House. It's really important that when we are enacting bills, when we are voting on bills that are going to be changing the laws in this province, we fully understand what is coming down the pike. I find that to be really terrifying, to be perfectly frank. I don't want to vote on something that I am not completely comfortable with, that I understand its full implications because we don't know regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to keep this as brief as possible. I know everybody is in a rush to get home. I am looking forward to getting home and seeing my own family, as well. Until, I think, we are able to have members in this House who are able to freely stand up and speak on bills, on a budget such as this, and not feel concerned that this will be ramifications upon them, and until there are members in this House who take the lead, as I am trying to do - and it's not easy - to take a look at what rules need to change in here so that, in fact, we can be fully participatory in the way that our elected - we're the elected representatives of the people, so we want to make certain that it is the people who we are representing; never anything else, Mr. Speaker.

I never want to feel, and I would never allow myself to be in this position of feeling like I am not representing those who elected me and that I'm being asked to, basically, make decisions on things that are not keeping with what I know the people at home would want me to do.

When I look at this bill, and I've been speaking to many folks at home in the health care industry, in our private sector - business owners have been so, so poorly affected in the last year - I can't in good conscience say yes to this.

I feel as though, prior to an election, government goes out with budgets kind of spreading pixie dust. It's like spreading gold everywhere. I'm never really quite certain about what is, in fact, going to be enacted upon after we go through an election process. We can only hope that the new Premier and the elected members next time around will be putting these ideas forward in good faith.

I've seen over and over again, unfortunately, in this House, in leadership races and in previous governments, promises being made that are not followed through upon. I think that that is the worst thing that you can do to your citizens because it causes your citizens to not trust the government that, in fact, is there to do their best for you.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say my thanks to all the people who are within this House. I want to actually thank someone in particular because when everything hit the fan, I'm going to say to you that the difficulties that I have encountered here, there's a couple of other people who come and they speak to me on the side. A lot of people even say, Alana, gosh, we wish we were you. You have all the freedom in the world to be able to speak. That's true. It's a very unique position to be in. It's a unique position in many ways.

I'm going to do a special shout-out to the member for Cumberland North, who spoke earlier. I can tell you, and it shows the true character of a human being - of a loving, kind woman - when everyone else in your political family leaves you, that that one good soul stands by your side, pays for it somewhat herself, and comes to your assistance.

We need to be able to trust the people whom we elect who come into this House. I don't want to be any different here than I am at home. You get what you see with me. That

is not always the case in this place. There is not always justice in life. In fact, I often think that instead of the Minister of Justice, we should just change that to the Minister of Legal Affairs because it has just become a legal affair. It doesn't mean necessarily that you will, in fact, get justice. I know that there are many things for which I have not been able to get justice on behalf of the people that I serve. Again, my being here is not about me. I'm just the one person who gets to stand in here and represent the thousands of people at home who are depending on me to do the right thing.

It's tough. It's tough when you're surrounded by a great deal of pressure to sometimes do what you don't believe is right. I do not want any other person who comes after me to have to go through this.

I'm going to tell you, we talk about mental health in this House. I know there have been bills that have been put forward. I know that there's some money within the budget - not enough, as far as I am concerned because we are not dealing with root issues a lot of the time. We are dealing with the issues that come afterward.

[7:15 p.m.]

We need to be more open; we need to be more accountable. When we talk about transparency, I would hope that we follow through with doing that. I can tell you that just because you are standing on your own at any particular time as, perhaps, just one individual, it is extraordinary how, if you actually just think and you do and you turn that whole situation around 180, you actually realize that you have an extraordinary opportunity to represent the people that you serve purely. It is not the Party that I serve, it is the people.

I want to say that I have tried my entire life - and I will continue to do so long after I leave this place - I try to do what is right, try to be honourable, to do my best to help people, and to forgive, Mr. Speaker.

One should never forget, but I will do my best. I will do my best to forgive. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The House will now recess for the mandated 15-minute COVID-19 protocol break.

[7:17 p.m. The House recessed.]

[7:32 p.m. The House reconvened.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please.

The honourable member for Chester-St. Margaret's.

HUGH MACKAY: Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise in the House today and express my support for the Financial Measures (2021) Act. This budget is faithful to the practical economic approach taken by successive Liberal governments since 2013. This practical, common sense approach to fiscal responsibility has resulted in Nova Scotia being well positioned to meet the challenges of the pandemic. This budget ensures that our economy comes back better than ever.

As an aside, I applaud the government on passing the Biodiversity Act, the first in all of North America. The government passed this landmark legislation in spite of polarizing opposition. It is a demonstration of the government's pragmatic approach to environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, a spokesperson for the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia has stated that the decision by the Conservative Party of Canada to vote against recognizing climate change was not helpful. The Conservative Party of Canada is, of course, a Party to which members of Nova Scotia's Progressive Conservative caucus and their nominated candidates in the next election belong.

However, I support those who don't.

I agree with the comments by the Progressive Conservative spokesman that the decision by their federal colleagues is not helpful. It must be difficult belonging to a Party of climate change deniers.

In the coming provincial election, Nova Scotians have a clear choice: to support a Party and a Leader who have clearly indicated their commitment to fighting climate change or to support a Party whose members are climate change deniers. (Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Chester-St. Margaret's has the floor.

HUGH MACKAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to have some civility.

It is a pleasure to - wrong page. We hear the member for Pictou East trumpet Hope for Health. For someone who challenges the government on the use of sound bites and talking points, that's pretty rich. Hope for Health. Hope is a good thing. It's a good thing to have, but hope is not a plan. Hope is not a plan.

The government has a plan for health care that allows the investments made in modernizing the health care system in Nova Scotia to grow. This budget puts forward a plan that includes funding increases in key areas such as mental health and addictions, long-term care, the delivery of public health following the exemplary management of the pandemic. I'm pleased to say that I will rise today to vote in favour of this bill and this government.

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

The honourable Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

HON. LABI KOUSOULIS: It's my pleasure to rise to say a few words and have a quick discussion on the Financial Measures (2021) Act.

It was an honour to have our budget passed earlier today, and it's an honour to be here and speaking. One of the comments that was said was by the Leader of the Official Opposition, of the Conservative Party: grandparents want their kids to come home. This struck a bell, because it was one of the last things that he said. They have been coming home, and they have been coming home under this Liberal government.

For the last three years, we have had net gains of youth in this province, and that's the first time it's happened even in a single year since 1989. At the height, in 2006, we were losing 7,000 of our youth every single year, and last year, the number of youth we retained grew by over 2,000. That's a huge turnaround. That is a turnaround in our population of 9,000 people in one year, and that is why we are at the highest point of our population in our history, and that is why we're on track very shortly within a few short years to break 1 million population for Nova Scotia.

The NDP spoke about - there was a constant theme around talking about the Financial Measures (2021) Act or talking about the government, and with that, we've heard it from other members where we really have to look at our facts, and I believe we all should be fact-checked. We as ministers, government, Opposition. Every time somebody stands in their place and speaks to something, everyone should fact check them, including myself. Fact check me all you want. Things have been said and they're being spoken as if it's fact, but it's the furthest thing from fact, and a little bit of context matters here.

I do want to go back to August 2011, because the NDP were saying that this would give powers to the government, and then we wouldn't be able to have discussions around changes to the budgets, which as changes are made they're updated in what's called appropriations. In August 2011, when the NDP actually cut services to persons with disabilities on income assistance, our most vulnerable citizens, it wasn't discussed in the Legislature. It was just done. It was just done. The Leader of the NDP was part of that government. He never spoke up then that this should have been discussed in the Legislature. There were just cuts done.

Extra supports for persons with disabilities were wiped out of income assistance. To me it becomes rich that we're sitting here talking about borrowing, not making changes within a budget, but we're talking about borrowing. I said very early on, there are two Acts that govern the borrowing. One Act said the minister on his own can borrow. Another Act said you require Cabinet to borrow. We chose to mirror the two up, and we went with Cabinet being the body that borrows.

When Cabinet makes an Order in Council, it's public. There was an amendment brought forward, send any changes to the Legislature, but it's already public. Orders in council are public. Nova Scotians can look them up, so are we creating another way of reporting? It just didn't make sense because tabling something in the Legislature, you wait until the Legislature opens. That could be months. When you're sitting there and you have an Order in Council, when it's approved it becomes part of public documents. People can Google "order in council" and they can see. They can put a year in, they can put the numbers in, they can see all approvals of government and how decisions that are made are public. Every quarter those decisions are all put together and updated on the budget.

We had some great news today. Another part that was mentioned was that this government could have invested money in child care and there'd be a great return on it. The Leader of the NDP said that, and he's right. There's a great return to investing in our youth, investing in child care, helping single parents be able to access the workforce. But we did do that in this budget, and we've been doing that for the last four years. It's called pre-Primary, and it has allowed parents of four-year-olds to have free daycare.

I would love - and I think every member in this House would love - to see daycare be fully funded for all ages because, with that, we'd have more parents have financial stability and be able to enter the workforce, and we'd probably see even more of a population growth. I was very pleased to see in the budget tabled today by the federal government \$2 billion to universal daycare, but it had a huge promise of raising that to \$8 billion. By some quick math that I did, the allocation Nova Scotia should get of that \$8 billion - which would amount to approximately \$200 million a year - should deliver universal health care for Nova Scotia. That would be by 2026.

I very much look forward to having universal health care, and I believe we are on track for it. It's a priority of this government. It shows that it's a priority because we started the movement in funding pre-Primary. This budget alone has a \$46 million investment in pre-Primary.

I'm not going to touch on everything that was discussed, but there are some aspects discussed that I think require to be touched on. Municipalities required funding, and we were told we left money on the table. We funded every red cent they asked for with matching funds, and we went \$1 million over the ask.

But let's go back to when the NDP were in government. There was a \$60 million fund for upgrading our homes - in terms of our homes for low-income rentals. None of that money was being spent. In my riding, I have probably 50 high-rises. At that time, the two worst high-rises - the most rundown high-rises - were owned by the Province of Nova Scotia, full of bedbugs, infested. Nothing was being invested, and when I came into government in 2013 and I started asking around it, the response I had is: there's a plan to give people new kitchens. I was beside myself. I said, when someone has bed bugs, they

don't want new kitchens. They want their bedbugs fixed. They want the bedbugs gone. Going in and constantly spraying was not the solution.

We brought the residents together and they provided the solution where we sealed up the units and we put new baseboards in, silicone behind them and in front of them, diatomaceous earth in the wall. Now, whenever we spray the unit, the bugs couldn't travel from one unit to the other, and in a short period of time we have contained the problem, eliminated it, and it has just been a world of difference because we took the money that was there from the federal government and started investing it.

We heard during these budget Estimates: well, this government could have solved the housing crisis by investing in Bloomfield. Bloomfield was going to be the biggest waste of taxpayers' dollars in the history of this province. Only 10 per cent of the units in Bloomfield development - let's look at this. Government first bought land that they paid double over the next highest bid in an open-tender process. Next, they said, we're only going to take 10 per cent of these units and make them affordable and sell them and we're going to help people buy them.

When we looked at it, it was \$250,000 a unit in construction costs. For the size of the unit - which was a bachelor - you could go down a street on that bay and buy a unit for sale for \$189,000, land included. So, here you had \$15 million for the land, you had the unit cost of building, and the cost was still \$250,000. I said, why wait five years? Go down the street right now and buy up the building that was just completed as condos, it is cheaper, saves us money and we can deliver on all those affordable units today, not in five years.

[7:45 p.m.]

Why the NDP think it is a good idea for government to be developers, putting up a project where only 10 per cent of those units were going to be geared towards low-income Nova Scotians is beyond me.

There has been a lot said about poverty. It is true that a year ago we had one of the worst poverty records in the country but today, in the most recent update which came out a few months ago, and every member in this House should be aware of it, child poverty in Nova Scotia - and there is still work to be done - has been reduced from 14.8 per cent to 11.7 per cent. We are now in the middle of the pack.

Now for single parents, Mr. Speaker, we have the lowest poverty rates in Canada. So, what we have is we have had very much a large turnaround. My hope is that changes in this budget, that we passed earlier today, will also help that. We have the largest increase in income assistance rates in the history of this province. Prior to this budget the largest increase was \$20 a month. This budget has an increased rate of \$100 a month. It is a huge increase - it is a \$40 million investment going right into the pockets of the most vulnerable Nova Scotians.

We sat there and heard about all the bad investments, bad decisions the Liberal government has been making, from members of the NDP and how we were going to be borrowing money and never discussing it. The NDP invested \$50 million in DSME in Trenton - it was never discussed in the Legislature. It produced 50 jobs in total. They invested \$50 million to produce 50 jobs. A few years later the company was gone, tens of millions were lost and those jobs are gone, too. I am gobsmacked by it.

The NDP talk about the environment. NewPage, NDP rule - must run, burn wood, burning wood is actually good for the environment. We took the must run off of that facility, so up until that point that facility had to burn wood to create electricity 24/7. Burning wood to create electricity, that was taken off. But in their view that was a good use of green energy.

Then their decision on Bowater - \$100 million put into Bowater, six months later Bowater packs up and leaves and all those individuals are completely out of work. The government did have a responsibility, but it was not to the company. Government's responsibility was to the people of Nova Scotia to help them transition when a dying industry dies. It was never discussed in the Legislature.

Three hundred and six million dollars to Irving - never discussed in the Legislature. The Leader of the NDP was a member of the Dexter government. He never once said that this is wrong. He stood today and said how we decimated the film industry. The facts are that the film industry, with the same investment today, is twice as large. It went from \$68 million GDP up to \$140 million. It is twice as big today with the same investment.

Mr. Speaker, Progressive Conservatives spoke about different things and pointed out how our budget was poor, the debt was not what we stated. That was the member for Northside-Westmount. I would guide him to look at our SEC filings. I pulled them up here. On Page 46 of the 2018 filings the debt today is \$16 billion on 2018.

When we came into government the debt was \$15.3 billion. On March 31, 2009, the Progressive Conservative government, the debt of the consolidated entity stood at \$12.2 billion. That is Page 16 of our SEC filings. That is how much money the Province had in bond debt of all of our entities. It wasn't \$10 billion. The year before it was, because - as I stated earlier - there was \$1.2 billion added on in debt under the last year of the Progressive Conservative government.

It was actually higher, but I always subtract when the NDP came to power, and they pushed every red cent of university payments onto the previous government, inflating their debt and making their own fiscal situation look more positive. Mr. Speaker, just so people can check that out, those are SEC filings. All you have to do is Google "Form 18K" and you will find it.

The member for Northside-Westmount pointed out how great the finances were under the Progressive Conservative government and how we have benefited from having a 2 per cent hike in HST, which the NDP brought in. He's correct. I will, in a minute, talk about where that money has gone, not once, twice, but more than three times investments made.

What he leaves out is that that Progressive Conservative government, many years, had over \$500 million a year in royalties from offshore gas revenues. Those royalties were flowed right into the operating budget and spent. When the royalties dried up, the expenses were still there.

When we had the opportunity in one year to collect \$300 million in royalties, we did not drive it into the operating expense of this province, knowing that next year those royalties would not be there. We put it into our internet fund so that we could deliver high-speed internet across the province.

I truly believe that if you're getting money as a one-time, you don't sit there and increase your expenses year after year, anticipating that you're going to get that money again. What you do is you put it into one-time expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier about where this government has made record investments. We had the largest corporate tax cut in the history of the province. It was \$100 million to bring our corporate tax rate from 16 to 14 per cent and make us more competitive to attract larger corporations to the province. We had the largest personal tax cut in the history of the province - another \$100 million investment. We've had historic immigration numbers in the province.

Also, \$46 million annually now goes into pre-Primary. We recognize that education is key to the future success of our province. As we speak today, there are 1,000 net new teachers in the province of Nova Scotia - net new from 2013, over and above the ones who have retired - 1,000 more teachers teaching today and ensuring that our children get the best education they can.

This is a stark contrast from when the Leader of the NDP was in power when the slogan was "Kids Not Cuts" as they were cutting tens of millions of dollars out of the education system. Our education system since 2013 is up 40 per cent in the budget. Universities are up by a third.

We've been renovating and building new hospitals across the province - the largest infrastructure spending in the history of the province. During COVID-19, we broke a billion dollars in infrastructure investment - the highest ever spent. All you have to do is look at your community - Hants, Truro, Dartmouth, across the province - for new OR rooms.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that our Party is extremely proud of. In COVID-19 times, we have a budget that had no cuts. It had no tax increases. It had no new taxes. Fees were not increased, and we did not introduce new fees. It's a budget that delivers on promises to Nova Scotians, especially our most vulnerable.

A lot was said about balanced budgets. Balanced budgets require strong leadership and tough decisions. We're proud of our fiscal record. That record has resulted in so many good things, as I have mentioned earlier. The financial position of this Province, which came over the last seven years, has allowed us to lead the country in COVID-19 recovery. When it's insinuated that, oh, how are we going to balance? Are you going to cut here, cut there? As we've stated, we won't have COVID-19 forever, and there is \$350 million in COVID-19 spending that in the next years, as COVID-19 is managed and as we win the day, that spending will not be required.

This budget is a major step towards the new Premier's goals of environment, of equity, and economy. With those few words, I now move third reading for the final time.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 105.

There has been a call for a recorded vote.

We will ring the bells until the Whips are satisfied.

[8:24 p.m.]

[The Division bells were rung.]

THE SPEAKER: Order please. Are the Whips satisfied?

The Clerks will now get ready to conduct the recorded vote on Bill No. 105, the Financial Measures (2021) Act.

Just to repeat our instructions, I will ask those members who are present in the Chamber to remain silent until the Clerks have concluded the vote.

When your name is called, please stand tall and state a simple "Yea" or "Nay." For those members participating virtually, when your name is called, please state a simple "Yea" or "Nay," as well as flashing your card so there is no mistake in the recording of your vote.

A reminder that the Clerk will proceed in order of caucus, by alphabetical order within the caucus.

The Clerk will now proceed with the recorded vote on Bill No. 105.

[The Clerk calls the roll.]

[8:25 p.m.]

YEAS

Hon. Patricia Arab
 Hon. Karen Casey
 Hon. Zach Churchill
 Hon. Keith Colwell
 Hon. Randy Delorey
 Hon. Lena Diab
 Rafah DiCostanzo
 Hon. Mark Furey
 Hon. Leo Glavine
 Hon. Lloyd Hines
 Bill Horne
 Hon. Tony Ince
 Hon. Keith Irving
 Hon. Ben Jessome
 Hon. Labi Kousoulis
 Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft
 Hon. Geoff MacLellan
 Hon. Brendan Maguire
 Hon. Stephen McNeil
 Hon. Margaret Miller
 Hon. Derek Mombourquette
 Hon. Chuck Porter
 Hon. Iain Rankin
 Hon. Kelly Regan
 Hon. Gordon Wilson
 Hugh MacKay

NAYS

Keith Bain
 Brian Comer
 Steve Craig
 Hon. Pat Dunn
 Tim Halman
 Larry Harrison
 Tim Houston
 Brad Johns
 Colton LeBlanc
 John Lohr
 Karla MacFarlane
 Kim Masland
 Dave Ritcey
 Tory Rushton
 Murray Ryan
 Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
 Gary Burrill
 Claudia Chender
 Kendra Coombes
 Susan Leblanc
 Lisa Roberts
 Alana Paon

THE CLERK: For, 26, Against, 22.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 98.

[8:30 p.m.]

Bill No. 98 - Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 98 be read for a third time.

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

DAVE RITCEY: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak to Bill No. 98 in the third reading. The Progressive Conservative caucus will be supporting the bill. The Progressive Conservative caucus understands the intent of this bill amending the Municipal Government Act and the HRM Charter to allow municipalities to provide for the use of technology in future meetings.

This amendment also increases accessibility for citizens to publicly participate and view council meetings, which we feel is important.

The Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia embraces technology and values the importance of modernization for our province and for all Nova Scotians. We want to ensure that all stakeholders are consulted, including regional municipalities, towns, and villages in an open and transparent process in the development of the regulations for this bill.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre.

KENDRA COOMBES: I am happy to speak to this bill, and we in the NDP caucus will be gladly supporting it.

Amending the MGA and the Halifax Charter to allow the virtual meetings is very much welcome. It will allow parents with young children, caregivers, people with disabilities, and anyone who lives a distance from the Chamber to be actively involved in local government and attend meetings when they are unable to leave their homes.

This amendment will allow greater democratic participation from not just councillors, but it will allow more public participation. I believe virtual meetings, where the public can attend virtually, will allow more robust public hearings to occur, engagement, transparency and, of course, accountability.

Again, we in the NDP will gladly support this bill and look forward to the passing of it.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I would like to thank all municipal staff, our stakeholders at the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, and the Association of Municipal Administrators for all of their hard work on this.

With that, I move to close debate on third reading of Bill No. 98.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 98. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 103.

Bill No. 103 - Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 103, an Act to Amend Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2008, the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, be now read for a third time and do pass.

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

DAVE RITCEY: The Progressive Conservative Party caucus will be supporting this bill.

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

The honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Again, I would like to thank all the staff here at the Department of Municipal Affairs and our partners at HRM for bringing this forward. I now move to close debate on third reading of Bill No. 103.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 103. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Mr. Speaker would you please call Bill No. 112.

Bill No. 112 - Emancipation Day Act.

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

HON. TONY INCE: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 112, an Act to Recognize Emancipation Day, now be read a third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I'm very glad to speak to this bill today, to Bill No. 112, an Act to Recognize Emancipation Day. I'm very happy that the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs has brought this bill forward. Our caucus will be proud to support it.

