



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Danielle Barkhouse

Published by Order of the Legislature by Hansard Reporting Services and printed by the King's Printer.

Available on INTERNET at <http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/proceedings/hansard/>

First Session

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS:	
Gov't. (N.S.): Eviction of Low-Income Seniors - Ban, G. Burrill	9085
Gov't. (N.S.): Eviction of Seniors in Long-Term Housing - Ban, L. Lachance	9086
PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:	
Standing Committee on Health Annual Report 2024, J.A. MacDonald	9086
TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS:	
Review Board Under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act Annual Report: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024, Hon. B. Comer	9086
Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules Amendment (Family Division Rules) - June 11, 2024, Hon. B. Adams	9087
2023-2024 Annual Report of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia,	

The Speaker	9087
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS:	
No. 481, Social Safety Security Net Act, Hon. D. Mombourquette	9087
No. 482, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, C. Chender	9087
No. 483, Labour Standards Code (amended), K. Coombes.....	9087
No. 484, Hospitals Act (amended), E. Smith-McCrossin.....	9088
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:	
Forde, Jim: Musical Accomplishments - Recog., Hon. S. Craig.....	9089
Stand Up Against Bullying Day: Support - Recog., Hon. Z. Churchill	9090
Java Blend Workers: Coll. Agreement - Congrats., G. Burrill.....	9090
Firth, Joan: Com. Serv. - Recog., Hon. T. Grosse	9091
Beasy, Jason: Chief Scouts Awd. - Congrats., Hon. P. Arab	9091
Mumuni, Elham: Gender Inclusion Work - Recog., S. Hansen	9092
Stand Up Against Bullying Day: Support - Recog., C. Palmer.....	9094
MacLeod, Alfie: Cancer Fight - Best Wishes, Hon. D. Mombourquette	9094
Inductees: Sports Her. Hall of Fame - Congrats., K. Coombes.....	9095
Firth, Corey: Canoeing Coaching - Thanks, Hon. T. Grosse	9095
FANS: Cult. Diversity Enhancement - Recog., R. DiCostanzo	9096
Kansas, Jane: Death of - Tribute, L. Lachance.....	9096
Cameron-Kelly, Mary: CAHF Induction - Recog., Hon. K. Bain	9097
Boulianne, Gyaume: Book Release - Congrats., R. LeBlanc	9098
Beaman, Koren: Work on IP Violence - Recog., S. Leblanc	9099
Jarvis, Joseph Gifford: Death of - Tribute, Hon. J. Balser.....	9099
Purchase, Brian: Com. Serv. - Recog., F. Tilley.....	9100
MacPhee Centre: Com Serv. - Recog.,	

C. Chender	9100
Sullivan, Helena: 101 st Birthday - Congrats., Hon. B. Adams.....	9101
Maskwa Aquatic Club: Ch'ship Win - Congrats., B. Clark.....	9101
Palliative Care Team: Work - Recog., E. Smith-McCrossin.....	9101
Stand Up Against Bullying Day: Support - Recog., S. Hansen	9102
Atkinson, Chelsea: CCMW Participation - Congrats., Hon. T. Rushton.....	9102
Christie, C. & I.: 75 th Anniv. - Best Wishes, L. Nicoll	9103
Hubbard, April: Pride Parade Marshal - Recog., L. Lachance.....	9103
Murphy, Allison: Gaston-Chagnon Awd. - Congrats., Hon. K. Smith	9104
Halifax Driving School: Safety Prom. - Thanks, A. Duale	9104
Howell, Kirstin: ACTRA Awd. Recip. - Congrats., S. Leblanc	9104
Pace, Chloe: Girl Guides Work - Recog., Hon. T. Halman.....	9105
Greenfield Com. Park Soc.: New Park - Recog., Hon. K. Masland.....	9105
Taylor, Ralph: Death of - Tribute, Hon. K. Regan.....	9106
Vols.: Grading Day Events - Thanks, K. Coombes.....	9106
Strides Health & Wellness: 10 th Anniv. - Congrats., J.A. MacDonald	9106
ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS:	
No. 1,669, Prem.: Population Doubling Plan Problem - Admit, Hon. Z. Churchill	9107
No. 1,670, Prem.: Hogan Court Tender Change - Explain, C. Chender	9109
No. 1,671, DCS: Overpopulation Problems - Admit, Hon. Z. Churchill	9110
No. 1,672, DCS: Housing Problem Created - Admit, Hon. Z. Churchill	9111
No. 1,673, LSI: Immigration Numbers - Explain, Hon. Z. Churchill	9112
No. 1,674, LSI: Dom. Violence Leave Pay - Increase, K. Coombes.....	9113
No. 1,675, MAH: Trusted Devt. Pgm. - Fund, Hon. I. Rankin.....	9114

No. 1,676, RTA: Res. Tenancies Enforcement - Clarify, B. Clark.....	9115
No. 1,677, MAH: Affordable Housing - Build, Hon. P. Arab	9116
No. 1,678, DCS: By Name List - Reduce, S. Hansen	9117
No. 1,679, MAH: Wait-List for Public Housing - Decrease, C. Kerr.....	9118
No. 1,680, MAH: Plans to Build Homes - Clarify, Hon. D. Mombourquette.....	9119
No. 1,681, DHW: Cumb. Co. Emerg. Dept. - Expand, E. Smith-McCrossin.....	9120
No. 1,682, DCS: University Ave. Campers - House, L. Lachance.....	9121
No. 1,683, EECD: Park West School Land - Purchase, R. DiCostanzo.....	9122
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:	
PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING:	
No. 476, French-language Services Act (amended), Hon. C. LeBlanc	9124
R. LeBlanc	9127
L. Lachance.....	9129
Hon. C. LeBlanc	9130
Vote - Affirmative.....	9131
No. 471, Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act, Hon. T. Rushton.....	9132
R. LeBlanc	9135
S. Leblanc	9136
Hon. K. Smith	9137
Hon. C. LeBlanc	9139
Hon. T. Rushton.....	9139
Vote - Affirmative.....	9140
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING:	
No. 482, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, C. Chender	9140
Hon. Z. Churchill	9141
E. Smith-McCrossin.....	9141
Hon. J. Balsler.....	9142
C. Chender	9142
Vote - Affirmative.....	9142
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING:	
No. 482, Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, C. Chender	9142
Vote - Affirmative.....	9143
HOUSE RESOLVED INTO CWH ON BILLS AT 3:54 P.M.	9143
HOUSE RECONVENED AT 5:06 P.M.....	9143

ADJOURNMENT, House rose to meet again on Friday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m.....9144



HALIFAX, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Sixty-fourth General Assembly

First Session

1:00 P.M.

SPEAKER

Hon. Danielle Barkhouse

DEPUTY SPEAKERS

Lisa Lachance, Nolan Young

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

PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