The passing of this bill will serve as a reminder to all members of this House of the ongoing work to dismantle white supremacy in all its forms and in all its institutions. I hope that every vote in its favour will also serve as a recommitment to daily active anti-racist work, to social change.

Mr. Speaker, one of the ways we can be effective as MLAs is to amplify voices from our communities. I would like to read a short excerpt from a statement issued by a collective of incarcerated Black people on August 1st, Emancipation Day, last year. These statements were curated by El Jones and were published in the *Halifax Examiner*. Most of the voices were from people inside the Burnside jail and also federal prisons. Many of them are, in essence, constituents of mine, as Burnside is in Dartmouth North. I quote:

“Slavery may be over, but are Black people truly free?”

“We have learned that there are more Black people in prisons in the United States today than were held in enslavement. We learned that Black women are one of the fastest growing global prison populations, and that our sisters are being put in prison largely because of the war on drugs. We learned that Black incarceration goes up every year in Canada. We have lived out the laws passed that give longer and longer minimum sentences to Black men accused of gun crimes or accused of being in gangs, while white bankers and killer cops and CEOs who don’t give their workers PPE during a pandemic - the real gangsters - are never charged at all.

“Are Black people free when prisons and jails across this country are filled with Black people? Is slavery even over when Black people clean and work in the kitchens for less than two dollars a day inside federal prisons? When our mothers and grandmothers come to visit us and are turned away and accused of bringing in contraband. When we are transferred across the country against our will when we stand up against unjust conditions. When we have to go on hunger strikes to demand basic human rights.”

This statement continues to remind us of the many ways people of African descent in our country are not free and of the long history of struggling for that freedom. The statement reminds those who hold seats in sites of power and privilege of the responsibility to social change that is paired with the marking of this day, of Emancipation Day.

There are many reasons why the marking of Emancipation Day is significant and important, particularly here in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia is home to Senator Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard, who along with her remarkable contributions to social work, education, research, community activism, and advocacy for social change, has worked and pushed for the recognition of this day.

I would like to share some words from Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard, as delivered in a keynote address on the 50th anniversary of the McMaster University School of Social Work, when she shared some wisdom for how we can think about a recommitment to social change. In that address, she said:

“Social change requires a long-term commitment to work towards some sort of common goal. You cannot have social change without social action on all of these levels. You cannot have social change without social justice. You cannot have social change without social activists leading the change. You cannot have social change without a deep, deep commitment. You have to be committed and passionate about what it is that you’re doing. And you cannot sustain that deep commitment without a fire in your belly. For me that fire in the belly

has been the thing that has pushed me to keep going, to keep moving. There is no social change without social justice.”

I will close by expressing my gratitude to Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard, to the Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs, to Vanessa Fells and Bernadette Hamilton-Reid with the African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition, and to the many other African Nova Scotian community members and allies who have worked toward the recognition of this Emancipation Day and also for their continued work toward freedom for all Black Nova Scotians.

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

BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative caucus is honoured to support this bill, which recognizes the end of slavery in the British colonies. Thank you so much to the minister for bringing this forward. That closes our comments on Bill No. 112, the Emancipation Day Act.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie.

HON. LENA METLEGE DIAB: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to Bill No. 112, the Emancipation Day Act.

Premièrement, je vous remercie pour cette opportunité et pour le privilège d’être ici et pour partager quelques petits mots au ce sujet qui est très émouvant et rempli d’émotion.

When I listened, on second reading, to the comments of my colleague the honourable Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs, I was inspired and moved to reflect upon the serious importance of this legislative project and the broader efforts towards representation, inclusion, and justice that it forms a part of.

I thank all Parties in this Legislature for proposing that Nova Scotia recognize Emancipation Day. I believe that speaks to the shared importance we all see in this recognition. Let’s be clear. People of African descent have had a distinct presence in Nova Scotia for more than 400 years. Slavery was a part of that history for more than 200 years.

The harms of slavery and the ongoing legacy of systemic racism in this province must be acknowledged for progress towards a more equitable future to be made. As an elected member and a minister, I have put my full efforts into advancing equality and equity for those who have too often been left behind.

I have worked on building communities and building a province that is more accepting and celebrating of diversity where everyone is included and where people’s dreams for their lives are never hindered by who they are or where they come from.

Passing this bill recognizing Emancipation Day is an important nod to what our African Nova Scotian brothers and sisters have lived through, how our history and progress as a province has been felt very differently for them than for other Nova Scotians.

I attended, virtually, in February, during African Heritage Month, the lunch and learn session on the African Nova Scotian migrations presented by the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs. I learned a great deal. Did you know that the first known Black person to arrive in Canada was Mathieu Dacosta - spelled M-A-T-H-I-E-U D-A-C-O-S-T-A - an African navigator and interpreter of French and Mi'kmaw languages, who arrived as part of an expedition that founded Port Royal? What a legacy.

[8:45 p.m.]

The minister had highlighted the lack of knowledge and education surrounding the reality of slavery in Canada and the lasting effects it has had on African Nova Scotians and all of us, for this is part of our collective story and it is something we cannot ignore or forget. I am a strong believer in the importance of remembering and honouring our history. I believe that all people - Canadians, Nova Scotians, all of us - should derive pride in our history. I served as the president of the Canadian Lebanon Society a number of terms in the past and with each term I became more and more proud of my heritage. It is what drives me today.

Our history should inform how we walk through the world and bind us together as peoples and as communities. Honouring our history requires being honest about our history. It includes apologizing for past wrongs. It includes acknowledging and correcting inequities. It includes changing the way we talk and the way we think. It includes telling our children and grandchildren that this was done, it was wrong, and we cannot forget it. This is where I think we have to be cognizant of what we can, and must, do.

Moving forward on the path towards justice requires important symbolic recognitions, like the designation of Emancipation Day. It requires honest education and teaching about all of our history, and it requires the crucial material investments that help make communities whole. All of this is essential, and I am proud that we are pursuing all of this in Nova Scotia.

Recognizing Emancipation Day is crucial. It is, as the minister noted, a step forward. This province was built by enslaved people and we must look upon that fact, reckon with it, and address day by day the lasting effects it has had - and we have to do more. That is the type of work I am particularly proud of when I look back at what we have done as a government to work alongside African Nova Scotians and invest in their success - for their success is our collective success.

I look back at doing right by the survivors of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children. I think about the establishment of the new Institute for the Study of Canadian

Slavery at NSCAD University. How incredible it is that our province and country will soon be able to learn and benefit from scholars like the institute's founding director, Dr. Charmaine Nelson, a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Transatlantic Black Diasporic Art and Community Engagement. This is the first such institute in the nation, and it will allow scholars to work alongside cultural practitioners, responding to relatively unknown histories and contributing to larger narratives of Black cultures, struggle, and resilience.

I think of the announcement back in November of the Province's partnership with NPower, which will allow youth from underrepresented communities to get real experience, a foothold in our information technology sector.

I think of our recent investment in the African Nova Scotian Connector Program to help attach young African Nova Scotians to the workforce as one part of the African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity Action Plan that was launched earlier this year.

I think of the deliberate addition of diversity bonuses to the Graduate to Opportunity program to ensure employers give serious consideration to the countless talented young people from diverse backgrounds that we have in Nova Scotia. Since those bonuses were introduced, about 40 per cent of Graduate to Opportunity graduates have self-identified as belonging to a designated group. Because this measure was successful, we have added a diversity bonus to Innovate to Opportunity and to our two student employment programs - the Co-operative Education Incentive and the Student Summer Skill Incentive.

I think of the recent Back to Work Community Partnership announcement, which included funding for the East Preston Empowerment Academy to offer the pathways to building construction trades for racialized Nova Scotian women and men in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery program.

Of course, I think of the investments in staffing added to support and speed up the Land Titles Initiative, something I was proud to have contributed to during my time as Attorney General and Minister of Justice. As a lawyer who practised real estate law for more than 20 years and handled quieting of titles applications, I know the significance of these issues to the affected community members and the importance of owning your land, being able to mortgage it, and bequeathing it to your loved ones upon death.

I think of the minister's new role leading the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives and all that can be accomplished through it. I also think of the Province's ongoing work to recruit and retain more African Nova Scotians in Dalhousie's undergraduate medicine program, and to welcome and retain more underrepresented groups in our growing number of first-year nursing seats. This is vital because we know the value for patient outcomes of having a health care workforce that looks like the population it serves.

The Province's recent announcements of millions in funding to help expand and enhance computer science education at four Nova Scotia universities - Dalhousie's Dean of Computer Science has already acknowledged how this funding will help create more inclusive programs and bolster diversity within the field, allowing the school to form new connections and do more work to get more underrepresented people in the field, It will be used to hire additional faculty from underrepresented groups. It will develop the Summer skills camps and recruitment programs to increase enrolment of women, Mi'kmaw, Indigenous, and African Nova Scotian students in computer science.

This is all to acknowledge that we have a responsibility to act on all fronts when it comes to addressing racism. We must recognize, we must educate, and we must invest. Spending matters. Action matters. Words matter. Recognition and symbolic gestures matter.

Think about the selection of Viola Desmond on the \$10 bill. Think about the symbolism of the Province repaying Ms. Desmond's sister, Wanda Robson, for the court cost and fines associated with her 1946 court case.

I believe that our institutions and our society, more broadly, are waking up to the importance of changing how we think about race and how we talk about and act toward racism. Individuals, businesses, schools, governments, organizations - we are all reckoning with our role in a society where racism exists and impacts people of colour.

I'm thinking about the importance of this bill. In thinking about it, I am brought back to an experience of last year that touched me greatly. In my role as chargée de mission de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - and that is the francophone parliamentary mission leader representing the Americas - j'ai eu l'opportunité de visiter la Maison des esclaves, une édifice historique située sur l'Île de Gorée à Dakar, Senegal.

I had the opportunity to visit Dakar, Senegal, before the pandemic hit. While I was there, I visited the House of Slaves museum and its Door of No Return. The museum is a memorial to the Atlantic slave trade on Gorée Island, three kilometres off the coast of Dakar. It is meant to memorialize the final exit point of the slaves from Africa and to remind us of the terrible human toll of the transatlantic slave trade. Standing there on the continent where so many were stolen from their lands and their homes, bearing witness, it was a moment of deep reflection. It was a difficult moment, but so many of the most vital ones are.

Today, of course, things are different. Nova Scotia welcomes newcomers from all over Africa to bring their skills, talent, culture, and traditions to our shores, to build an enriching life alongside all of us. I can't begin to tell you how fortunate I've been in my role as Immigration and Population Growth Minister to meet African newcomers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders from across the province, to learn from them and to

celebrate with them. I want to thank the settlement service providers and the community organizations whose work has made this possible.

In conclusion, I just want to say that although I don't talk often, and I don't talk about this often, I've always noticed many similarities between African Nova Scotians, our Acadian and francophone communities, our Indigenous brothers and sisters, and my own cultural community. There's a great joy and resilience and bond that we all share. I am going to quote a phrase that has resonated with me for a long time, and it is from Martin Luther King, Jr., and I quote: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

I understand this too well, but for Nova Scotians, for Canadians, and for the entire globe, this has been an unprecedented year for all of us. None of us in this House can count how many times over the past year we have heard the refrain: we are all in this together. It really is true. It's on all of us to push in the direction of unity, of justice, of celebrating diversity, of fostering inclusion, of learning to do better, and of righting the wrongs of yesterday and today.

I believe recognizing Emancipation Day in Nova Scotia will be a part of that push I'm very proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am proud and privileged to rise here in this historic Chamber at this historic time to speak in support of this bill.

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

The honourable Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs.

HON. TONY INCE: I'm moved, not only by the words of my colleague, but also the colleagues from across the floor. As the minister responsible for the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs and the Office of Equity and Anti-Racism Initiatives, I am looking forward just to saying a few words here.

As I've said previously, this legislation is something that many people of African Nova Scotian communities from across the province have encouraged, and I thank them all for standing up and setting their voices to have us move in this direction. I also want to acknowledge again both Party members from across the floor who have done a great job in bringing those voices from their communities to the floor to help us recognize this important day.

For years, many people of African descent in the Caribbean countries and other parts of the world have celebrated August 1st as Emancipation Day. The date marks the anniversary, as it was mentioned, that the British Parliament abolished slavery across the British Empire. I'd like to speak to the importance of this bill.

Many Nova Scotians, in fact many African Nova Scotians, are ignorant to this history and many other facts and events linking African Nova Scotians, Nova Scotians, and Canadians. It has only been less than 30 years, I would say, that Nova Scotia and most African Nova Scotians would have learned about Mathieu da Costa, Dr. Carrie Best, Viola Desmond, the Membertou Construction Battalion, and I can go on.

[9:00 p.m.]

It took a major media event to focus on the stories of the Black Loyalists. Many people are not aware of the history in another part of Canada that has a history almost as long as Nova Scotia, and that is Buxton and Chatham in Ontario. We have to remember during that period of time - and I need you to really understand this - during that period of time, 1600s to 1800s, there really weren't any borders. We had lots of Americans travelling with their property to Canada, back and forth, back and forth.

We have stories of what was told as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which came out of the story of Josiah Henson in Dresden, Ontario. The reality is, we still have people in this province who do not want to be served by someone who looks like me or the other. It's because, again, when you look at our history in any textbooks, it may be a paragraph or it may be one page, if we get that.

So if we are not teaching people that true story, then how are we supposed to stand here and look at each other and say we respect and we honour you if out of the other side of our mouth we are putting things in place to prevent the equity or the advancement of those folks?

My colleague has listed off a host of things that have happened since we've come into power in 2013. I don't want to go on much longer because it is getting late and I know we are all tired but, for the Leader of the Official Opposition, I have a sound bite for you: Tell history from the perspective of the lion and not the hunter.

I also would like everyone in this House and anyone who is listening, if you truly want to get a snapshot - an insight into the effects of the transatlantic slave trade, how that has impacted North America, and how that impact still is felt today - to truly understand how anti-Black racism has been set forth, first of all in an Academy Award-winning movie, *The Birth of a Nation*, that the president of the United States stood up and applauded.

I am going to ask everyone, please, take a moment and look at the documentary *13th*, which speaks to the 13th Amendment in the United States. I have to go there because what happens there trickles here. It could be a flow, actually. So please, if you have some time and if you truly want to understand how slavery hasn't really been abolished and how the effects of all of that 400 years ago still affects us today, look at this documentary, *13th*.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask that Bill No. 112 - the Emancipation Day Act - do pass. Thank you. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for third reading of Bill No. 112.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

The House will now recess for its 15-minute COVID-19 break and will resume proceedings at 9:20 p.m.

[9:06 p.m. The House recessed.]

[9:22 p.m. The House reconvened.]

THE SPEAKER: Order, please.

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Madam Speaker, I move that the adjourned debate on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be now resumed.

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

GARY BURRILL: Madam Speaker, I know that you are aware and probably all members are aware, because she said as much in her excellent speech on housing going into the budget Estimates late last week, we're all aware that the member for Halifax Needham has taken the decision to stand for the nomination of the New Democratic Party in the federal riding of Halifax. Because there is so much election probability in the air, we know that means that this could well be her last session in her present capacities, and this could be her concluding possible moment in this Chamber.

I just want to take a few seconds and recognize and appreciate the contributions that the member for Halifax Needham has made in this room as a participant in the legislative process. From the time she came to this work five years ago following the by-election in Halifax Needham, she has always offered a thought-filled and articulate voice on the subjects that she believes in, which are a considerable range.

She has been a thoughtful and clear, articulate voice for sure, as our Party's spokesperson on the subject of housing and on many dimensions of that subject - affordable housing as a whole, the struggle to eliminate homelessness as a whole, the struggle in which we have been engaged for rent control. She has been an articulate and thought-filled advocate, at the same time, over these four years - I want to draw attention to it - for the whole universe of things local, that is local communities and local governance and local food.

She has, over these five years, made a real contribution to the legislative life of Province House in her forceful and clear voice for sustainability from a range of angles; we have sustainability, certainly in this recent period on forestry; throughout the five years, on the environment in general, and throughout this period in a host of different ways; strong and forceful and thought-filled and clear on the struggle to address the crisis of climate change. I want to recognize and appreciate those things.

I also want to recognize and appreciate the strength of her presence in the North End community she serves. From the first time she and I campaigned together in Halifax Needham, I was fair blown away by the depth of the connections that she had from all sorts of different angles with people in parts of the constituency that we would meet.

This has been reflected - this was reflected - in the results of the 2017 election when the member for Halifax Needham had the largest of the majorities of anyone from the New Democratic Party's caucus.

I just want to say that it is a natural thing that she should wish to take her concerns and her ability and bring them to the federal stage, seeking to join the team under Jagmeet Singh.

I simply want to conclude, Madam Speaker, by saying that we in the caucus of the New Democratic Party are excited by the fact that someone of her convictions and her capacities is prepared to take on the mission of re-establishing the social democratic voice in the federal politics of Nova Scotia. (Applause)

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

ALANA PAON: It is a late night here in the Legislature. I apologize in advance if maybe I stutter a little bit or if my mind wanders. I am sure we are all a little bit tired. I do

not know about any of you, but I also would not mind having a nice, big, juicy steak right now to kind of get a little bit of protein in me.

I thank my colleagues for giving me this opportunity to be able to rise and say a few things in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I know that the Lieutenant Governor is waiting to be able to come in and finish proceedings here this evening.

I feel as though if I don't take this opportunity - which may very well be my last opportunity to speak in this House - and to get things off my chest and get it on public record, I guess, as well. I want to make certain that I leave here this evening feeling that I tried my best to get the message that is within me - the best way that I can describe it - the message that is within me and that is a part of me. I feel as though I really struggle to be able to get that message across sometimes to other members of this House.

We just went through listening to the minister speak from the perspective of obviously being an African Nova Scotian man sitting in the Legislature. We have just passed the Emancipation Day Act, and it's a wonderful and very historical moment to be able to be part of that.

[9:30 p.m.]

I listened to the Minister of Immigration and Acadian Affairs as well, and it was really difficult for me to sit here, biting the inside of my cheek, trying not to get emotional because much of what she said spoke to me. It spoke to me greatly. The reason for that is because I truly do believe - and I think from the minister's comments - we are all more alike than we are different. We are all more alike than we are different.

There are some of us, however, who have histories in this province. I know my personal history. Others in this House may be fortunate to know it even further back than the mid- or early 1600s. We all come from somewhere else. We're all immigrants to this place. We have the First People who have been here, of course, the Mi'kmaq, but everyone else has migrated here.

What I'm trying to get off of my chest is this. When you live within a community - it's a fairly isolated community where I grew up on Isle Madame, very safe. You can drive around on your bicycle when you're a kid, and you know that if you get a flat tire anywhere you can pretty much knock on anybody's door, and they'll help you out. You also know that if you get yourself into any kind of trouble, that is probably going to get back to your mom pretty quick because everybody is connected with everybody else.

I always say that I'm related to probably about 75 per cent of the people on Isle Madame because my grandmother's family was so large. I could always feel as a child - again, just walk with me for a moment, I know that it's late, but if I don't say this, I know I will always regret it - there was always something within me as a child that knew that

something was a little bit different, perhaps about our family and the customs within my family than were, say, than other Acadian families on the Island. You can't verbalize or exactly know what this means as a child. You just know. Again, I'm a very tactile creature. I was a very sensitive kid. Also, I have mentioned before, when you're on a breathing machine when you're a kid, you kind of become a watcher of people. Perhaps you take things in in a different way, but I could always feel that there's a bit of a difference there.

We lived on the north side of the island, and again, I'll say we're more alike than we are different. You could always feel that there was something just a little bit different about the family. As I went through life and I have gotten to this stage, I have realized in doing some history and being very fortunate in having relatives who did our genealogical search - part of the history of this province - and we hear it again and again that the history is basically written by those who are victorious. There is a piece of history in this province.

On the outside we have a first Acadian Lieutenant Governor, which is an extraordinary thing. I'm an Acadian woman, the first woman in my constituency - it's an important milestone. I can tell you that there's a part of the history of this province that has been hidden, almost like it is a bad, dirty secret, and it has to stop, Madam Speaker. It really has to end.

Unless someone - and if that needs to be me because I just happen to be here - if it needs to be me who comes forward and says, there are some of us who are different because we come from two different cultures that are blended together, and that's an amazing thing. That should be something that should be celebrated, not something we should be asked to hide. I can understand at a point in history where that would not have been seen as positive. Likely my relatives would have been called some really unfortunate things. Some of those words I've mentioned in the House.

It is a dark piece of our history in this province. The expulsion of the Acadians was bad enough, where you have boatloads of people, unarmed, being put onto boats and sent off to colonies, which I've spoken about in the past. But then there are other Acadians who were intermarried with the First Nations of this province, the Mi'kmaq, and somehow it has gotten to a point where if a person opens their mouth, like myself, to talk about that side of my family's history, which I feel is absolutely beautiful - I want to be able to celebrate it. It actually answers so many questions that I had growing up about why my family was a little bit different.

You see, I saw other families that were kind of like mine, but then there were other Acadian families on the Island as well and they didn't have the same customs as we did. My dad would be going out and I went with him - in fact, we still have it. He would go out eel fishing. This is a very traditional First Nations custom. Again, I couldn't quite understand, and I still don't - and I guess this is the epitome of what racism is really about. I stand here today, dressed in pink from head to toe, because racism, bullying, suppression, all of those horrible words that hold us back as people, actually hold the history of our

province, the true history of our province, to actually be spoken about openly - we're told not to talk about it, because, well, if I talk about it, I must want something.

You know what I want? I just want to be able to say this is who I am. This is just who I am. I think differently. Maybe it's because - I don't know, maybe it's because I have a foot in both worlds. Isn't that a glorious thing?

I speak differently. My brain works a little bit differently. I appreciate when I go - and I did not grow up in a First Nations community, but when I go, and I have been very fortunate to be able to go on many occasions in this position - I see faces reflected back to me that I recognize, although I've never seen them before. I feel a kinship in a way that I don't feel a kinship with others. I wish that my father would have had an opportunity to come with me because I think it would have answered a lot of questions for him as well.

We need to stop suppressing others. We need to stop hiding. We are constantly trying to hide things that maybe are not convenient for us. I am sure it was not convenient for my family at one time. Imagine. It was bad enough being Acadian at one time, but to be Acadian and Mi'kmaw - wow. You are a half-breed. It is a horrible word, but it needs to be said because it is part of our history in this province. I am not a believer in trying to sanitize things. I know we have had statues taken down because they represent some really unfortunate moments in our history in this province. I am a true believer that, instead of trying to pull those statues down, we should be adding other information, other statues, other pieces of our history to that moment in time so that we can understand why that happened in the first place - so that it doesn't happen again.

I never could understand why I couldn't find our family in any kind of a manifest that went off on these ships, bringing people to all these destinations and these ports where they weren't even wanted. They were not wanted. There were thousands of them. They had nothing. You can only imagine what happened to them when they arrived there. We talk about the Emancipation Day Act tonight, and I do not want to take away anything from any other cultural groups in this province, but I can tell you this, it spoke to me.

I am grateful that we passed that piece of legislation this evening. African Nova Scotian people have gone through hell on Earth. There is a part of that that I can understand. It is almost so intrinsic. It's like it is part of your cellular matter; it is part of your DNA. I can't really explain it with words. As an Acadian people, we are storytellers. I know that members across the floor have said on occasion, try to stick with policy in here. Maybe there is a way of being able to communicate those policy ideas or changes that need to be made in a different communication manner.

My cultural background is very much about storytelling. We tell stories to be able to relate information. We are an oral culture, as are the Mi'kmaq. I cannot leave this House this evening without reiterating that our history is written, as the minister so aptly said earlier, by the lion. The lion likes to devour its prey. It is much more beneficial to be

dividing people, even within a cultural group, because that way we can conquer them more easily.

We have those Acadians who came from that ancestry. We have those Acadians who are kind of mixed, and they are hiding in the woods over there. We have the British. We have all this stuff going on, 1600s, 1700s, 1800s. It is of that time. I cannot look at that and judge from where we are today. It is of that time, and thank goodness that I live, and I am a woman, and I have an opportunity like this which I would never have had then and would never have had even just 50 or 60 years ago. We had Gladys Porter, who is over there on the walls, the first woman who was elected in this Legislature - I sat underneath her portrait for quite some time.

We need to recognize within one another that as much as we are more the same, there are small differences that should be celebrated and not be hidden or not be - you know, please don't talk about that, because you want something. I don't want something from anybody. All I want is an opportunity to be able to speak my own truth, and the truth for so many families in Cape Breton-Richmond - and not just Cape Breton-Richmond. They're down in the southern part of Nova Scotia. They're in Chéticamp.

[9:45 p.m.]

Racism, lateral violence, which is exactly what occurs and is a horrible leftover piece. We'll call it a gift, a curse, that is left over from colonialism, that divide-and-conquer mentality, even having gone to the point of dividing amongst ourselves within one cultural group. It needs to stop.

I would really ask the members of this House, as much as you can, only imagine what other women and men of different cultural groups must have gone through who wouldn't have been part of that privileged class at one time. We are all privileged here today to be sitting here, standing in my place, but at one time I would not have been able to do this.

We have spoken about it with regard to the timeline of who was given the opportunity to vote, to own land in this province. Our history is varied. We need to be speaking about all of it. I do not care about what label you put on me at the end of the day and those like me who I know are still hiding. They're hiding. They don't want to talk about it, because they know what's going to happen to them. They're going to be asked to be quiet. You don't exist.

Can you imagine being told that you don't exist? Can you imagine what damage that must do over the course of time, to take somebody's identity away and still to this day tell them, you know, if you talk about that, it takes away from this group or it takes away from that group or you must want something?

I don't want anything. I only want you to be able to listen and acknowledge that I exist. I am here, and there are many more like me who live silently with this part of our history. I don't want to be silent anymore. I do not need another label. I have grown up in an Acadian community, proud. Je suis tellement fière de ma culture et ma langue française.

But it needs to be talked about because I'm telling you, we can talk about mental health issues, we can talk about addiction, we can talk about all manner of health issues that occur within my community, my constituency at home, but if you don't get to the root of the problem of why it's occurring, you'll never solve it.

There are so many incidents. I remember growing up, I had a next door neighbour who basically got shot through his window. I had family friends who were killed in automobile accidents. Alcohol, drugs, depression. These are all real issues that exist in my community, and they have existed since I was a child. It would always be kind of the man thing - you go out and you drink yourself into a stupor, you get into your car and you go off the road. Everybody knew who it likely was. These moments in time have stayed with me because I realize they are not normal. They are born from something deep within, and more so than just being a people conquered, which basically is what the Acadians were. That mentality stays with you throughout the generations.

You are told and I was told, don't talk about that, Alana. Ne parle pas a propos de ça, Alana. Don't speak about that, it's unspeakable and you're going to get yourself in trouble. You're going to get yourself kicked out of here, basically. Unless you've lived this life, unless you've lived in this community, these communities - there's more than just mine - you can't possibly understand the depth of the issues that need to be resolved. They are issues that surround mental health, addiction, violence against women and people who are terrified to come forward, terrified to say anything.

So it just continues on and on from generation to generation until someone, even though they are told to please shut up about that, I don't want to hear it - I've got to stand up in the House, because I will regret it for the rest of my life. If that's the only reason why I've made my way here and I can make a positive impact in some way is that I exist, my family exists, the families within Cape Breton-Richmond, the Acadians, the Eastern Métis (if you want to call them that, whatever label you want to give, it does not matter to me), we exist.

I personally do not want anything from you except kindness, acknowledgement and understanding that this issue of hiding comme un acadien, une acadienne, et puis aussi, hiding as someone who would have come from mixed heritage, it has a lingering effect that needs to be addressed in our community. No one wants to talk about it, so I am. Je commence la conversation ici ce soir, and I open this up for further dialogue between the Acadians, the First Nations, those who want to label or call themselves whatever they wish - Eastern Métis, mixed, ça ne fait pas de difference a propos de ma conversation. It doesn't

make any difference to me, and other settlers who were brave enough to come across the ocean and settle here.

We have to stop hiding this part of history. We need to be able to feel safe. It seems ridiculous, really, to say that, as an adult, but we need to be able to feel safe to come forward and speak and not be chastised or told to shut up.

Je suis la fille d'Alfred et Marie Paon. I'm just a kid off Isle Madame. What do I know? All I know is that something has to change at home. Something has to change. I know as well as I'm standing here that something very drastically needs to change within this House. The rules need to change. I'm not talking about throwing the baby out with the bathwater. I'm a very huge proponent of tradition and protocol, but we need to take a look at what is inequitable and how we do things in this House.

We need to give an opportunity for those like myself who maybe see things differently. We need people who sit in this House who are different and who come from different - not just cultural - backgrounds. We need people in this House who also come from different perspectives in their thought processes, different experiences, not just professional experience - different life experiences.

We need to give voice - allow those people to give voice to who they truly are. If we don't, Madam Speaker, the cycle of violence, the cycle of alcoholism, the cycle of all manner of what we call at home unspeakable things are just going to continue.

I thank the members of this House for permitting me this time to be able to finally, and perhaps for the last time, in this House speak my truth. With that, I move to close Address in Reply.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is to adjourn Address in Reply. All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. GEOFF MACLELLAN: Madam Speaker, that concludes the government's business for the day. I move that we now recess for a short period and await the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

THE SPEAKER: We will take a short recess while we wait for His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

[9:58 p.m. The House recessed.]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. Please rise.

It is the wish of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that the ladies and gentlemen be seated.

THE SPEAKER: May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has in its present session passed certain bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent.

THE ASSISTANT CLERK:

Bill No. 1 - Police Identity Management Act (amended).

Bill No. 4 - Biodiversity Act.

Bill No. 9 - Crown Lands Act.

Bill No. 23 - Adoption Records Act.

Bill No. 28 - Land Titles Initiative Acceleration Act.

Bill No. 47 - Municipal Government Act (amended) and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (amended).

Bill No. 50 - Municipal Government Act (amended) and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (amended).

Bill No. 74 - An Act to Incorporate the Yarmouth Golf and Country Club.

Bill No. 77 - Digby Marketing and Promotions Levy Act.

Bill No. 85 - Securities Act (amended).

Bill No. 87 - Pension Benefits Act (amended).

Bill No. 92 - Continuing Care Assistants Registry Act.

Bill No. 95 - Parenting and Support Act (amended).

Bill No. 97 - Electricity Act (amended).

Bill No. 98 - Municipal Government Act (amended) and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (amended).

Bill No. 103 - Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (amended).

Bill No. 105 - Financial Measures (2021) Act.

Bill No. 112 - Emancipation Day Act.

[10:15 p.m.]

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

THE SPEAKER: Your Honour, having been graciously pleased to give your assent to the bills passed during the present session, it becomes my agreeable duty on behalf of Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, her faithful Commons of Nova Scotia, to present to Your Honour a Bill for the Appropriation of Supply granted in the present session for the support of the public service and to request your Honour's assent thereto.

THE CLERK:

Bill No. 136 - Appropriations Act, 2021.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

In Her Majesty's name, I thank Her loyal subjects, I accept their benevolence, and I assent to this bill.

[The Speaker and the Clerks left the Chamber.]

[The Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Honour, the Speaker.

[The Speaker took the Chair.]

THE SPEAKER: I would ask the members to please rise and join me in the singing of our national anthem.

[The national anthem was sung by the members.]

THE SPEAKER: Please be seated.

I'd like to thank the honourable member for Halifax Chebucto for keeping us in tune there. (Laughter)

The honourable Premier.

THE PREMIER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few notes of gratitude to those who made this session possible, especially for the first virtual session that we've had in this Legislature in literally hundreds of years in our history: especially you, Mr. Speaker; our new Deputy Speakers for coordinating all of the days that we've had here; the Pages who support us - and I understand that Charlotte finished with her last exam and she won't be with us anymore, so congratulations (Applause).

Our Commissionaires and the HRM police and, of course, Dave, our Sergeant-at-Arms, for keeping us safe while we're here; our Clerks, Karen and James - congratulations to the new Clerks for supporting us; Peter and Kyle, Legislative Operations; the Speaker's Office; Hansard; Legislative Television; Legislative Counsel; library staff; of course, all of our caucus staff who support us through our days in the House, our Opposition Parties for continuing to hold us to account - some great questions before us in Question Period; my own MLAs, my team, for standing by us - the teammates whom I've had for the last eight years; and, of course, all of our families who support all of us as we do the work that we do on behalf of Nova Scotians.

Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, I move that this General Assembly be adjourned, to meet again at the call of the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House now adjourn to meet again at the call of the Speaker.

All in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We now stand adjourned.

[The House rose at 10:23 p.m.]

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS**Given on April 16, 2021****(Pursuant to Rule 30)****QUESTION NO. 5**

By: Claudia Chender

To: Hon. Labi Kousoulis (Minister of Inclusive Economic Growth)

The registration of short-term rental properties began on April 1, 2019 and tourist accommodation providers were to have until April 1, 2020 to register without a fine or a fee. Obviously, the pandemic changed a lot of things and the registration process has now been extended to April 1, 2022. The information about properties registered to date is presented only in aggregate form on the Nova Scotia Open Portal.

- (1) How can individuals check to make sure that a short-term rental property is registered?
- (2) Are attempts being made to contact and register tourist accommodations that have not registered?
- (3) Has there been contact with platforms, like Airbnb, to share data and include registration numbers on advertisements?
- (4) Information about registration of business names is available to the public. Why is the registration of short-term rental property considered private information?

NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)**RESOLUTION NO. 711**

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Constable Raylene Way began her career with the Halifax Regional Police back in 2002, and from 2016 to 2020 she was an incredible Community Response Officer in my riding; and

Whereas Constable Way was always going above and beyond to serve the members of the Fairview Clayton Park community by volunteering at countless community events and by making sure that Santa was able to safely make it to the Fairview Community Association Christmas event every year; and

Whereas in recognition of her great work in the community she was named Police Officer of the Year in 2017;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Raylene Way for going beyond the responsibilities of her regular duty and for making a big difference in the Fairview-Clayton Park community.

RESOLUTION NO. 712

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas for over 50 years Metroworks has helped local residents achieve their educational and employment goals, and for the last nine years has been led by Dave Rideout as president and CEO; and

Whereas Mr. Rideout has been an excellent leader, and has done very hard work to help whoever he can in his role by leading great work on food security, running the mobile food market that helps dozens of families get fresh food, and overseeing Common Roots Urban Farm on Bayers Road; and

Whereas Mr. Rideout was appointed to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce board for 2020-21 and the organization is sure to benefit from his expertise;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dave Rideout for his appointment and thank him for his many years of service to our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 713

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Dr. Zachary Zimmer, a researcher at Mount Saint Vincent University, recently received a \$1.2-million grant to study how traumatic experiences affect aging; and

Whereas Dr. Zimmer leads a pioneering team called the Global Aging Community Initiative that will complete this study, bringing together a multitude of expert researchers from around the globe; and

Whereas this study will examine 2,500 people who lived through war in Vietnam to examine how this has affected not only their health but their entire biological makeup;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dr. Zachary Zimmer on his grant, and wish him the best of luck in his future research.

RESOLUTION NO. 714

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Lalanya Kaizer, Kelly-Jo Beck, and Stuart Lally recently entered into a partnership to open the Easy Street Diner on Dutch Village Road in Fairview; and

Whereas for months they have worked hard to transform the space into a comfortable classic diner, and are looking forward to opening later in the Spring of this year; and

Whereas the Easy Street Diner will offer a family-friendly space in Fairview to enjoy all-day breakfast and many delicious diner offerings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Lalanya Kaizer, Kelly-Jo Beck, and Stuart Lally on their hard work, and wish them all the best as they open the Easy Street Diner.

RESOLUTION NO. 715

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas on February 3rd, I had the opportunity to participate in World Read Aloud Day and read to several classes at Fairview Heights Elementary over Zoom; and

Whereas as this day is always special because one of the most meaningful things that parents and kids can do together is sit down and read a good book together, and reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for building their knowledge for eventual success in reading; and

Whereas this year I was pleased to read books including *Zog and the Flying Doctors*, *My Favourite Book in the Whole Wide World*, and of course some of my favourite books by Sheree Fitch to the wonderful kids at Fairview Heights;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly extend their thanks to Fairview Heights Elementary for leading this initiative and for their important work encouraging literacy.

RESOLUTION NO. 716

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas on April 29, 2020, all Canadians mourned when a CH-148 Cyclone helicopter from the HMCS Fredericton went down in the Mediterranean Ocean, killing all six Canadian service members who were aboard; and

Whereas after this tragedy, the Fairview United Church, spearheaded by Laurel Walker, set out to collect 250 care packages to send to the service members on the ship; and

Whereas the community turned out in support of this initiative and 297 care packages from the Fairview United Church arrived at the HMCS Fredericton in June 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Fairview United Church and Laurel Walker for their work on this beautiful initiative.

RESOLUTION NO. 717

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Gail and Andrew Abraham from Clayton Park are two constituents and long-time volunteers who have worked hard to make sure that all youth in our community have a chance to play organized sports; and

Whereas Gail and Andrew have been very involved in the Nova Scotia curling community, Andrew being a long time board member at the Mayflower Curling Club and the Nova Scotia Curling Association; and

Whereas Gail and Andrew were essential to the creation of the Halifax Minor Baseball Association, where Gail serves as treasurer, and have spent most of their summer days over the past two decades at Piercey Field in Fairview;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Gail and Andrew Abraham for their volunteer efforts, and recognize them for their efforts helping thousands of children play organized sports in their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 718

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas the Halifax West High School hockey program has a long tradition of excellence and this year the girls varsity team continued that by winning their regional championships; and

Whereas in their final game of regionals they were down 1-0, but Nia Gardin scored to tie things up, and then with 45 seconds left Brooke Henderson scored on a breakaway to win the championship for the Warriors; and

Whereas coaches, A.G. MacRae, Roy Snook, and Greg Currie have done a great job coaching the team during these difficult times;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the Halifax West High School girls varsity hockey team on their championship season.

RESOLUTION NO. 719

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Jan Boswell served as executive director of Chebucto Links, which is an organization that enables older adults to live actively and safely in their community; and

Whereas during her term as executive director, Ms. Boswell spearheaded countless community initiatives to serve seniors, especially by helping seniors keep active during the pandemic and by working with local organizations to ensure food security for community members; and

Whereas after four and a half years as executive director, Ms. Boswell retired in March 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Jan Boswell on her retirement, and thank her for her years of work supporting seniors in the Halifax community.

RESOLUTION NO. 720

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Janice Ainsworth worked as the executive director of the TEAM Work Cooperative, an organization in Fairview Clayton Park that supports Halifax residents with skills training, finding jobs, and maintaining their employment; and

Whereas Ms. Ainsworth was honoured with an Excellence in Career Development Award from the Nova Scotia Career Development Association, recognizing that she was always happy to go the extra mile to help those in need; and

Whereas Ms. Ainsworth retired in November 2020, and is sure to enjoy an active and happy retirement;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Janice Ainsworth on her award, and thank her for her many years of service to people in her community.

RESOLUTION NO. 721

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas the Kin Club of Halifax is organization that is doing amazing work in our community, and their motto Serving the Community's Greatest Need is exactly what is called for in a pandemic where so many around us are experiencing such great need; and

Whereas during the pandemic the Kin Club of Halifax has run and supported a number of initiatives to give back to those in Fairview Clayton Park, including by making generous donations to the Fairview Resource Centre, Square Roots Fairview/Clayton Park, and the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank; and

Whereas more recently the Kin Club of Halifax has worked to connect people by leading a drive to write letters to Northwood residents and by participating in the Great Canadian KINdness Challenge, reminding us of the importance of staying connected with your community even when that means taking additional measures to keep everyone healthy;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Kin Club of Halifax for their work serving the needs of our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 722

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas the Mobile Food Market has worked to provide dignified access to healthy and affordable food for communities in Halifax since 2016, aiming to address food access issues among vulnerable populations, including low-income residents, single parent families, seniors, newcomers to Canada, and those with mobility barriers; and

Whereas during the pandemic, the team at the Mobile Food Market has worked to ensure that the residents of Fairview-Clayton Park are able to access healthy affordable food in their community, and has increased accessibility by making their bundles available for pickup at the Keshen Goodman Public Library, as well as offering a delivery service for those who need it; and

Whereas during the holiday season they were able to offer free food boxes to families in our community, helping their neighbours get through this difficult time;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Mobile Food Market for their efforts to bring healthy affordable food to our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 723

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Mohammad Ehsan, a dedicated volunteer in Fairview Clayton Park, organized a toy and book drive for the Fairview Resource Centre, set up various drop-off locations, and personally picked up donations; and

Whereas Mr. Ehsan and his volunteers succeeded in collecting dozens of toys and many bags of books that were distributed to families in the neighbourhood, and also collected \$895 in donations to support the resource centre's work; and

Whereas these gifts brightened many a day this holiday season, and helped families get through this tough time, showing what dedicated volunteers can do when they commit to helping their community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Mohammad Ehsan for leading this wonderful toy drive in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 724

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Mosaic Church is a multicultural church in Fairview that seeks to create a sense of community for the growing immigrant population in their neighborhood; and

Whereas Mosaic, led by Pastor Keith Wells, helps newcomers to Canada access government services to get support and also runs initiatives, like their community garden and cooking classes, that seek to build relationships and provide services to their members; and

Whereas Mosaic now has members from 14 countries and has helped dozens of immigrants find a sense of home in Fairview;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Keith Wells and the entire team at Mosaic Church for their services to the residents of Fairview Clayton Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 725

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Russell Walker has been one of the most recognizable people in the Fairview-Clayton Park area for decades, first as a long time hockey coach and as an industrial arts teacher at Clayton Park Junior High, where he taught metalworking to thousands of kids; and

Whereas Mr. Walker had a chance to test his mettle as a Halifax city councillor for 27 years, where he was a tireless champion for our area, and was a trusted voice on council for thousands of HRM residents; and

Whereas after retiring from council, Mr. Walker was diagnosed with cancer, but I'm happy to say that he has finished chemotherapy and I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Russell Walker for completing chemotherapy, and thank him for his decades of service to the residents of District 10.

RESOLUTION NO. 726

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas the Salvation Army of Fairview Citadel has been very busy during the COVID-19 pandemic with their Be a Good Neighbour program; and

Whereas their volunteers have supported schools in our area by helping breakfast programs and by delivering sweet treats and encouragements to teachers; and

Whereas they have distributed hundreds of care packages to new families in our area, and hundreds more "because we care" packages for post- secondary students;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank the Salvation Army Fairview Clayton Park for their work encouraging all Nova Scotians to be good neighbours.

RESOLUTION NO. 727

By: Hon. Patricia Arab (Fairview-Clayton Park)

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

Whereas Yvonne Noel is the community manager of Square Roots Fairview Clayton Park, a social enterprise of Enactus Saint Mary's that redirects food that would otherwise go to waste into the hands of those who can benefit from it the most; and

Whereas when COVID restrictions began, Ms. Noel and her team began by distributing 500 pounds of vegetables free of charge to those in our community who needed fresh food, and this effort only grew as the pandemic continued; and

Whereas over the last year Ms. Noel and Square Roots volunteers have raised over \$33,000 to send 70,000 pounds of local produce to more than 1000 families in Fairview Clayton Park;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Yvonne Noel and the entire team at Square Roots Fairview Clayton park for their work feeding our community in a sustainable way.

RESOLUTION NO. 728

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Randy Tresidder and the late Dr. Shelly Sarwal recently received the inaugural Logan Boulet Award from Canadian Blood Services; and

Whereas the Logan Boulet Award recognizes organ donors and donor families who selflessly share their stories and help raise awareness; and

Whereas Randy Tresidder continues to share Dr. Shelly Sarwal's mission to spread awareness;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Randy Tresidder and the late Dr. Shelly Sarwal for receiving of the Logan Boulet Award and all their contributions to spreading awareness of Organ Donation and MAID.

RESOLUTION NO. 729

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas 7 Peppers Grill recently reopened in a new location on Quinpool Road; and

Whereas 7 Peppers Grill serves delicious and Halal Syrian cuisine; and

Whereas 7 Peppers Grill always provides a friendly and welcoming atmosphere;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate 7 Peppers Grill on their reopening and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 730

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Earthli has been selected as a Top-20 Finalist in Spring Activator's National Impact Investor Challenge; and

Whereas Earthli is the only Nova Scotian finalist; and

Whereas Earthli is a producer of sustainably grown and zero-waste packaged plant-based superfood products;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Earthli on its selection as a finalist and wish them all the best with their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 731

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas M & Y Asian Grocery recently relocated their store to Quinpool Road; and

Whereas M & Y Asian Grocery carries products from China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan; and

Whereas M & Y has had a location in Halifax Chebucto since 2017;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate M & Y on their move and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 732

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas The Feasts recently opened up on Quinpool Road; and

Whereas The Feasts serves Thai and Indian cuisine; and

Whereas it is exceedingly hard work to open a restaurant, let alone during a pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate The Feasts on their opening and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 733

By: Gary Burrill (Halifax Chebucto)

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

Whereas Therapeutic Approach Yoga Studio and Health Centre has been a pioneer in yoga in Nova Scotia since its founding in 1997; and

Whereas owners Maxine Jeffrey and Michael Munro have trained many current yoga instructors in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Therapeutic Approach Yoga Studio and Health Centre's holistic approach to health care is meaningful and important to a great many practitioners;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Maxine Jeffrey and Michael Munro on all their hard work and accomplishments and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 734

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Barrington Emergency Health Services' paramedics continue to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service is done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Barrington Emergency Health Services' paramedics for their continued dedication to their province and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 735

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the members of the Barrington Ground Search and Rescue continue to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service is done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the volunteer members of the Barrington Ground Search and Rescue for their continued dedication to their community and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 736

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Barrington Detachment continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Barrington Detachment for their continued dedication to their community and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 737

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Yarmouth Town Detachment continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Yarmouth Town Detachment for their continued dedication to their community and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 738

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas West Pubnico Emergency Health Services' paramedics continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize West Pubnico Emergency Health Services' paramedics for their continued dedication to their province and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 739

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Woods Harbour Emergency Health Services' paramedics continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Woods Harbour Emergency Health Services' paramedics for their continued dedication to

their province and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 740

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas Yarmouth Emergency Health Services' paramedics continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize Yarmouth Emergency Health Services' paramedics for their continued dedication to their province and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 741

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the members of the Yarmouth Ground Search and Rescue continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the volunteer members of the Yarmouth Ground Search and Rescue for their continued dedication to their community and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 742

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Yarmouth Rural Detachment continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Yarmouth Rural Detachment for their continued dedication to their community and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 743

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas soloist dancer Anna Lopez has been dancing since she was three years old at East Coast Dance Academy (ECDA), under the direction of Andrea LeBlanc, owner/artistic director, Stephanie Mitro, and Deanna Johnston; and

Whereas Anna, who enjoys the styles of modern, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, and ballet, took part in the Dance Competition "Showdown," a competition held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas Anna performed a modern routine, up against 330 other competitors, and won the championship and was awarded the first-place prize of \$3,000;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Anna Lopez for her outstanding performance in the Dance Competition "Showdown" and on winning the championship.

RESOLUTION NO. 744

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Tasa U13 AAA hockey team won the Provincial Championship on April 10, 2021; and

Whereas it takes dedication, hard work, and commitment, not only from the players but from the coaches and staff; and

Whereas the coaches and staff have worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic to coach, train, support, and encourage the team throughout the season and playoffs;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating and thanking Ray Turner (head coach) and coaches Adam Saulnier, Mark Trickett, and Steve Karis Pattillo, as well as manager Natalie Jay, safety representative Karen Paplinskie, and treasurer Keith Broderick.

RESOLUTION NO. 745

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the TASA U13 AAA hockey team became provincial champions on April 10, 2021; and

Whereas the team worked hard and played with heart and dedication throughout the season and playoffs; and

Whereas the team had a 3-0-0 record at the Provincial Championships and became champions with a 6 to 2 win against Acadia;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Spencer Power, Tanner Clarke, Tristan Turner, Xander Boutilier, Hugo Rivard, Isabelle Bush, Maddock Lopez, Natalie Jay, Parker Mansfield, Samir Nait El Caid, Sebastien Muise, Aiden Broderick, Carter Sullivan, Chandler Bell, Donovan Jay, Dylan Paplinskie, Ethan Saulnier, and Ewan MacDonald for a great season capped with the provincial championship title.

RESOLUTION NO. 746

By: Hon. Kevin Murphy (Eastern Shore)

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

Whereas the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers Market is celebrating its 14th Anniversary in 2021; and

Whereas the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers Market provides a regular opportunity for local farmers, crafters, retailers, and a wide range of other vendors and community groups to come together in a single location for the benefit of local residents; and

Whereas the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers Market has become a staple of the local Eastern Shore shopping experience;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating all the volunteers and vendors of the Musquodoboit Harbour Farmers Market in celebration of their 14th anniversary, and wish them continued success in future years.

RESOLUTION NO. 747

By: Hon. Kevin Murphy (Eastern Shore)

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

Whereas Rachael Elizabeth Murphy of Middle Porters Lake, NS graduated from Eastern Shore District High School in 2021; and

Whereas Rachael achieved academic success, having completed her entire 12-year school career in the French immersion program graduating with honours; and

Whereas Rachael has been accepted at Dalhousie University Health Sciences program for the Fall of 2021 and has been awarded a Dalhousie Entrance Scholarship of \$12,000 over her four-year degree program;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Rachael Elizabeth Murphy on all her academic success to-date, her graduation from Eastern Shore District High School, and wish her success as she moves on to Dalhousie University for the next phase of her academic career.

RESOLUTION NO. 748

By: Dave Ritcey (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Salmon River's Wayne Smith creates sculptures and art pieces out of metal; and

Whereas Mr. Smith constructed a 3.5-meter-high monument to honour those lost in last year's tragic shooting; and

Whereas Mr. Smith's monument holds 22 hearts welded on each side of a larger heart with a tiny red heart added to represent the unborn child of one of the victims;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly pause for a moment to remember the life of the 23 victims lost in the April 2020 tragedy and truly thank Wayne Smith for creating this special monument in their honour.

RESOLUTION NO. 749

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Lawrence Nicoll of Parrsboro, Cumberland County, was the winner of an international photography contest; and

Whereas Lawrence's photography was chosen as photo of the month by The Universe of Colour Photography; and

Whereas Lawrence is a self-taught landscape and nature photographer and has been involved in photography for over 30 years, and after travelling wherever his photography took him, he now makes Parrsboro his permanent home;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Lawrence Nicoll and wish him much success in the future as he continues to share his photography.

RESOLUTION NO. 750

By: Dave Ritcey (Truro-Bible Hill-Millbrook-Salmon River)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia lost a humble and dedicated public servant on April 15, 2021, with the passing of Ronald Giffin: and

Whereas Mr. Giffin served as a PC member of the Legislative Assembly for Truro-Bible Hill from 1978-1993 and held important positions, including Minister of Education and Attorney General, during his time in office; and

Whereas Mr. Giffin had a distinguished career as a lawyer and was an active community volunteer after his retirement, serving on many boards and committees;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly pause for a moment to remember the life and many contributions of Ronald Giffin and send heartfelt condolences to his wife, Patricia, his children, Greg and Christopher, his extended family, and his many friends.

RESOLUTION NO. 751

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Adam Levings was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Firefighter Adam Levings for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 752

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Lieutenant Arthur J. LeBlanc created the Lieutenant-Governor's Award of Excellence for l'Acadie and Francophonie of Nova Scotia in August of 2020, recognizing people whose social, economic, or cultural contributions have made a difference in the Francophone community, and in Nova Scotia as a whole, and which includes an award category for young Francophones/Francophiles; and

Whereas Adrien B. Comeau, of Saulnierville, was named one of the award's first six recipients, awarded one of the two in the youth category for his many years of volunteering, his support of the Acadian culture, and his commitment to his community; and

Whereas Adrien's commitment became obvious at a young age when he started volunteering at his church and, over the years, has volunteered at the Festival acadien de Clare and the Gran Fondo Baie Sainte-Marie, joined the choir les Voix dans l'Vent, and danced with the dance troupe la Baie en Joie, as well as been named the Regional President for Clare's Relay for Life while in high school, and a Director of the Organizing Committee for the Congrès mondiale acadien while in university;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Adrien Comeau for receiving one of the first Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence for l'Acadie and Francophonie of Nova Scotia and, given his already long list of accomplishments, look forward to hearing about his future endeavors.

RESOLUTION NO. 753

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteers are the backbone of every community in Nova Scotia, and the people of Clare are proud of the many dedicated individuals who give of themselves each day to make our municipality a better place to live; and

Whereas this year the Town of Digby has selected one of its outstanding citizens as Volunteer Representative of the Year, and this individual has given much in the way of time and energy to various organizations; and

Whereas through this individual's genuine warmth and caring toward others he has become a valuable asset to the organizations that he has been involved in;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Al Dupuis for being named Volunteer Representative of the Year for his outstanding contribution to his community.

RESOLUTION NO. 754

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas bed and breakfasts and other small inns are an important part of the hospitality sector in rural communities like Digby and the surrounding area, welcoming, year after year, an increasing number of people to our area; and

Whereas our local B & Bs thrived because of inn operators like Angela Turner and Bobby Maguire, who returned to the Digby area in 2019 after completing their education and working abroad and decided to follow their dream and purchased the historic Bayside Inn; and

Whereas after a promising first season at their inn, the Bayside Inn's new owners went through a difficult and uncertain second year because of the huge impact the pandemic had on their business, as it has had on the tourism sector in my area and across the country;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing the perseverance of small business owners like Angela Turner and Bobby Maguire of the Bayside Inn, and their staff, who weathered through last year's uncertainty with a positive attitude and hard work and now look forward to the brighter future when travelers can again come experience the hospitality of the Digby area.

RESOLUTION NO. 755

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Digby Elementary School Phys Ed Teacher Aselin Ettinger was selected as one of the Rick Hansen Foundation's 2020 Educator Difference Maker; and

Whereas Aselin has been passionate about inclusive education since she was a student at St. Frances Xavier University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Education; and

Whereas since she started teaching at Digby Elementary, Aselin has developed adaptive programs for her students with disabilities, in consultation with the children's physiotherapists and occupational therapist to design activities that would develop the students' specific skills and strengths;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Aselin Ettinger on being named an Educator Difference Maker by the Rick Hansen Foundation, and thank her for inspiring teachers across the province to develop adaptive programs for their students.

RESOLUTION NO. 756

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Shelley Marshall, who was deeply affected by the death of her father, believed that she was called upon to help others by becoming a mental health advocate for people from her neighbourhood and offering her home in Toronto as a meeting place for people needing the support of others; and

Whereas the couple developed the farm into an outdoor wellness centre they call the Farmacy, where visitors can stop, rest, and heal; and

Whereas the church determined this was not an isolated case and established the Helping Heat Program to provide furnace and stove wood to these households as well as to help some of their elderly neighbours cut and store their wood for the winter months;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in commending Shelley Marshall in her efforts to be a mental health advocate in her new home and to develop a wellness centre at her farm.

RESOLUTION NO. 757

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Bob Bradley was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Bob Bradley for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 758

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Town of Digby recognizes exceptional contributions of volunteer work in the Digby area annually with the Joe Casey Humanitarian Award; and

Whereas the Joe Casey Humanitarian Award is presented to a person who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of the Town of Digby; and

Whereas the 2020 Joe Casey Humanitarian Award was presented to Bonnie VanTassell on August 7, 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Bonnie VanTassell for receiving the 2020 Joe Casey Humanitarian Award for her outstanding contributions to her town.

RESOLUTION NO. 759

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Municipalities of the District of Argyle and the District of Clare have the largest concentration of Acadians in rural Nova Scotia and include some of the oldest Acadian communities in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas the Municipalities of the District of Argyle and the District of Clare have been chosen to host the Congrès mondiale acadien 2024, to be held in both these regions from August 10 to 18; and

Whereas the Comité organisateur is preparing to host up to 100,000 participants and is well underway in its planning of the CMA 2024 under the theme Venez vivre votre Acadie;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the CMA 2024 organizing committee for having prepared the successful bid to host CMA 2024 and wish them luck in organizing the next big Acadian gathering in the southwestern part of our province.

RESOLUTION NO. 760

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas February tends to be a difficult month for people to participate in activities outside their homes due to the short days and the possibility of messy weather; and

Whereas the Conseil des arts de la Baie launched its first and very successful Févri-Arts Challenge in 2020 with 33 artists, both experienced and novice, submitting daily projects and 65 artists submitting a total of 1,040 projects; and

Whereas the Conseil des Arts, deciding to build on the success of the first Févri-Arts Challenge and realizing that this February would be more difficult given the impact of the restrictions due to the pandemic, again called to all artists to be join their online challenge;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the success of Conseil des Arts de la Baie's Févri-Arts Challenge 2021 and in recognizing their efforts to encourage everyone to try a new activity during the pandemic, to encourage local artists to refine their crafts by producing an art project daily, and to encourage all participants to form new relationships within the Févri-Arts community, initially forming these friendships virtually until a time when it will be safe to go out and meet in person.

RESOLUTION NO. 761

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Craig Thibault was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Craig Thibault for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 762

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Dan Thibault was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Dan Thibault for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 763

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas our government continues to be committed to caring for Nova Scotians and to taking care of their medical needs, as much as possible, close to home; and

Whereas our government announced the establishment of a six-station dialysis unit at the Digby General Hospital as part of an announcement that would increase by 30% the dialysis treatment available across the province; and

Whereas the dialysis unit at the Digby General Hospital received its first patient on March 15th, following the planning process for the treatment unit and the renovation of the unit site at the Digby General Hospital;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing the positive impact that this expansion of services will have on the lives of patients needing dialysis treatment, who now can be treated closer to home, and the commitment our government continues to have in our rural health care system.

RESOLUTION NO. 764

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Ed Sadler was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Ed Sadler for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 765

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Gene Robbins was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Gene Robbins for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 766

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas encouraging people to be active outside during the winter months can be difficult, given the shorter days that are often not conducive to outside activities; and

Whereas across the province, towns and municipalities have recreation departments like Clare Recreation, whose dedicated employees are tasked with organizing activities that will encourage their fellow Nova Scotians to remain active during the winter months; and

Whereas developing these initiatives this past winter has been particularly difficult for these recreation employees, given the additional challenges associated with the pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in acknowledging the efforts of Clare Recreation to encourage their residents to remain active safely this past winter, by developing such novel initiatives as the geocaching treasure hunt the municipality hosted from February 1st to March 31st.

RESOLUTION NO. 767

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas organizations across the province like the Guild acadienne de Clare have had to look to ways to the help their neighbours meet the challenges posed by the reality of living in a pandemic; and

Whereas the Guild acadienne de Clare used their sewing skills to produce 500 masks during the first months of the pandemic for our communities' seniors; and

Whereas these masks were distributed to the seniors from the communities of Clare, which has allowed these seniors to be able to leave their homes with a greater sense of security;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Joan Tufts, president of the Guild, and the members of the Guild acadienne de Clare for helping their community during the COVID-19 pandemic by using their skills to meet the needs of a particularly vulnerable community.

RESOLUTION NO. 768

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Haylee Goodwin was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for her years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Haylee Goodwin for her years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 769

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Nova Scotians are always ready to help their neighbours when they find out that a person living next door or the family living down the street is, for whatever reason, having trouble making ends meet; and

Whereas the Digby Wesleyan Church, some years ago, found out that a single father battling cancer did not know how he was going to be able to feed his family and heat their home during the winter months; and

Whereas the Church determined this was not an isolated case and established the Helping Heat program to provide furnace and stove wood to these households, as well as to help some of their elderly neighbours cut and store their wood for the winter months;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in expressing our gratitude to the Digby Wesleyan Church for establishing and expanding the Helping Heat program, a grassroots initiative to ensure that families and individuals from the Digby area will be able to heat their homes over the winter months.

RESOLUTION NO. 770

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas many young adults from our rural communities often feel the need to leave our area and go to faraway places, as Tom Haynes-Paton did, spending some 25 years working in Japan; and

Whereas these expatriate Canadians often decide to return home, returning home with the experiences, knowledge, and talents they have acquired while living abroad; and

Whereas Tom is one of these returnees, moving from Japan to Barton over 30 years ago and opening his Japanese Antiques and Woodblock Prints Gallery, with its selection of 19th and 20th century woodblock and other prints and antiques, and where he offers clients his expertise in identifying and restoring ukiyo-e prints;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me acknowledging the wonderful addition to the fabric of our communities of unique businesses of returnees like Tom, as well as those of new immigrants who chose to settle in the rural parts of the province and open small businesses.

RESOLUTION NO. 771

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Jason Levings was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his 30 years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Firefighter Jason Levings for his 30 years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 772

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas JD Composites, based out of Meteghan, has developed and expanded the use in construction projects of their energy efficient panels made from discarded plastic bottles that would otherwise been sent to our landfills; and

Whereas the panels patented and used by JD Composites can withstand winds greater than a Category 5 hurricane at a time when global temperatures are expected to continue rising and extreme weather systems expected to become a more common phenomenon; and

Whereas with the completion of a second house in Gilberts Cove, JD Composites has surpassed the impressive milestone of using over 2 million plastic bottles into panels,

panels that have been used in sheds, commercial roofing, decks, and waste management containment systems for our harbours;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing Joel German and David Saulnier, the partners of JD Composites, for developing their innovative panels, thereby alleviating our global problem of discarded plastic and for continuing to work to expand the uses of this environmentally conscious construction material.

RESOLUTION NO. 773

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas my friend, Jean Brittain, Deputy Mayor of Digby, passed away at the age of 79 on April 11, 2020, after a four-year battle with cancer; and

Whereas Jean had moved to Digby to work in the family business and quickly became engaged in her community by volunteering at her church and in the community, chairing the Digby Area Recreation Commission and serving on the first board of directors of the NSCC; and

Whereas Jean was elected on town council for 20 years and served 8 years as deputy mayor and her colleagues considered her wise, well-prepared, an independent thinker, and respectful of others and their viewpoint;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in celebrating the life of Jean Brittain, who continues to inspire us all when we remember her commitment to her community and its people and her message of the need to remain hopeful throughout your life.

RESOLUTION NO. 774

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Jeff Dondale was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his 10 years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Jeff Dondale for his 10 years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 775

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Jim Pearson was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Jim Pearson for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 776

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteers are the backbone of every community in Nova Scotia, and the people of Clare are proud of the many dedicated individuals who give of themselves each day to make our municipality a better place to live; and

Whereas this year the Municipality of Clare has selected one of its outstanding citizens as Volunteer Representative of the Year, and this individual has given much in the way of time and energy to her community; and

Whereas through this individual's genuine warmth and caring toward others she has become a valuable asset to the organizations that she has been involved in;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Josanne Deveau for being named Clare's Volunteer Representative of the Year for her outstanding contribution to her community.

RESOLUTION NO. 777

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Julie Pearson was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for her years of dedicated service to her community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Julie Pearson for her years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 778

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Matthew Comeau was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Matthew Comeau for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 779

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteers are the backbone of every community in Nova Scotia, and the people of Clare are proud of the many dedicated individuals who give of themselves each day to make our municipality a better place to live; and

Whereas this year the Municipality of Digby has selected one of its outstanding citizens as Volunteer Representative of the Year, and this individual has given much in the way of time and energy to various organizations; and

Whereas through this individual's genuine warmth and caring toward others she has become a valuable asset to the organizations that she has been involved in;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Megan Robinson for being named Volunteer Representative of the Year for her outstanding contribution to her community.

RESOLUTION NO. 780

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Michelle Greenwood was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for her years of dedicated service to her community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Michelle Greenwood for her years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 781

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Michelle Talbot graduated with a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education from Université Sainte-Anne in 2016 and is now enrolled in Acadia University's Master of Education in Leadership; and

Whereas Michelle was first employed in the Digby area teaching junior and senior English and French immersion at Digby Regional High School, where she chaired the Student Advisory Council and was involved in the school's Nova Scotia Secondary School Students' Association and the Gay-Straight Alliance; and

Whereas this past winter, Michelle, who continues to excel in her chosen profession, was named principal of Digby Elementary School;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Michelle Talbot for her recent promotion to the position of principal of Digby Elementary School, a huge professional challenge, especially this early in her teaching career.

RESOLUTION NO. 782

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Mitch Bremner was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his 10 years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Mitch Bremner for his 10 years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 783

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Nelson Blinn passed away on December 8, 2020, at the age of 80 and will be missed by his wife, Judy, his daughter, Lisa, and his many other family members and friends who loved spending time with Nelson; and

Whereas Nelson was also known in our communities as a talented and self-taught woodworker, a craft he developed after retiring and honed carving small replicas of such buildings as the Gilbert's Cove lighthouse, which were sold locally; and

Whereas Nelson was a great storyteller with a wicked sense of humour, happiest with such simple pleasures of life as spending time with his family and friends, gardening, and looking for beach glass at beaches;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in commemorating the life of Nelson Blinn and offering to his family and many friends the hope that, though they mourn his passing, they can celebrate his life and his wonderful joie de vivre he shared with everyone.

RESOLUTION NO. 784

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Père Maurice LeBlanc passed away on February 12, 2021, at the age of 96, after a full life of teaching, ministering, advocating for the Acadian culture and French language rights, playing music, and painting; and

Whereas Père Maurice returned to Nova Scotia in 1974 to become the artistic director at Université Sainte-Anne, the same university he had attended before joining the priesthood and the teaching order les Eudistes, and taught art history, directed the Chorale de la Baie Sainte-Marie and Fanfare régionale de Clare; and

Whereas Père Maurice, who strongly identified himself as an Acadian and a supporter of the arts, was an active and enthusiastic member of many organizations promoting the Acadian culture and French language rights, as well as the arts, and was named president of the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse and of the Conseil des Arts de Tusket;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in honouring Père Maurice LeBlanc and in celebrating his many achievements over his life, knowing that his impact will continue through the lives of the musicians he taught, the artists he supported, and the people he compelled to be active in their community and for l'Acadie.

RESOLUTION NO. 785

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Riley Benedict was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's annual meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Riley Benedict for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 786

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Rob Thompson was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Rob Thompson for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 787

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas there were areas in our province which did not have access to reliable high-speed internet, a reality that could adversely affect the ability of communities to attract new businesses and new residents; and

Whereas the need to have access to reliable high-speed internet became markedly clearer during the pandemic of the past year with people leaving their offices to work from home and students leaving their classrooms and taking their classes online; and

Whereas our government, in partnership with the private sector and other levels of government, has announced three rounds of high-speed internet expansions into rural Nova Scotia that will ensure that over 95 per cent of Nova Scotians would have access to reliable high-speed internet;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in acknowledging the progress on this project, which is well underway and will ensure in my area some 5,214 premises in the Municipality of the District of Clare and some 742 premises in the Municipality of the District of Digby will have access to reliable high-speed internet by the completion of the three rounds of this service expansion.

RESOLUTION NO. 788

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas in 1996, Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie Campaign was started to help raise funds for a children's hospital and has since grown to be a cross-Canada fundraising event, funding charities in the communities of the individual Tim Hortons franchises; and

Whereas Teresa and Chris Joyce, the owners of the Tim Hortons in Digby, who are strong supporters of our community and local charities, enthusiastically promote their Cookie Campaign at their coffee shops every year; and

Whereas the couple has donated the \$7,125 raised through their 2020 Smile Cookie Campaign to the Digby Area & Health Services Foundation, this being the fourth year in a row that the couple donated the proceeds from this popular fundraiser to Digby Area & Health Services Foundation;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Teresa and Chris Joyce, their staff, and their patrons for their continued generosity and commend the Joyces for their concentration on supporting the Digby Area & Health Services Foundation, a foundation that has as a mission to maintain and improve the health services available in the Digby area.

RESOLUTION NO. 789

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas Tide Kite Days has, since 2017, encouraged the residents of Clare and visitors to the region to meet at low tide at the Parc Joseph et Marie Dugas in Belliveau Cove every Sunday over the summer months and fly their kites; and

Whereas kite flying is a wonderful and inexpensive outdoor activity for all members of our families that appeals to both long-time residents and new residents of Clare, as well as visitors to the region; and

Whereas this outdoor activity, with the exception of the season-ending festival, could be held during the pandemic as people flying kites pretty much have to social distance;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in commending the efforts of the co-founders of Tide Kite Days, Blerina Berberi and Kevin Tummers, and the other organizers of this activity who hosted kite enthusiasts at the local municipal park for the past four years despite the odd day of adverse weather and a summer where all activities were affected by a pandemic, and plan to do so again next summer.

RESOLUTION NO. 790

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Travis Hogan was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Travis Hogan for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 791

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas our government made a commitment to replace the Villa Acadienne, an aging 86-bed long-term care facility in Meteghan, with a new 96-bed facility; and

Whereas the Villa staff and residents, community members, and officials from the three different levels of government have been involved in the consultative process to determine the best design for a new facility that would meet the present and future needs of the facility's residents; and

Whereas the project entered into the construction phase last February when the administrator and the board members of the Villa Acadienne broke ground at the site of the new Villa Acadienne;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in commending the staff, board members, and residents of the Villa Acadienne, and the members of the community who continued offering their input in the consultation process for this project from the time it was first discussed to the start of its construction.

RESOLUTION NO. 792

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas in a short time the Wharf Rat Rally, held in Digby, grew to become one of Canada's premier motorcycle rallies, attracting visitors from across North America and the world; and

Whereas in 2020, the rally organizers had to make the difficult choice to cancel most of its activities, or host them virtually, given the restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic and the organizers' desire to keep rally participants safe; and

Whereas the Wharf Rat Rally organizers are committed to hosting the Wharf Rat Rally in 2021 in person from September 2nd to September 5th, a festival important to the Digby area;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in acknowledging the organizers of the Wharf Rat Rally, as well as the organizers of festivals and events across the province who are currently planning local festivals and events this Summer and Fall with a priority on hosting them safely.

RESOLUTION NO. 793

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas volunteer firefighters provide a vital and outstanding service throughout rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas volunteer firefighters are individuals who show their dedication to serving others by protecting our homes and communities, often risking their lives to do so; and

Whereas Zane Lynch was honoured at the Brighton and Barton Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Meeting on April 13, 2021, for his years of dedicated service to his community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank firefighter Zane Lynch for his years of service as a dedicated volunteer firefighter.

RESOLUTION NO. 794

By: Hon. Mark Furey (Lunenburg West)

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

Whereas Gordon Whynacht celebrated his 90th birthday on February 28th; and

Whereas John is the last remaining founding member of the Petite Riviere Volunteer Fire Department, where he was an active member for an incredible 60 years, climbing his way through the ranks to become captain and deputy chief; and

Whereas Gordon lived in the Petite and Green Bay area his entire life, where he and his wife, Margaret, raised their two children, Anne and Gregory, and Gordon is well known as the owner of the Petite General Store for twenty-one years and a school bus driver for twenty-eight years, in addition to his many years of service with the fire department;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Gordon Whynacht on his milestone birthday and thank him for his outstanding commitment to the safety and well-being of his community.

RESOLUTION NO. 795

By: Hon. Mark Furey (Lunenburg West)

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

Whereas John Veinot, of Baker Settlement, served on council with the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg from 1988 to 1997 and 2003 until 2020, for a total of 26 years; and John "particularly enjoyed one-on-one conversations in the kitchen with constituents

over a cup of tea" in addition to helping council develop parks and open spaces and facilitate the creation of Tri District Fire Rescue, as well as the shopping district of Osprey Village in MODL; and

Whereas John's career, outside politics, has extended close to 50 years in the Christmas tree industry, including owner of John N Veinot Farms & Forest Products and serving as president of the Lunenburg County Christmas Tree Producers' Association; and

Whereas John and his wife, Mary, are owners of M & J's Hilltop Farm that provides flowers, vegetable transplants, eggs, maple syrup, and preserves;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank John Veinot, who also served many years on the board of the Bridgewater Day Care Centre of the United Church, and for his dedication and commitment to public service in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 796

By: Karla MacFarlane (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Karan Sidhu, comedian and filmmaker, is planning a series of comedy shows in rural communities across Nova Scotia beginning in River John; and

Whereas Sidhu was so overwhelmed by the hospitality and kindness he received while filming a pilot in River John that he decided to do his first comedy show there; and

Whereas he plans to donate a portion of the proceeds to the former school now owned by Shelley and Leonard Bigney;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Sidhu for recognizing River John, and I hope that more entertainers, filmmakers, et cetera, also see all that Pictou County has to offer.

RESOLUTION NO. 797

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Alexander Hancox is a role model for volunteerism - a true mentor, whose goal is to see others supported, and who is passionate about equality; and

Whereas Alex has served as the chair of the non-profit Memory Lane Family Place Association and the Sackville Lions Club, and his continuous contributions to these two organizations - plus his time spent as a volunteer firefighter - total over 37 years; and

Whereas Alex is always 100 per cent dedicated and committed to everything he does - whether he's fighting fires, working the bingo hall, or selling Christmas trees - so much so that this gentleman, who is in his nineties, was recently awarded a Halifax Volunteer Award;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Alexander Hancox on being recognized for his service and for being an inspiration to so many.

RESOLUTION NO. 798

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Bedford-based organic cannabis producer Aqualitis, helmed by Bedford lawyer Myrna Gillis, has recently moved to bring ocean-sourced packaging to the recreational and medical markets by partnering with Colorado-based Sana Packaging, which in turn is working with a global marketplace for reclaimed ocean material and products called Oceanworks to make its 100 per cent reclaimed plastic packaging; and

Whereas Ms. Gillis indicates this was an important move for the company because the production facility is located in the coastal community of Brooklyn, Nova Scotia, and removing garbage from our oceans is important to them; in fact, Aqualitis's first order for packaging from Sana reclaimed 1.8 million tonnes of ocean plastic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate the woman-led company Aqualitis on its environmentally sustainable practices and business sense.

RESOLUTION NO. 799

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Stephanie Graham is described as a true advocate for mental health in our community, who volunteers with both the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia and Northwood Foundation; and

Whereas Stephanie volunteers for events and donates to the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, and has served as chair of Models for Mental Health in support of Northwood's Seeds of Success program for the past two years; and

Whereas the Halifax Regional Municipality has recognized Stephanie with an award for her volunteer service;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Stephanie Graham for her service to our community, and for working to change the way people think about mental illness here in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 800

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Tanya MacLennan-Scott is a dedicated volunteer in the Bedford community, volunteering as a leader and district commissioner for Girl Guides, a member of the Sunnyside Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association, and a committee member of the Bedford Residents Association; and

Whereas Tanya excels in leadership and organization, demonstrated through her support for 27 Girl Guide leaders and 11 Girl Guide units, as well as her ability to set up many successful fundraisers for school, and her many hours of dedication in all her roles make the jobs of others easier and her community a better place to live; and

Whereas the Halifax Regional Municipality has recognized Tanya MacLennan-Scott for her efforts with a volunteer award for 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Tanya MacLennan-Scott on her award, and thank her for all she does for others, and for Bedford.

RESOLUTION NO. 801

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Bedford business REDspace won Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards in March and was also named one of the Top Employers in Atlantic Canada this year; and

Whereas REDspace is a software development company that builds custom, innovative, and scalable platforms and solutions that transform businesses, and was founded just over 20 years ago in Mike Johnston's basement; and

Whereas now REDspace now does business with companies like IBM, Sony, the Cartoon Network, ViacomCBS, NBC, and the NBA, just to name a few, and now employs more than 200 people from 20 different countries;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Mike Johnston and the team at REDspace on their business success, on being recognized as Business of the Year at the Halifax Business Awards, and on being recognized as a top employer in Atlantic Canada.

RESOLUTION NO. 802

By: Hon. Kelly Regan (Bedford)

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

Whereas Dr. Yonggan Zhao has volunteered with many organizations in Nova Scotia's Chinese community for many years through his work with the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia, the Chinese Festival Organizing Committee, and the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Tournament Team; and

Whereas Dr. Zhao serves the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia by providing excellence in vision, leadership, management, and passion, setting a good example to everyone through his commitment to preserving and promoting Chinese culture and traditions, building relationships between the Chinese Society and other communities in Nova Scotia, and contributing to the development of multiculturalism in our province; and

Whereas the Halifax Regional Municipality awarded Dr. Zhao a Halifax Volunteer Award for 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Dr. Yonggan Zhao on being named a Halifax Volunteer Award winner for 2020, and thank him for all his volunteer efforts.

RESOLUTION NO. 803

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas the newly-established Nova Scotia Firefighters Benevolent Fund provides financial support to firefighters and their families during times of acute crisis such as illness and injury in the line of duty; and

Whereas the fund was established by five Lunenburg County firefighters: Martin Walton, Dave Robb, and Will Brooks of the Lunenburg area, Peter Simpson of Dayspring, and Andy Wentzell of the Bridgewater area; and

Whereas the fund helps cover the costs of travelling to appointments and treatments by paying for fuel, parking, meals, and accommodations and supports firefighters in need of long-term assistance;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the founders of the Nova Scotia Firefighters Benevolent Fund and thank them for their valued contributions.

RESOLUTION NO. 804

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Ryan Grist of Dayspring was awarded the Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, which honours professionals who have demonstrated good conduct, industry, and efficiency; and

Whereas he is one of 21 Nova Scotia paramedics who were recognized for their dedicated work in providing high-quality health care; and

Whereas Ryan is an operations supervisor who is being honoured for his 20 years of service to the profession;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Ryan Grist on this well-deserved honour and thank him for his commitment to the health and safety of Nova Scotians.

RESOLUTION NO. 805

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas students at West Northfield Elementary School have established a new recording studio and broadcast show called “Wolves News and Entertainment Studio”; and

Whereas in February, students started broadcasting and achieved their first goal of sharing live morning announcements every day for a week; and

Whereas the Grade 6 class, taught by Peter Millett, applied for a grant from UpLift Nova Scotia and received \$5,000 towards the project, which supported the purchase of new audiovisual equipment;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the Grade 6 students at West Northfield Elementary School for their hard work on this new show and wish them all the best with this endeavour.

RESOLUTION NO. 806

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Millennium Dance Festival took place April 14th to 18th, 2021, with Element Dance Studio dancer Erin Smith of Hammonds Plains and her team winning top marks and advancing to the finals on April 19th; and

Whereas Erin’s team, Scorch, performed their hip hop routine with their dedication and hard work shining through to the judges, who rewarded them with top marks; and

Whereas Erin and team members Addison Van Dine, Anja Mott, Brandon Winton, Cameron Neville, Danielle Poirier, MacKenzie James, Eva Salgueiro, Grace Warren, Keagan Comeau, Parker Burgess, Rachel Power, Robyn Blackwood, and Samantha Neville are all accomplished dancers;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Erin James and her dance team, Scorch, for receiving top marks and advancing to the finals of the Millennium Dance Festival.

RESOLUTION NO. 807

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas Lorelei Burgess, director of Oxford Learning, was nominated for the Halifax Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year; and

Whereas Lorelei was determined to continue to remain fully operational and to grow her business during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the launching of the Virtual Table™ model, providing support to more families than ever; and

Whereas Lorelei became a finalist in the Business Leader of the Year category of the Halifax Business Awards 2021, being recognized for her dedication and hard work in helping her many students and families;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Lorelei Burgess for her nomination and for the recognition that she received, and wish her continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 808

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas Loren Battilana, an accomplished dancer with Element Dance Studio, received top marks and advanced to the finals in the Millennium Cup finals being held April 19th, 2020; and

Whereas Loren performed at the Millennium Dance Festival and earned a top mark for her contemporary solo, Why, her lyrical solo, Hometown Glory, and was awarded the Star Soloist; and

Whereas her team, Phoenix, with members Ainsley Forrest, Alyssa Cross, Chloe Murphy, Claire Embanks, Heidi Wadden, Laura Wadden, Marlee Davis, Reilly Johnston,

Stan Tonin, and Zachary MacDonald, also earned a top mark and a spot in the Millennium Cup finals for their lyrical routine, No Surrender;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Loren Battilana for receiving top marks for her solo and team routines and for advancing to the finals of the Millennium Cup.

RESOLUTION NO. 809

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Millennium Dance Festival took place April 14th to 18th, 2021, with Element Dance Studio dancer MacKenzie James of Hammonds Plains and her team winning top marks and advancing to the finals April 19th; and

Whereas MacKenzie's team, "Scorch", performed their Hip Hop routine, with their dedication and hard work shining through to the judges who rewarded them with top marks; and

Whereas MacKenzie and team members Addison Van Dine, Anja Mott, Brandon Winton, Cameron Neville, Danielle Poirier, Erin Smith, Eva Salgueiro, Grace Warren, Keagan Comeau, Parker Burgess, Rachel Power, Robyn Blackwood, and Samantha Neville are all accomplished dancers;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating MacKenzie James and her dance team "Scorch" for receiving top marks and advancing to the finals of the Millennium Dance Festival.

RESOLUTION NO. 810

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas Metro West Force U15 AAA Lightning female hockey team won the provincial league championship for the 2020-2021 season; and

Whereas the coaches and staff supported, trained, and encouraged the players during a season affected by COVID-19 restrictions; and

Whereas their dedication and hard work, combined with the players' commitment, lead to a successful season;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking and congratulating head coach Rufus Sweet, assistant coach Kurt Walsh, assistant coach Fielding Montgomery, and managers Danielle Wilkin and Tara Walsh, for supporting and leading their team to becoming provincial league champions.

RESOLUTION NO. 811

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas Metro West Force U-15 AAA Lightning were crowned Provincial League Champions for the 2020-2021 season; and

Whereas the girls had a challenging year where the season was put on hold twice, and they completed the season in a modified format due to COVID-19 but where they played with dedication, determination, and heart; and

Whereas they played a double round robin playoff and finished 8-1-3 tied for first with the Metro West Force Warriors, and the Lightning won the final with a 2-0 win over the Warriors;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Metro West Force U-15 AAA Lightning team members Bria Matthews; Olivia Thompson; Georgia Stevens; Calla Desrosiers; Ryan Hendsbee; Grace Driscoll; Rachel Walsh; Abigail King; Abigail Smolders; Julia McInnis; Genevieve Rothenburg; Hilary Wilkin; Sarah Bush; Alara Murphy; Claire Dixon; Adyson MacGillivray; and Kaitlyn Langille, on being the Provincial League Champions.

RESOLUTION NO. 812

By: Hon. Ben Jessome (Hammonds Plains-Lucasville)

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

Whereas the Millennium Dance Festival, taking place April 14 to 18, 2021, with over 984 entries, including local dancers from Element Dance Studio taking top marks and proceeding to the Millennium Cup Finals being held April 19th; and

Whereas Parker Burgess earned the top mark and a spot in the Millennium Cup Finals for her solo, "Hold Back the River ", for her duo, "Lovely" performed with partner, Brandon Winton, her dance team "Scorch" received a top mark for their Hip Hop routine and her small group, with team members, Addison Van Dine, Erin Smith, Grace Warren, Keagan Comeau, Rachel Power, Robyn Blackwood, and Samantha Neville earned a spot in the finals for their jazz routine "Hunter"; and

Whereas Parker, with a passion for dance since the age of 5, has shown dedication, hard work, and appreciation for all styles of dance and is being recognized by receiving top marks in her routines;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Parker Burgess for her many successes at the Millennium Dance Festival and wish her well in all future endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 813

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association (CHPTA) is a non-profit organization designed to preserve a piece of iconic Nova Scotia for future generations; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association (CHPTA) is a group of extremely dedicated and committed group of volunteers; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association (CHPTA) volunteers spend thousands of hours each year repairing, maintaining, and promoting this wonderful community treasure and active transportation tourist destination;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all board of directors of the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association (CHPTA) as well as the many volunteers who work so hard to preserve our beautiful parks and trails for our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 814

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Area Action Committee is a volunteer and community business and government staff- run committee in the Eastern Passage area; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Area Action Committee has worked tirelessly for over two years on special grants and projects to help recruit a family physician to the community; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Area Action Committee has also worked on youth-related projects including the Youth Drop-in Centre at the Tallahassee Recreation Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Eastern Passage and Area Action Committee for their hard work and dedication to meeting regularly to strive to improve the lives of Nova Scotians in their community.

RESOLUTION NO. 815

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre is committed to fostering a sense of belonging to military families of all abilities, providing increased support and resources during COVID -19; and

Whereas the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre provides an environment and experiences for families of all abilities; and

Whereas the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre promotes positive social relationships, development, and learning;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all staff, volunteers, and participants of the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to their military family community.

RESOLUTION NO. 816

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Island View High School Enhancement Committee is a non-profit organization that works tirelessly to raise funds to support programs and items identified by their students as needed to improve the school experience at IVHS; and

Whereas the Island View High School Enhancement Committee led the charge on a modified but highly successful and fulfilling high school graduation in 2020; and

Whereas the Island View High School Enhancement Committee fundraises year-round and supports student sports teams, social clubs, and other groups at the school to ensure the best school atmosphere;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Island View High School board of directors and all volunteers who help make the experience of students at Island View High School in Eastern Passage.

RESOLUTION NO. 817

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Organization is a non-profit weight-loss support group; and

Whereas the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Organization is a wellness education organization; and

Whereas the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Organization offers tools and programs for weight-loss management - an important service, especially given the stress and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members and volunteers of the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Organization for their commitment to each other and to their own health.

RESOLUTION NO. 818

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas Scouts Canada is a Canadian Scouting Association providing programs for young people aged five to 26; and

Whereas Scouts Canada's stated aim is "to help develop well rounded youth"; and

Whereas Scouts Canada also aims to help young people to be better prepared for success in the world, which has been especially challenging during the past year and the world-wide pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all staff and volunteers with the 2nd Eastern Passage Scouting Group for their hard work and dedication to scouting in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 819

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the 3rd Eastern Passage Sparks Unit is an important volunteer organization that offers girls in our community social activities; and

Whereas the 3rd Eastern Passage Sparks Unit allows girls to earn badges, crests, and other awards in recognition for the leadership skills they develop; and

Whereas the new adventures young Sparks girls try and the service they've given back to their community provide them with essential life skills and badges to proudly display;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all volunteers, Sparks, and family members who support this valuable organization.

RESOLUTION NO. 820

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Back to the Sea Society is an important non-profit organization in the Halifax Regional Municipality; and

Whereas the Back to the Sea Society is a miniature marine interpretive centre on the Dartmouth waterfront; and

Whereas this alternative aquarium model strives to minimize the impact on the environment and spark an appreciation of our oceans and their inhabitants;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all volunteers of the Back to the Sea Society and wish them continued success in their endeavours.

RESOLUTION NO. 821

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association (CHABA) is a non-profit organization that meets monthly; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association (CHABA) is run by a volunteer board of directors and attended by various owners and staff of local businesses who participate in community charity events; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association (CHABA) hosts community activities such as the Christmas Tree Lighting and Cole Harbour Centre Skate each year, which has been particularly challenging as a result of the pandemic and COVID-19;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank the board of directors of the Cole Harbour and Area Business Association (CHABA) as well as all members and volunteers who support the organization.

RESOLUTION NO. 822

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage Constituency Diversity and Inclusion Committee is a volunteer group made up of community members who want to help promote the wonderful diversity of our community; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage Constituency Diversity and Inclusion Committee has committed to working on promoting activities that promote racial equality and full inclusion of all members of our community; and

Whereas the Cole Harbour - Eastern Passage Constituency Diversity and Inclusion Committee is working towards a community block party to celebrate our unique cultures and to promote inclusion of all members of society, including those of different race, culture, creed, gender, and ability level, as well as economic and educational level;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage and Area Diversity and Inclusion Committee for their dedication and willingness to carry a torch to help lead the way towards greater appreciation of our diversity and unique gifts as well as activities that foster more inclusion.

RESOLUTION NO. 823

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Lodge Buffalo Club and its members are an important community centre and volunteers in our community, particularly during the pandemic; and

Whereas the club offers a bar with pool tables, live music, and entertainment on a weekly basis, as well as financial aid practical support to community members; and

Whereas they offer hall rentals for dances, weddings, graduations, meeting groups, theatre groups, fundraisers, and an outside gazebo with lots of parking;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Eastern Lodge Buffalo Club 8686 in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia, for their volunteer work, social activities, and support to our community members.

RESOLUTION NO. 824

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Food Bank volunteers work extremely hard every week to provide much-needed nutritional support; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Food Bank volunteers partnered with Keizer Freshmart and the Eastern Passage and Area Pandemic Community Action Committee and Buffalo Club to deliver food to community members during the pandemic; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Food Bank volunteers have served their community in so many ways over many years, and indeed decades;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all volunteers with the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Food bank for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 825

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Summer Carnival Committee activities are the highlight of our summer season; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Summer Carnival Committee has overcome the challenges of COVID-19 to both fundraise and provide modified COVID-19 friendly events; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Summer Carnival fireworks, golf tournament, car show, parade, seniors' tea, talent show, beauty pageant, bingo, carnival rides, and more are highly-anticipated and enjoyed events every year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all the volunteers of the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay Summer Carnival Committee for their hard work all year long, ensuring a wonderful week-long event for our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 826

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 is an organization whose mission is to serve veterans, including actively serving military members from CFB Shearwater and RCMP members and surrounding area; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 serves to provide social activities, games, and contests, as well as the promotion of Remembrance Day; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 rents out their hall for community events, fundraisers, carnivals, and more, and offers Chase the Ace, darts, billiards, and horseshoes, as well as exercise classes;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Eastern Passage Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 board of directors, all volunteers, and members who support the Legion all year long.

RESOLUTION NO. 827

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Area Business Association (EPABA) is a non-profit organization started in 2016 to support local business owners; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage and Area Business Association (EPABA) is a business networking and marketing group that meets monthly to educate business owners and to promote members both within and outside of their community; and

Whereas dedicated business owners volunteer their time to serve on the board of directors, as well as participate in community events that support our community, which has been particularly challenging during the past year of the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all volunteers of the Eastern Passage and Area Business Association (EPABA) and the board of directors for their commitment to their businesses, employees, community, and their association.

RESOLUTION NO. 828

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society is a non-profit society and registered charity that has served our community for many years; and

Whereas the goal of the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society is to provide assistance to those in the community who have medical needs; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society fundraises to ensure sufficient funds are there to be able to support those who have health related issues;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Benevolent Society and their board of directors for their years of dedication and service to our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 829

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Lions Club is a non-profit organization that is one of the largest serving service clubs in the world; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Lions Club, founded in 1972, has been serving our community for over four decades with dozens of social activities and events including weekly bingos, monthly breakfasts, dog guide dances, Carnival road tolls, and more; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Lions Club has a bar and hall rentals and hosts scouting, vaccination, and COVID-19 centres and other socially responsible events;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Lions Club board of directors and all members and volunteers for their service, commitment, and dedication to our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 830

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Fisherman's Cove Development Association is a non-profit organization that manages the gift shop and Fisherman's Cove Heritage Centre; and

Whereas the Fisherman's Cove Development Association manages the business shops that surround Fisherman's Cove, our new wharf, and the amazing MacDonald's Beach boardwalk area; and

Whereas the Fisherman's Cove Development Association works hard each year to host widely anticipated and thoroughly enjoyable celebrations and fundraising events, like the Canada Day Celebration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Fisherman's Cove Development Association board of directors and all volunteers and staff who support the shops, visitors, and tourists who enjoy all that our community has to offer.

RESOLUTION NO. 831

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Friends of McNabs Island Society is a volunteer non-profit registered charity based in Halifax, NS; and

Whereas the Friends of McNabs Island Society is dedicated to the preservation of McNabs, Lawlor, and Devils Islands; and

Whereas the volunteers work long hours cleaning up, repairing, and restoring, and promoting tours and educational sessions as well as tourist tours throughout the year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Friends of McNabs Island Society board of directors and all volunteers for their tireless work on behalf of all Nova Scotians, preserving and promoting our island treasures.

RESOLUTION NO. 832

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Millbrook First Nation is a Mi'kmaq community located within the town of Truro; and

Whereas the Millbrook First Nation includes the Cole Harbour Development (apartments, Treaty Entertainment Centre, gas station, and General Dynamics Building); and

Whereas the Millbrook First Nation is an important part of our community;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all Millbrook First Nation staff, volunteers, and community members for their commitment to our earth and our community members.

RESOLUTION NO. 833

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Passage Players Community Theatre group was founded in 2015 by an enthusiastic group of community theatre participants; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage-located Passage Players Community Theatre has produced a variety of works, plays, and comedies over the years; and

Whereas the Passage Players Community Theatre welcomes actors, singers, production staff, and others to join in on all community theatre events;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Passage Players Community Theatre board of directors and all volunteers and theatre group members for their commitment to their craft and their willingness to entertain and support their families, friends, and visitors alike.

RESOLUTION NO. 834

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas challenges were brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Astral Drive Junior High School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 835

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas challenges were brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Astral Drive Elementary School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 836

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Auburn High School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 837

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Cole Harbour District High School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 838

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID 19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Dartmouth High School for their amazing resilience, dedication and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 839

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at the Eastern Passage Education Centre for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 840

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Island View High School for their amazing resilience, dedication and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 841

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Ocean View Elementary School for their amazing resilience, dedication and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 842

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of South Woodside Community Centre for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 843

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians;
and

Whereas the challenges brought about by the worldwide pandemic, and the restrictions brought about by COVID-19; and

Whereas the teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers of Nova Scotia deserve our utmost respect and admiration;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Tallahassee Elementary School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 844

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the South Eastern Community Health Board (SECHB) is a non-profit volunteer organization that supports community activities that promote the health and wellness of our area; and

Whereas the South Eastern Community Health Board (SECHB) works together to improve our lives right where we live and work; and

Whereas the South Eastern Community Health Board (SECHB) has many online and in-person courses, expanding their role and reach during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all volunteers and staff of the South Eastern Community Health Board (SECHB) for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of Nova Scotians of all ages.

RESOLUTION NO. 845

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Seniors by the Sea Club is a seniors' group that meets on a weekly basis at the Lions Club in Eastern Passage; and

Whereas the Seniors by the Sea Club is a social club that provides a social atmosphere and community environment; and

Whereas the Seniors by the Sea Club helps to educate their members on issues of importance to seniors and engage in fascinating outings that bring much needed social interaction;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all the volunteers and participants in the Seniors by the Sea Club in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 846

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the South Woodside Community Centre is a non-profit volunteer organization that serves the recreational and social needs of the residents of South Woodside; and

Whereas the South Woodside Community Centre is supported by a committed board of directors who work very closely with their school staff, all levels of government, and other businesses within their community; and

Whereas the South Woodside Community Centre members work seven days a week to make available as many recreational and social opportunities as possible throughout the year, including many school-related events like the pumpkin-carving contest and Christmas dinner for staff and students;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the South Woodside Community Centre board of directors and all volunteers who help support all of the activities of the community centre organization.

RESOLUTION NO. 847

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Tallahassee Recreation Centre is a Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and volunteer-run organization that offers a gymnasium, dance studio, multi-purpose room, kitchen room rentals, and more; and

Whereas the Tallahassee Recreation Centre also shares access to a soccer field, community garden, and outside playground; and

Whereas the Tallahassee Recreation Centre offers various fitness classes and other social events, as well as rental of exercise equipment such as a tandem bike to borrow;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House of Assembly congratulate and thank all staff and volunteers at the Tallahassee Recreation Centre in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 848

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Women of Worth Social Association (WOWSA) is a women's friendship group for ladies between the ages of 50-70 in Eastern Passage and area; and

Whereas the Women of Worth Social Association (WOWSA) offers opportunities for friendship, activities, and laughter, both off- and online; and

Whereas the Women of Worth Social Association (WOWSA) meets monthly and connect online as often as possible through their Facebook group to support each other;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Women of Worth Social Association (WOWSA) for their unique membership that provides essential support and social opportunities for wonderful women in our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 849

By: Hon. Chuck Porter (Hants West)

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

Whereas if you got hitched in Hants County, you probably called a lovely lady named Lydia Crossley to get your marriage licence; and

Whereas Lydia, who hailed from Centre Burlington, first started issuing marriage licences in August 1959 so she could carry on the tradition when her aunt Millie Nichols was getting ready to retire; and

Whereas after 61.5 years and hundreds of marriage licences issued, Mrs. Crossley officially issued her last marriage licence in March 2021 to a couple from Bridgetown who will be tying the knot in May;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank Lydia Crossley for more than six decades of personal service issuing marriage licences and wish her all the best in her retirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 850

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Hewitt Hardiman of Lunenburg was chosen as the town's recipient of the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award; and

Whereas Hewitt Hardiman is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23 in Lunenburg, where he has volunteered for over 44 years; and

Whereas Hewitt has also volunteered at the Lunenburg and District Fire Department for more than 31 years as a firefighter and first responder;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Hewitt Hardiman on receiving the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award and recognize his valued contributions.

RESOLUTION NO. 851

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Peter Simpson of Dayspring was chosen as recipient of the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award, representing the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg; and

Whereas Peter is a tireless volunteer and leader in his community who has contributed to a variety of initiatives, organizations, and projects; and

Whereas he is a volunteer firefighter and medical first responder with the Dayspring and District Fire Department, and is a founding board member of the Nova Scotia Firefighters Benevolent Fund;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Peter Simpson upon receiving the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award and recognize his dedication to his community.

RESOLUTION NO. 852

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Valerie Header of Mahone Bay was chosen as the town's recipient for the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award; and

Whereas Valerie is passionate about preserving and protecting Mahone Bay's environment and is the founder of a community group called Talking Trees; and

Whereas Valerie led the group's 100 Trees: 100 Years initiative, where more than 100 new trees were planted across Mahone Bay in celebration of the town's centennial year;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Valerie Header on receiving the 2020 Provincial Volunteer Award for Mahone Bay and recognize her dedicated efforts and contributions.

RESOLUTION NO. 853

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Alfie MacLeod, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Alfie MacLeod assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Alfie MacLeod for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape

Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 854

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Allan Lafford High School have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Allan Lafford High School in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers, as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 855

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Alvin Bona, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Alvin Bona assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self-identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first

woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Alvin Bona for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 856

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 the Ben Eoin Yacht Club and Marina provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Ben Eoin Yacht Club and Marina for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 857

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 we recognize the significance of small businesses in Cape Breton-Richmond as they strive to create meaningful jobs and contribute to the local community and economy; and

Whereas having thriving small businesses in the area helps to retain people in the community they love, as well as attract newcomers and visitors alike; and

Whereas COVID-19 has caused significant additional strain on business owners, operators, and staff;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate local business owners for their perseverance and continued growth and success.

RESOLUTION NO. 858

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 the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Council provides leadership and needed social supports; and

Whereas leadership councils are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas access to services is vital throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for leadership, especially in times of crisis, is imperative to communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the members of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Council for their vital contributions to the health and well-being of residents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 859

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers like Debbie and Omer Boudreau provided me with their time, energy and advice in the Spring provincial election of 2017; and

Whereas Debbie and Omer Boudreau assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self-identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected as the President of l'assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Debbie and Omer Boudreau for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 860

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is of utmost importance and reliant on health care professionals, and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as physicians, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians with their health care, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas Dr. Tobecki Okeke will serve the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a physician as he begins his practice in our region.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly welcome Dr. Okeke to Cape Breton-Richmond, and we look forward to his guidance and expertise as he establishes himself in our constituency.

RESOLUTION NO. 861

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of East Richmond Education Centre have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of East Richmond Education Centre in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 862

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 interconnections and seven degrees of separation often lead one individual to another, and they ultimately share a bond; and

Whereas Cape Bretoners know all too well how one is connected to the other, just by asking one simple question: Who's your father?; and

Whereas history has shown us that European settlers arrived to an already inhabited land, and learned from, survived with, and married into Mi'kmaw families, creating that interconnected bond for life;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a hand in friendship, and an invitation for dialogue, to the Mi'kmaw First Nation, the Acadian people, the Eastern Metis, and other European settlers. We are all more alike than we are different.

RESOLUTION NO. 863

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of École Beau-Port have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of École Beau-Port in Cape Breton-Richmond, for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 864

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Elsie Deveau, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Elsie Deveau assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self-identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Elsie Deveau for her volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 865

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 Emma Boucher, resident of the Richmond Villa in St. Peter's and formerly of West Arichat, will mark her 103rd birthday on April 24th; and

Whereas to-date, 213 birthday cards have been sent to Emma at the Richmond Villa; and

Whereas Emma has led a very full and happy life as a wife, mother, teacher, and local business owner, and is much loved by her community, as well as family and friends both near and far;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending Happy Birthday greetings and our best wishes to Emma on the celebration of her 103rd birthday, and wish her good health and continued happiness into her 104th year.

RESOLUTION NO. 866

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers like Eva and Doug Landry provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the Spring provincial election of 2017; and

Whereas Eva and Doug Landry assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected as the President of l'assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Eva and Doug Landry for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 867

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Felix Marchand Education Centre have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extracurricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Felix Marchand Education Centre in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 868

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers like Frankie MacInnis provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the Spring provincial election of 2017; and

Whereas Frankie MacInnis assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected as the President of l'assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Frankie MacInnis for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 869

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 the Friends of St. John's Arichat Society and the St. John's Centre for the Arts provide activities and needed social outings for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Friends of St. John's Arichat Society for their preservation of history and culture through events and activities in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 870

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers like George Landry provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the Spring provincial election of 2017; and

Whereas George Landry assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected as the President of l'assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to George Landry for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 871

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 the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 872

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 the Lennox Passage Yacht Club in D'Escousse provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Lennox Passage Yacht Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 873

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 the Isle Madame Historical Society provides an ongoing historical catalogue of photos, documents, and artifacts in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Isle Madame Historical Society for their efforts to preserve the history and culture of the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 874

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like the late Dave Sampson, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas the late Dave Sampson assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to the late Dave Sampson for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 875

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Lois Landry, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Lois Landry assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Lois Landry for her volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 876

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 Louisdale Community Homes provides activities and needed social supports for its residents in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Louisdale Community Homes for their vital contributions to the well-being of their residents and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 877

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Marie Briand, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Marie Briand assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Marie Briand for her volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 878

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Mary LeLacheur Cotie, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Mary LeLacheur Cotie assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Mary LeLacheur Cotie for her volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 879

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Mi'kmawey School have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Mi'kmawey School in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 880

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Mindy and Joel Boudreau, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Mindy and Joel Boudreau assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with

Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Mindy and Joel Boudreau for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 881

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Mitch David, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Mitch David assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Mitch David for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 882

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Paul Martell, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Paul Martell assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Paul Martell for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 883

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 the Town of Port Hawkesbury Council provides leadership and needed social supports; and

Whereas leadership councils are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas access to services is vital throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for leadership, especially in times of crisis, is imperative to communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the members of the Town of Port Hawkesbury Council for its vital contributions to the health and well-being of residents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 884

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Phonse and Shirley Cotie, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Phonse and Shirley Cotie assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Phonse and Shirley Cotie for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 885

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Phyllis Cotie, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Phyllis Cotie assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Phyllis Cotie for her volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 886

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 the Potlotek First Nation Band Council provides leadership and needed social supports; and

Whereas leadership councils are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas access to services is vital throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for leadership, especially in times of crisis, is imperative to communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the members of the Potlotek First Nation Band Council for their vital contributions to the health and well-being of residents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 887

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Richie Cotton, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Richie Cotton assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Richie Cotton for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape

Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 888

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Richmond Education Centre/Academy have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Richmond Education Centre/Academy in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 889

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 the Municipality of the County of Richmond council provides leadership and needed social supports; and

Whereas leadership councils are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas access to services is vital throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for leadership, especially in times of crisis, is imperative to communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the members of the Municipality of the County of

Richmond council for its vital contributions to the health and well-being of residents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 890

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Robert Goyetche, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Robert Goyetche assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Robert Goyetche for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 891

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Roddie and Docile Fraser, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Roddie and Docile Fraser assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal

ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Roddie and Docile Fraser for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 892

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 the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 110 in L'Ardoise provides a valuable service to the community through its education programs, celebrations, and support for veterans and their families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 110 in L'Ardoise for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 893

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Rosemary and Don McLean, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Rosemary and Don McLean assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Rosemary and Don McLean for their volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 894

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 the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 in Port Hawkesbury provides a valuable service to the community through its education programs, celebrations, and support for veterans and their families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43 in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 895

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 the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 47 in St. Peter's provides a valuable service to the community through its education programs, celebrations, and support for veterans and their families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 47 in St. Peter's for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 896

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 the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150 in Arichat provides a valuable service to the community through its education programs, celebrations, and support for veterans and their families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150 in Arichat for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 897

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 the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 151 in East Bay provides a valuable service to the community through its education programs, celebrations, and support for veterans and their families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 151 in East Bay for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 898

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Strait Area Education Recreation Centre have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Strait Area Education Recreation Centre in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 899

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 the Strait Serenity Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas these important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly extend a sincere thank you to the Strait Serenity Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 900

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 education administrators, teachers, and support staff of Tamarac Education Centre have been acknowledged for their dedication to educating and assisting students amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas changes in routines, feelings of anxiety, and restricted access to extra-curricular activities have largely impacted a student's full school experience; and

Whereas student well-being, safety, and access to sports and committees have mostly been decided upon by the adults in their lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending acknowledgment and praise for students of Tamarac Education Centre in Cape Breton-Richmond for their patience and understanding, their resiliency and adaptability, their commitment to learning, and for the support they provide to their peers as they continue to cope with the impact.

RESOLUTION NO. 901

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 the Tara Lynne Community Centre in River Bourgeois provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Tara Lynne Community Centre in River Bourgeois for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 902

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 election campaigns involve a large number of dedicated volunteers who support the candidate with their time and hard work; and

Whereas volunteers, like Tommy Samson, provided me with their time, energy, and advice in the provincial election of Spring 2017; and

Whereas Tommy Samson assisted in the 2017 campaign to elect me as the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, resulting in the first woman to sit as an MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond, the first woman MLA to self identify as an Acadian with Aboriginal ancestry, the first woman Independent MLA in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly, and the first woman to be elected president of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie - région Amérique.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Tommy Samson for his volunteer support to the MLA for Cape Breton-Richmond's 2017 campaign, which resulted in a trail blazed for other strong and independent women to follow.

RESOLUTION NO. 903

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 the United Church Hall in St. Peter's provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the United Church Hall in St. Peter's for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 904

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 the West Bay Community Center provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the West Bay Community Center for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 905

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 communication is key to the distribution of information, and the medium by which it is dispersed in Cape Breton-Richmond is largely dependent upon local radio, television, and newspaper; and

Whereas local media outlets and employees work many long hours to ensure their listeners and viewers are informed and entertained; and

Whereas 101.5 The Hawk is one of the local outlets on which the community relies to share community issues and concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending appreciation to 101.5 The Hawk for their commitment to community broadcasting, their reporting of local and provincial news, and for their continued success as a communication medium in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 906

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 the Acadiaville Hall in West Arichat provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Acadiaville Hall in West Arichat for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 907

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 the Bonnie Brae Hall in St. Peter's provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Bonnie Brae Hall in St. Peter's for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 908

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 Camp Rankin provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Camp Rankin for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 909

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 Cape Breton Kindness provides assistance to individuals and families throughout Cape Breton; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Cape Breton Kindness for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 910

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 communication is key to the distribution of information, and the medium by which it is dispersed in Cape Breton-Richmond is largely dependent upon local radio, television, and newspaper; and

Whereas local media outlets and employees work many long hours to ensure their listeners and viewers are informed and entertained; and

Whereas CITU Radio Richmond is one of the local outlets on which the community relies to share community issues and concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending appreciation to CITU Radio Richmond for their commitment to community broadcasting, their reporting of local and provincial news, and for their continued success as a communication medium in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 911

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 the Evergreen Seniors Club in Port Hawkesbury provides activities and needed social supports for seniors in Port Hawkesbury and area; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our aging population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Evergreen Seniors Club in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 912

By: Alana Paon (Cape Breton-Richmond)

Whereas the Isle Madame Boat Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Isle Madame Boat Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 913

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 Cape Bretoners are kind, compassionate, community-minded, and resilient; and

Whereas Nova Scotia Equalization Fairness is a group of Nova Scotians who strongly believe that Cape Breton is deserving of a fair distribution of the equalization funds transferred from the Government of Canada to the Province of Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Father Albert Maroun has been tirelessly advocating on behalf of Cape Bretoners and Nova Scotia Equalization Fairness in Cape Breton-Richmond;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending appreciation to Father Albert Maroun and the Nova Scotia Equalization Fairness group for including this MLA in ongoing information, sharing, and open dialogue, as we strive to ensure Cape Breton receives its fair share of provincial equalization payments.

RESOLUTION NO. 914

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 the Forchu Community Hall provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Forchu Community Hall for their vital contributions to the well-being of seniors and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 915

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 the Framboise Community Hall provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Framboise Community Hall for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 916

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 Fresh Start Peer Support provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Port Hawkesbury and area; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Fresh Start Peer Support for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 917

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 the Hearts of Isle Madame provides activities and needed social supports for families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Hearts of Isle Madame for their vital contributions to the well-being of their residents and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 918

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 the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Port Hawkesbury provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Hall in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 919

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 the Isle Madame New Horizons Seniors Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Isle Madame New Horizons Seniors Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 920

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 Isle Madame Small Options provides activities and needed social supports for its residents in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Isle Madame Small Options Home for their vital contributions to the well-being of their residents and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 921

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 the Janvrin's Island Community Hall provides activities and needed social supports for seniors in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Janvrin's Island Community Hall for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 922

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 the Knights of Columbus provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 923

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 the L'Ardoise Community Centre provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the L'Ardoise Community Centre for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 924

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 La Picasse in Petit de Grat provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to La Picasse in Petit de Grat for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 925

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 the Lakeside Community Centre in Sampsonville provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Lakeside Community Centre in Sampsonville for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 926

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 the Little Anse Social Action Centre provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Little Anse Social Action Centre for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 927

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 the Louisdale Lions Den provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and seniors in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Louisdale Lions Den for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 928

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 the Our Lady of Assumption Parish Hall in Arichat provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Our Lady of Assumption Parish Hall in Arichat for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 929

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 the Pay It Forward-Angel Fund provides financial and educational support to patients with life threatening illnesses in Isle Madame/Louisdale; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Pay It Forward-Angel Fund for their vital contributions to the well-being of patients and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 930

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 the Port Hawkesbury Girl Guides unit provide activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Port Hawkesbury Girl Guide unit for their vital contributions to the well-being of youth in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 931

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 the Port Hawkesbury Rotary Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Port Hawkesbury Rotary Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 932

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 the Potlotek Community Hall (St. Kateri's Church) provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Potlotek Community Hall (St. Kateri's Church) for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 933

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 the Regional Occupation Centre (ROC) provides activities and needed social supports for families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Regional Occupation Centre (ROC) for their vital contributions to the well-being of families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 934

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 Richmond County Home Support Services Society provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Richmond County Home Support Services Society for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 935

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 the Riverdale Community Centre in Lower River provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Riverdale Community Centre in Lower River for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 936

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 the Rocky Bay Irish Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Rocky Bay Irish Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond, and for promoting Irish culture in Isle Madame.

RESOLUTION NO. 937

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 the Strait Area Education-Recreation Centre (SAERC) Daycare provides child care and programming for children and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the SAERC Daycare for their vital contributions to the well-being of children and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 938

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 the Salmon River Community Hall, St. Peter's, provided activities and needed social supports for seniors in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Salmon River Community Hall, St. Peter's, for their vital contributions to the well-being of seniors and families in Cape Breton-Richmond

RESOLUTION NO. 939

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 Scotiabank in Port Hawkesbury provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in and Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Scotiabank in Port Hawkesbury for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 940

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 Scouts Canada (Port Hawkesbury) provides activities and needed social supports for youth in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas these important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Scouts Canada for their vital contributions to the well-being of youth in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 941

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 Solomon Lodge No. 46 in Port Hawkesbury provides needed activities and services for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Solomon Lodge No. 46 in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 942

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 St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Port Hawkesbury provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Port Hawkesbury; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 943

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 St. Louis Catholic Parish Hall in Louisdale provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to St. Louis Catholic Parish Hall, Louisdale for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 944

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 St. Mark's United Church Hall in Port Hawkesbury provide activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to St. Mark's United Church Hall in Port Hawkesbury for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 945

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 the St. Peter's Lions Hall provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and seniors in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the St. Peter's Lions Hall for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 946

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 the Strait Area Women's Place provides activities and needed social supports for women and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Strait Area Women's Place for their vital contributions to the well-being of women and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 947

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 the Strait of Canso Yacht Club provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Strait of Canso Yacht Club for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 948

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 communication is key to the distribution of information, and entertainment and the medium by which it is dispersed in Cape Breton-Richmond is largely dependent upon local radio, television, and newspaper; and

Whereas local media outlets and employees work many long hours to ensure their listeners and viewers are informed and entertained; and

Whereas Telile TV is one of the local outlets on which the community relies to share community issues, concerns, and entertainment.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending appreciation to Telile TV for their commitment to community broadcasting, their reporting of local and provincial issues, and for their continued success as a communication medium in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 949

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 communication is key to the distribution of information and entertainment, and the medium by which it is dispersed in Cape Breton-Richmond is largely dependent upon local radio, television, and newspaper; and

Whereas local media outlets and employees work many long hours to ensure their listeners and viewers are informed and entertained; and

Whereas *The Port Hawkesbury Reporter* is one of the local outlets on which the community relies to share community issues and concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending appreciation to *The Port Hawkesbury Reporter* for their commitment to the reporting of local and provincial issues and for their continued success as a communication medium in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 950

By: Hon. Keith Irving (Kings South)

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

Whereas until the arrival of COVID-19, having safe and continuous access to our food supply was something many of us might have taken for granted, as we assumed from week-to-week that the shelves at our food stores would be stocked; and

Whereas all that changed with the emergence of the pandemic, when suddenly, our shopping experience was altered dramatically and supply chains that normally provided the food on our shelves were interrupted; and

Whereas the fact that with the rare exception of a few items our shelves were kept stocked is a tribute to the extraordinary efforts of our food suppliers, distributors, growers, farmers, and retailers;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize and say thank you to all individuals involved in our local food systems for their tireless efforts in 2020-21 to put food on the shelves and ensure that our food shopping experiences during COVID-19 are safe, continuous, and secure.

RESOLUTION NO. 951

By: Lisa Roberts (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the housing crisis in Halifax Regional Municipality and the effect on particular populations, including women who were criminalized and who may not have safe housing when exiting remand or other custody; and

Whereas Coverdale Courtwork Society responded to these emergent needs by first partnering with other service providers to support hotel stays for people released from custody, and then by initiating a one-year supportive housing pilot project comprised of six beds for women and gender diverse people involved in the criminal justice system; and

Whereas Coverdale's Caitlan's Place began operating on February 22, 2021, and connects residents with housing, mentorship, employment, and health and social services;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Coverdale Courtwork Society on the opening of Caitlan's Place and wish its staff and clients success in their first year of this project, and beyond.

RESOLUTION NO. 952

By: Lisa Roberts (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas Janet Simm has been CEO of the Northwood Group of Companies since 2014, where she brought her extensive experience from earlier leadership roles with the VON, Continuing Care, the Nova Scotia Association of Health Organizations, and South Shore Health; and

Whereas from March 2020 until May 2020, Northwood's Halifax campus experienced a significant COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in 246 long-term care residents and 99 staff being infected, and 53 residents passing away with the virus; and

Whereas Janet Simm was at work every day for weeks on end, identifying unmet needs to Public Health and the Nova Scotia Health Authority, incorporating new and temporary staff and external resources, relaying information to media and families, and motivating staff to continue providing the best care possible in exceptionally difficult circumstances;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Janet Simm for being an example of leadership and a true health care hero.

RESOLUTION NO. 953

By: Lisa Roberts (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas Dr. Jean Gray, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Pharmacology at Dalhousie University, and past president of the Canadian Society of Clinical Pharmacology, the Canadian Society of Clinical Investigation, and the Canadian Institute of Academic Medicine, was recently inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame; and

Whereas Dr. Gray began her career before maternity leave was instituted and championed its provision, as well as mentorship of women in medicine, making her a

pioneer who helped to enable a transformation of medical practice towards gender equity;
and

Whereas Dr. Gray worked with the Canadian Pharmacists Association to develop a comprehensive handbook, entitled Therapeutic Choices, for practising primary care physicians, which was recommended by the Health Council of Canada as essential for every practitioner and which is continually updated in its electronic edition;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Dr. Jean Gray as a 2020 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame inductee and express appreciation for her many contributions to equity and excellence in health care for all Canadians.

RESOLUTION NO. 954

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas The Binnacle is an award-winning local business in Halifax Armdale, which I proudly toured with Premier Stephen McNeil in 2017; and

Whereas The Binnacle is Canada's premier supplier of marine, sailing, and boating accessories and equipment, stocking an extensive range of gear for recreational boating and sailing; and

Whereas The Binnacle, as an alumnus of the eBay Retail Revival Halifax program, was recognized with induction into the eBay Hall of Fame, created to mark the online marketplace's 25th anniversary, in October 2020;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Chris Shaw, Eric Dempsey, and the entire team at The Binnacle for their continued success in spite of the pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 955

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Melvin Boutilier of Halifax Armdale exemplified public service, and was a titan in our local philanthropic circles, having founded the Parker Street Food Bank, the Metro Care and Share Society, and a number of other initiatives; and

Whereas, as Mel's MLA, our paths crossed many times - often when he would seek my input or assistance, or extend an invitation to me - and his persistence, positivity, and confidence in everyone's potential was extraordinary; and

Whereas in April, shortly after Mel's 92nd birthday, I was heartbroken to learn of Mel's passing, and in awe of his remarkable legacy of charity that has touched countless lives;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in recognizing Mel Boutilier's incredible community-mindedness, generosity, and lasting legacy, and extend our condolences to his wife, Thelma, his family, and colleagues.

RESOLUTION NO. 956

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas connecting with constituents was critical during the early days of the pandemic, and we sent countless letters to individuals, businesses, and service organizations to check in, offer support, and ask for feedback; and

Whereas I received a reply from Jackie Rivers, program director with Club Inclusion, and was thrilled to hear how they were continuing to connect Nova Scotians with diverse abilities by offering virtual programming including games, yoga, dance parties, and more; and

Whereas Jackie shared with me that 10 of their members would be graduating in 2020, and I was heartened to hear they would be hosting a drive-thru graduation ceremony and made sure to send a card;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Jackie Rivers and the Club Inclusion team and members for going the extra mile during the pandemic and never letting COVID-19 keep them down.

RESOLUTION NO. 957

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas newcomers to Nova Scotia need to feel that they belong, that they are included, and that all the wonderful social and recreational opportunities our province has to offer are open to them; and

Whereas Canadian research shows that participation in organized sport fosters a sense of belonging, better mental health, and leadership development, and creates opportunities for greater social interaction; and

Whereas the Halifax Dunbrack Soccer Club has welcomed a very high proportion of their players from the growing newcomer communities in and around Clayton Park and Fairview, going above and beyond to welcome and integrate them and help them make friends and master English;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the Halifax Dunbrack Soccer Club for their conscious, active inclusiveness, which includes financial assistance to newcomer players and participation in the provincially-funded Soccer for Life program.

RESOLUTION NO. 958

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas operating a small business can be tough at the best of times, but it's been especially difficult during the pandemic, as many shops have had to close or pivot their operations; and

Whereas Nick Giannopoulos, owner of Halifax Armdale's Euro Pizza, took on the additional challenge of moving his business during the pandemic, relocating from a compact location on St. Margarets Bay Road to a significantly larger space just up the street; and

Whereas this move and expansion will allow more folks in our area to enjoy delicious Euro Pizza, as well as Nick's highly acclaimed tzatziki;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Nick Giannopoulos on navigating his business through the challenging times we have faced over the last number of years, and wishing him continued success.

RESOLUTION NO. 959

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas in 2019, I was thrilled to help mark the centennial birthday of Mrs. Hanni Faddoul and present her with congratulatory birthday certificates from myself, as the MLA for Halifax Armdale and a member of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, the Queen, Prime Minister, Premier, Governor General, and Lieutenant Governor; and

Whereas Hanni was a matriarch and a very special member of our church and community, and she deeply cherished her six children, 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; and

Whereas on April 1, 2021, I was heartbroken to learn of Hanni's passing, after a long and blessed life sharing her love, strength, and spiritual guidance with all she knew;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending condolences to Hanni's sons Zakhour, Youssef, Faddoul, and Tony, daughters Lyla and Helen, and her entire family and many loved ones.

RESOLUTION NO. 960

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, much was taken from all of us, including having to miss out on the countless festivals, celebrations, and performances that make living in Nova Scotia so magical; and

Whereas festivals and celebrations from Nowruz, the Lebanese Festival, Greek Fest, the Lebanese Cedar Festival, Natal Day, the Tattoo, Halifax Pride, the Buskers, concerts for Fairuz, the Nova Multifest, Acadian celebrations, and concerts and performances across Nova Scotia were all significantly impacted or cancelled outright because of COVID-19; and

Whereas these cancellations represent a major economic loss, but also a heavy symbolic loss, particularly for our cultural communities that plan their years around these showcases of their food, culture, and heritage;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in saluting the ingenuity, passion, and adaptability of all the tireless staff and volunteers who poured their hearts and their sweat into organizing these events.

RESOLUTION NO. 961

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Alex Halef of Halifax is a husband, father, member of the St. Antonios Parish Council, and president and CEO of BANC Group, where he and his team deal in the acquisition, design, construction, and management of purpose-built, mixed-use, high-rise apartment and commercial developments; and

Whereas Alex and the BANC Group team have been recognized with awards for their buildings from the Canadian Precast Concrete Institute, and developed the beautiful Craigmore apartment building in Halifax Armdale, in which they built a customized and consistently affordable ground-floor constituency office, including parking for my staff and me; and

Whereas Alex Halef is currently serving the province through his membership on the Nova Scotia Affordable Housing Commission, bringing his expertise in the industry to discussions surrounding how best to address the issue of affordable housing options for our residents;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Alex Halef for his contributions to our community and province, and applaud him for his record of success in business.

RESOLUTION NO. 962

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Gloria Hilton of Halifax Armdale was an amazing dressmaker and knitter who turned her hobby into a way to heal hearts by knitting homemade teddy bears for kids at the IWK; and

Whereas in August, I was invited to meet Gloria on her 96th birthday, to express my appreciation for her kind gesture of wanting to send some teddies to Lebanon to comfort the children when she learned of the tragic explosion in Beirut; and

Whereas I was saddened to learn of Gloria's passing on January 29, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in applauding Gloria's thoughtfulness and sending our condolences along to her family and friends at The Roxbury.

RESOLUTION NO. 963

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Juicy Fruit Market grew from a small fruit and vegetable shop at the Armdale Rotary into a bustling wholesale operation servicing many local restaurants, hotels, and more; and

Whereas owner Samir Metlej and his family have always given back, and they've done so in a big way over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the Metlej family and their business have been long-time supporters of the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, and in January 2021 made an incredible \$10,000 donation to the organization, allowing it to continue their vital work serving vulnerable community members in HRM;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending my gratitude to Samir, Violet, the entire Metlej family, their team, and their customers for making this generous donation possible.

RESOLUTION NO. 964

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Kelly MacPhee of Halifax Armdale was born in Glace Bay in 1941 to Walter and Catherine MacPhee, and devoted his three-decade-plus career to educating our children, as a school teacher and then later as a principal, until his retirement in 1994; and

Whereas Kelly was a man of deep faith, and he was known for living true to his principles, being unquestioningly kind, easygoing, interested in history and politics, and willing to help anyone in need; and

Whereas as Kelly's MLA, I was saddened to learn of his sudden passing on September 29, 2020, at the age of 79;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending our condolences to his wife, Anne, his daughter, Denise, and sons Walter and Paul, his entire family, and all in our Craigmere community.

RESOLUTION NO. 965

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Norman Antonios Nahas was born in Kfar Habou, Lebanon, in 1937, and immigrated to Canada in 1963 where he established Norman's Market and a number of other businesses in the food industry; and

Whereas Norman was a very devout Christian and helped spearhead the founding of St. Antonios Church in 1980, where he was a faithful parishioner and lived the values of his faith; and

Whereas Norman was central in welcoming all his siblings as they immigrated to Canada, and helped them establish their new lives here;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending our deepest condolences to Norman's wife, Ibtissam, his daughters Antoinette, Caroline, Julie, and Mary, his son, Antonios, and his entire extended family following his passing on March 12, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 966

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas James Douglas Rosborough, a self-educated naval designer, was the founder of Rosborough Boats and started his marine career working with used boats while completing a degree in engineering; and

Whereas Doug's company has notched their sixty-fifth year of boat building, and has garnered tremendous respect for their design of state-of-the-art vessels for clients, including the Canadian Coast Guard, DFO, and the Royal Canadian Navy; and

Whereas as the MLA for Halifax Armdale, I was saddened to learn of Doug's passing on April 23, 2020, at the age of 91;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending our condolences to the family and loved ones of James Douglas Rosborough.

RESOLUTION NO. 967

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Sabah Samantha Sabah of Halifax was a bright and accomplished young woman who persevered through family tragedy to succeed in her dream of becoming a lawyer; and

Whereas Sabah was known for her deep religious faith, her loyalty, her love of music, her humour and loud laugh, and her pride in her Lebanese heritage; and

Whereas I, along with the entire community, was shocked and saddened to learn of Sabah's sudden passing on February 18, 2021, at the age of 29;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in sending our condolences to Sabah's mother, Rita, sisters Marwa and Nancy, her brother, Isaac, her many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews, and her entire extended family and loved ones.

RESOLUTION NO. 968

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Members of the Legislative Assembly, like most elected officials around the world, rely on committed, compassionate, and competent staff persons to assist them in fulfilling their duties and serving their communities; and

Whereas MLAs who also serve their province as members of the Executive Council have even greater responsibilities and demands on their time, requiring them to lean even more heavily upon staff for support; and

Whereas as an MLA and member of the Executive Council of Nova Scotia since 2013, I've been privileged to count on many staff people for support in my roles over the years, including Anthony Zibara, Conor Noseworthy, Peter Efthymiadis, Tasha Ismail, Shannon Hall, Michael Warner, and all my casual support staff;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in applauding all the staffers doing important work behind the scenes to help Nova Scotia's elected representatives deliver for our people.

RESOLUTION NO. 969

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Dr. Tanya Tulipan-Kanellakos of Halifax Armdale and her husband are both specialist physicians who came to Nova Scotia from Ontario a decade ago at the start of their careers; and

Whereas Dr. Tulipan-Kanellakos's role is unique, as she works as a psychiatrist at the IWK's Reproductive Mental Health Services clinic, where she uses her expertise to serve women who are pregnant and postpartum and live with mental illness; and

Whereas Dr. Tulipan-Kanellakos's clinic is the only such clinic of its kind in the Maritimes, and the team was able to shift to an entirely virtual care model during the pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Dr. Tanya Tulipan-Kanellakos for her service and for the quality care she's continuously provided to patients during this especially difficult year.

RESOLUTION NO. 970

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas 2020 was one of the toughest years on record for small business owners, and it's been important to me, as an MLA, to do what I can to support them; and

Whereas on March 22, I hosted a virtual small business connect session for local small business owners alongside Mike Little from TEAM Work Cooperative; and

Whereas participants were invited to a session featuring presenters from government agencies and local service providers including the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, Halifax Partnership, ISANS, NSBI, and MSVU's Centre for Women in Business;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Mike Little, Karla Park, Robert Black, Julie-Ann Vincent, Nathan Laird, Margaret Schwartz, and Colleen Ritchie for presenting at my virtual small business session and for sharing information on the many programs, services, and resources available to our small business community.

RESOLUTION NO. 971

By: Colton LeBlanc (Argyle-Barrington)

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

Whereas the teachers, staff, and administration of Oceanview Christian Academy have continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the teachers, staff, and administration of Oceanview Christian Academy for their continued dedication to students and their willingness to go above and beyond any previous expectation, while placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 972

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 4 in Joggins, its executive members, and its volunteers work hard in their community; and

Whereas the members volunteer countless hours on fundraisers, raising funds for much needed work and support for veterans, the cenotaphs, Legion buildings, and their community in general; and

Whereas the Joggins Legion is one of the oldest branches in Nova Scotia, receiving its charter in 1927, and has been serving its veterans and community for over 90 years;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in acknowledging the dedicated work of the Joggins Legion and thank them for their continued support for veterans and community alike.

RESOLUTION NO. 973

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Alaina Porter and her teammates on the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls'

basketball team, who would not give up when their team was down at half-time, coming back to win the regional championship for 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 974

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Avery Smith and her teammates on the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team, who would not give up when their team was down at half-time, coming back to win the regional championship for 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 975

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Brooke Gallagher and her teammates on the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this Regional Banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team, who would not give up when their team was down at half-time, coming back to win the regional championship for 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 976

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas coach Mike Ortiz led his Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team to victory, where they brought home the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the team worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team and wish them continued success in the future, a team that was down halfway through the game and never gave up. That persistence won them the regional title.

RESOLUTION NO. 977

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas coach Murray Thompson led his Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team to victory, where they brought home the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the team worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team and wish them continued success in the future, a team that was down halfway through the game and never gave up. That persistence won them the regional title.

RESOLUTION NO. 978

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas coach Phil Scott led his Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team to victory, where they brought home the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the team worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team and wish them continued success in the future, a team who was down halfway through the game and never gave up. That persistence won them the regional title.

RESOLUTION NO. 979

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Desiree Chatfield and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team, who would not give up when their team was down at half-time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 980

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Faith Atkinson and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and

to come home with the first place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles senior girls' basketball team, who would not give up when their team was down at half-time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 981

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Felicity Murphy and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 982

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Jorga Spicer and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 983

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Katie Clinton and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 984

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Lucy Scott and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 985

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Maddison Phinney and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 986

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Nevaeh Aubichon and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer, Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 987

By: Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Zoe Smith and her teammates of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team were proud to be named the winners of the Regional banner for Northumberland Region for the 2020-21 season; and

Whereas all members of the team, including Avery Smith, Zoe Smith, Maddison Phinney, Felicity Murphy, Alaina Porter, Faith Atkinson, Brooke Gallagher, Jorga Spicer,

Lucy Scott, Nevaeh Aubichon, Desiree Chatfield, and Katie Clinton worked hard as a team to bring home this regional banner; and

Whereas the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls team, Murray Thompson, Phil Scott, and Mike Ortiz, gave it everything they had to get the team to the regionals and to come home with the first-place title and are very proud of how hard the girls worked to get to this point;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the team members and the coaches of the Springhill Eagles Senior Girls basketball team who would not give up when their team was down at half time, coming back to win the Regional Championship for 2020-21.

RESOLUTION NO. 988

By: Lisa Roberts (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas Josie Ryan is executive director of long-term care for Northwood and has a stellar reputation amongst health care professionals as a compassionate, dedicated professional; and

Whereas from March 2020 until May 2020, Northwood's Halifax campus experienced a significant COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in 246 long-term care residents and 99 staff being infected, and 53 residents passing away with the virus; and

Whereas Josie Ryan was at work every day for weeks on end, leading both Northwood staff and external resources who were enlisted to address the critical needs for infection control, supportive care, and palliative care nursing;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Josie Ryan for being an example of leadership and a true health care hero.

RESOLUTION NO. 989

By: Hon. Gordon Wilson (Clare-Digby)

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

Whereas the Senior Girls Basketball Team from Islands Consolidated School, a team made up of only eight players, including two Grade 8 students, were a small team from a small school determined to have a great year playing basketball; and

Whereas the team, the Clippers, entered the NSSAF Western Division 3 Girls Basketball finals having won all their games and hoping to be the first basketball team from their school to bring home a basketball championship banner; and

Whereas coaches Tom and Janice Thimot and the girls defeated the Shelburne Rebels 61 to 45 at the regionals on April 8, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the ICS Clippers and in celebrating their win with the community of Freeport.

RESOLUTION NO. 990

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets is an important program that offers youth of all ages unique and important life skills; and

Whereas the Eastern Passage Cole Harbour Sea Cadets provides this opportunity right in our community; and

Whereas this group meets and parades every week and any youth from the ages of 12 to 18 are free to join;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all Royal Canadian Sea Cadets.

RESOLUTION NO. 991

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas Nada Toulany welcomed the community to her new store location and grand opening of Passage Pizza on Wednesday April 7th, 2021; and

Whereas after seven years at her previous location, serving delicious food, Nada plans to continue this with her wonderful staff from a freshly renovated new location at 1517 Shore Road, Eastern Passage; and

Whereas Nada is well known in the community for her kindness and generosity - free pizzas have been given out to schools, organizations, and youth groups, as well as gift certificates to not-for-profit community groups for fundraising auctions;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank Nada and her wonderful staff for their continuous generosity in our community, and wish her the best of luck in their new location.

RESOLUTION NO. 992

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas the education of our students is of utmost importance to all Nova Scotians; and

Whereas challenges and restrictions were brought about by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all principals, teachers, staff, students, bus drivers, crosswalk guards, coaches, and all school volunteers at Seaside Elementary School for their amazing resilience, dedication, and hard work during the past year.

RESOLUTION NO. 993

By: Barbara Adams (Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage)

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

Whereas five years ago, the Torn Souls Motorcycle Riding Group was created to serve their community, and whose latest activity is a summer tour under way to collect toys for children; and

Whereas Larry Hubley, the Torn Souls president, along with members Hazel Hubley, Aaron Colbear, Darrin Mosher, and Greg Joyce are riders from local areas such as South Woodside and Sackville and span as far away as Kentville; and

Whereas the Torn Souls fundraise to purchase items such as turkeys, furniture, clothing, and financial contributions to give to local groups including local Eastern Passage food banks, as well as the creation of a new local food pick up location in South Woodside;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate and thank all members of the Torn Souls Motorcycle Riding Group.

RESOLUTION NO. 994

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Debbie Marchand serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with her knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Debbie Marchand for the time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 995

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Jim Collins serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Jim Collins for the time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 996

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Jonah Samson serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Jonah Samson for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 997

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands, and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Laurie MacNeil serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Laurie MacNeil for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 998

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands, and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Adam Kading serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Adam Kading for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 999

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is of utmost importance and reliant on health care professionals; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as nurse practitioners, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians with their health care, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas Bonnie Samson serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with her knowledge and skills as a nurse practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Bonnie Samson for her time and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1000

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Paul Pluta serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Paul Pluta for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1001

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Rajvinder Singh Hanspall serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Rajvinder Singh Hanspall for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1002

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands; and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Seyed Hossein Seyedtehrani serves the residents of Cape Breton Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Seyed Hossein Seyedtehrani for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1003

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 the health and well-being of all Nova Scotians is primarily in their own hands, and

Whereas a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals, trained to serve as medical doctors, have committed their lives to assisting Nova Scotians in some of the most difficult of health-related situations; and

Whereas Dr. Steven Deroche serves the residents of Cape Breton-Richmond with his knowledge and skills as a medical practitioner;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending sincere appreciation to Dr. Steven Deroche for his time, skills, and dedication to the profession and to the constituents of Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1004

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Bras d'Or Elementary School continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Bras d'Or Elementary School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1005

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Coxheath Elementary School continued to teach and work during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Coxheath Elementary School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1006

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the chief and members of the Coxheath Volunteer Fire Department continued to serve the public during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief Billy MacLeod and all the volunteers of the Coxheath Volunteer Fire Department for stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1007

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Ferrisview Elementary continued to teach and work during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Ferrisview Elementary for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1008

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the chief and members of the Florence Volunteer Fire Department continued to serve the public during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21;and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief Adam MacIntyre and all the volunteers of the Florence Fire Department for stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1009

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Jubilee Elementary continued to teach and work during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Jubilee Elementary for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1010

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Memorial High School continued to teach and work during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Memorial High School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1011

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Munro Academy continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Munro Academy for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1012

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the chief and members of the North Sydney Volunteer Fire Department continued to serve the public during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief Lloyd MacIntosh and all the volunteers of the North Sydney Volunteer Fire Department for stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1013

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Riverview High School continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Riverview High School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1014

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Robin Foote Elementary School continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Robin Foote Elementary School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1015

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Sydney Mines Middle School continued to teach and work during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Sydney Mines Middle School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk, and for placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1016

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the fire chief and members of the Sydney Mines Volunteer Fire Department continued to serve the public during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief Paul MacCormick and all the volunteers of the Sydney Mines Volunteer Fire Department for stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk and placing the needs of others before their own during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1017

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the administration, teachers, and staff of Dr. T.L. Sullivan School continued to teach and work during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part preparing both in-person and online lesson plans, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the administration, teachers, and staff of Dr. T.L. Sullivan School for their stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk and placing the needs of others before their own.

RESOLUTION NO. 1018

By: Murray Ryan (Northside-Westmount)

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

Whereas the fire chief and members of the Westmount Volunteer Fire Department continued to serve the public during COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-21; and

Whereas this public service was done willingly and at great personal risk to themselves and their families; and

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic also caused significant extra work and time commitment on their part in training, in extra cleaning, and in addressing health concerns.

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Chief John Digou and all the volunteers of the Westmount Volunteer Fire Department for stepping up and being willing to serve our community above and beyond any previous expectation, at great personal risk and placing the needs of others before their own during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1019

By: Lisa Roberts (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas Rose Fraser retired in June 2020 after a long nursing career with the North End Community Health Centre; and

Whereas through her leadership of the Black Women's Health Program, Ms. Fraser helped to bring attention to the particular needs and priorities of Black women and to the importance of considering social determinants of health; and

Whereas Rose Fraser was a champion of mental health and helped all Black people to trust and feel welcome at the North End Community Health Centre;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Rose Fraser on her retirement and thank her for her considerable positive impact on the health system in Nova Scotia.

RESOLUTION NO. 1020

By: Steve Craig (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas during the National Navy League's 2020 Annual General Meeting, Lieutenant Commander(N) Eve Pickrem was awarded the Navy League of Canada's National President's Award Top CIC Officer of the Year; and

Whereas Chief Petty Officer First Class Drew Briand received the Provincial Nova Scotia Mainland Division Top Sea Cadet Award and the Navy League's National Sea Cadet of the Year from across Canada, and Petty Officer First Class Rebecca Tomlik was awarded Nova Scotia Mainland Division Musician of the Year; and

Whereas to be chosen from Sea Cadets and CIC Officers from all across Canada is quite an honour, but to have these awards bestowed in the same province is rare, let alone from the same Corps;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating members of the 305 Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps of Lower Sackville for their continued hard work and dedication.

RESOLUTION NO. 1021

By: Steve Craig (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas Dorothy Hughes, at the young age of 92, recently retired after her 10 years as a volunteer at Beacon House, located on Cobequid Road in Lower Sackville; and

Whereas Beacon House, established in 1985, provides food, clothing, and programs for those in need in the community; and

Whereas without volunteers like Dorothy, Beacon House, and many other charitable organizations, would not be able to meet the basic needs of those who are experiencing financial hardship;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me thanking Dorothy Hughes for her 10 years of dedication and compassion in providing and caring for the vulnerable of our community.

RESOLUTION NO. 1022

By: Steve Craig (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas Eric Anstey of Lower Sackville lost his 16-year-old cousin, Rylee Sears, to meningitis in January of 2015, which was a tragic loss for him and his family; and

Whereas Eric takes on the 12 Dares of Christmas in exchange for donations for The Rylee Sears Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is presented to graduating students from Sackville High School, the school that Rylee would have graduated from; and

Whereas these dares have been anything from shaving off his beard, drinking four litres of milk in one sitting, or taking an ice bath, all while being filmed by his wife and shared on social media;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Eric Anstey for being such a good sport with any dare that is thrown his way to keep Rylee's memory alive through this scholarship.

RESOLUTION NO. 1023

By: Steve Craig (Sackville-Cobequid)

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

Whereas Kaiser's Sub & Sandwich Shoppe first opened its doors in February 1976 and is one of the longest-serving establishments in Lower Sackville; and

Whereas Rick Baker became involved in the business two years later and subsequently purchased Kaiser's Sub & Sandwich Shoppe, and this year they celebrate their 45th year in business; and

Whereas like many businesses, Rick Baker, along with his staff, have certainly faced challenges with the onset of COVID-19;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Rick Baker and the staff of Kaiser's Sub & Sandwich Shoppe on continuing to keep the iconic Kaiser's subs alive and well, despite the effects of the pandemic.

RESOLUTION NO. 1024

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas the birth of a child is a momentous event and marks the beginning of a very satisfying journey down a long road, where the rewards far outnumber the challenges; and

Whereas "a new baby is like the beginning of all things - wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities," author Eda J. LeShan wrote; and

Whereas on April 19th, 2021 parents Julie and Chad Bourgeois welcomed their son Liam Marc Bourgeois into the world;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Julie and Chad Bourgeois on this miraculous event in their lives and wish them many more happy years as parents.

RESOLUTION NO. 1025

By: Hon. Suzanne Lohnes-Croft (Lunenburg)

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

Whereas Emily Latta, of Oakhill, Lunenburg County, has been selected for the Special Olympics Team Canada 2022 Training Squad; and

Whereas Emily is among 108 athletes and 48 coaches and mission staff from across the country who have qualified for the Training Squad; and

Whereas Emily is training to compete in snowshoeing and has the potential of representing Team Canada at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Kazan, Russia, in January 2022;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly congratulate Emily Latta on qualifying for the Special Olympics Team Canada 2022 Training Squad and wish her success.

RESOLUTION NO. 1026

By: Kim Masland (Queens-Shelburne)

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

Whereas Carson Perry of the Greenfield and District Volunteer Fire Department has received his 25-year long service award, his 35-year bar, and his 45-year bar in the fire services; and

Whereas Carson has been committed to serving his community and beyond, giving of his time and energy to keep residents' homes and businesses safe, for a total of 51 years; and

Whereas he placed himself at risk and spent many hours away from his family;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Carson for his many years of service, and in applauding him on this well-deserved recognition.

RESOLUTION NO. 1027

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Joseph Chedrawe is a graduate of Dalhousie Law School, a former law clerk for the Honourable Justice Danièle Tremblay-Lamer at the Federal Court of Canada, and a partner (International Dispute Resolution & Arbitration) with Vinson & Elkins in Dubai; and

Whereas Joseph practiced in Canada before working as a lecturer in law at the University of Oxford, and has also taught international arbitration at Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law; and

Whereas Joseph was recognized by the 2021 Global Law Experts Awards as Lawyer of the Year in the United Arab Emirates in three categories: construction disputes, engineering disputes, and commercial disputes;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Joseph Chedrawe on his incredible professional success and wish him all the best with his recent engagement.

RESOLUTION NO. 1028

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's small business owners showed tremendous resilience and adaptiveness over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the necessary restrictions that were introduced to curb the spread of the virus impacted certain types of businesses and industries to a far greater extent than others; and

Whereas wedding photographers, like Sinead Dubeau, were unable to do much of the work they would usually do over the course of the pandemic, greatly impacting their earnings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the hardships faced by small business owners, salute their resilience, and commit to supporting them in the months and years ahead.

RESOLUTION NO. 1029

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's small business owners showed tremendous resilience and adaptiveness over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the necessary restrictions that were introduced to curb the spread of the virus impacted certain types of businesses and industries to a far greater extent than others; and

Whereas event planners, like Claudia Habib, were unable to do much of the work they would usually do over the course of the pandemic, greatly impacting their earnings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the hardships faced by small business owners, salute their resilience, and commit to supporting them in the months and years ahead.

RESOLUTION NO. 1030

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas minor league sport is an exciting and fulfilling activity that is incredibly popular with young people and their families across the province; and

Whereas Michael Kabalen currently plays on the U15 Chebucto Rage hockey team, where his parents, Anne and David, are his biggest fans; and

Whereas the U15 Chebucto Rage team had a banner season and came first in the Silver Division in the Metro Minor Hockey League championships held on the weekend of April 17-18, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Michael Kabalen and his teammates for their success on the ice this year and wish them all the best going forward.

RESOLUTION NO. 1031

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Marcie Shwery-Stanley of Sydney was born to Lebanese parents, has had rheumatoid arthritis since she was 14 years old, and has been doing advocacy work on disability and women's issues for more than 38 years, including through service on numerous boards of various local, provincial and national organizations; and

Whereas Marcie worked at Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation (ECBC) for 27 years, initially as a small business development officer, a tourism development officer, and subsequently, as communications officer, and is now retired and serving her province through membership on the Department of Justice's Accessibility Advisory Board; and

Whereas Marcie marked her birthday on April 18, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking Marcie Shwery-Stanley on her decades of service to our people and our province, and wish her a very happy birthday.

RESOLUTION NO. 1032

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas minor league sport is an exciting and fulfilling activity that is incredibly popular with young people and their families across the province; and

Whereas Joseph Metlej currently plays on the U13 Chebucto A hockey team, where his parents, Cherie and John, are his biggest fans; and

Whereas the U13 Chebucto A hockey team came first in the CMHF championships held on the weekend of April 17 and 18, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating Joseph Metlej and his teammates for their success on the ice this year and wish them all the best going forward.

RESOLUTION NO. 1033

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas in late 2019, the Parochial Committee of St. James Anglican Church selected a new rector, the Reverend Katie Taylor-Flynn, from St. Mary's Anglican Church in St. Anthony, Newfoundland and Labrador; and

Whereas Rev. Taylor-Flynn has been a leader in our community and in her congregation, launching initiatives like God's Tickle Trunk, a community pantry with food items, books, personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, prayer booklets, and other treasures for anyone in need; and

Whereas Rev. Taylor-Flynn was appointed as Regional Dean for the Chebucto Region effective April 19, 2021;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in thanking the Reverend Katie Taylor-Flynn for her service to our communities and wish her all the best in her new role.

RESOLUTION NO. 1034

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's small business owners showed tremendous resilience and adaptiveness over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the necessary restrictions that were introduced to curb the spread of the virus impacted certain types of businesses and industries to a far greater extent than others; and

Whereas Chaz Thorne of Halifax Armdale, as president of Barn Raisers Strategic Inc. and Standing 8 Productions Inc., faced enormous challenges during the pandemic, as his team provides in-person strategic planning retreats for organizations and provides production services for large public events; and

Whereas small businesses like Chaz's had to pivot their operations and services quickly to continue serving clients in a world that quickly became virtual only;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the hardships faced by small business owners, salute their resilience, and commit to supporting them in the months and years ahead.

RESOLUTION NO. 1035

By: Hon. Lena Metlege Diab (Halifax Armdale)

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

Whereas Nova Scotia's small business owners showed tremendous resilience and adaptiveness over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the necessary restrictions that were introduced to curb the spread of the virus impacted certain types of businesses and industries to a far greater extent than others; and

Whereas owners of fitness and recreation establishments, like Anna Townsend, were unable to offer the same services to their customers that they usually would over the course of the pandemic, greatly impacting their earnings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge the hardships faced by small business owners, salute their resilience, and commit to supporting them in the months and years ahead.

RESOLUTION NO. 1036

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 the Johnstown Parish Hall provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Johnstown Parish Hall for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1037

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 Leaside Transition House, Port Hawkesbury, provides safe and secure accommodations for women and families; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to Leaside Transition House, Port Hawkesbury, for their vital contributions to the well-being of women and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1038

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 the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Hall, St. Georges Channel, provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Richmond County; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the South Mountain Arm of Gold Community Hall, St. Georges Channel, for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1039

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 the St. Peter's Marina provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the St. Peter's Marina for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1040

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 the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce provides activities and needed business supports for entrepreneurs in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce for their vital contributions to the well-being of entrepreneurs in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1041

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 the Strait Area Trails Association provides activities and needed social supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas community groups and organizations are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for social interaction is of great concern to all communities;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Strait Area Trails Association for their vital contributions to the well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1042

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 St. Josephs Credit Union provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in and Richmond County; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to St. Josephs Credit Union for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1043

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 TD Bank provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in and Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to TD Bank for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1044

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 the Bank of Montreal provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in and Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to the Bank of Montreal for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1045

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 East Coast Credit Union provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in and Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in extending a sincere thank you to East Coast Credit Union for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1046

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 the Royal Bank provides financial leadership and needed economic supports for individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond; and

Whereas financial institutions are vital to the health of our population in rural Nova Scotia; and

Whereas important services are needed even more throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for financial advice and support is of great concern to all individuals;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly joins me in extending a sincere thank you to the Royal Bank for its vital contributions to the financial well-being of individuals and families in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1047

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 individuals and families who are living with autism experience the uniqueness of learning and living in Richmond County; and

Whereas families living with an autistic child or an autistic adult may be disadvantaged in rural Nova Scotia when accessing programs and services; and

Whereas these special individuals and families help us see the world in a different way;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank employers and agencies who ensure equitable access to programs and services for people with autism in Cape Breton-Richmond.

RESOLUTION NO. 1048

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 lateral violence is displaced violence directed against one's peers rather than adversaries; and

Whereas individuals experiencing lateral violence suffer from harassment and fear in the workplace, in families, and in communities; and

Whereas these individuals deserve our empathy and intervention in workplace and community settings;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly acknowledge those Nova Scotians, and in particular residents of Cape Breton-Richmond, who have faced lateral violence in the workplace and the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 1049

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 food sustainability and food production became increasingly prevalent in consultations with farmers amidst COVID-19; and

Whereas access to locally sourced food and the importance of small-scale farming must be given priority by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture; and

Whereas Nova Scotians have a long history of producing their own food;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly thank and support farmers across the constituency of Cape Breton-Richmond who contribute to the food security of the Province of Nova Scotia, and who, by doing so, are able to make a modest living as farmers.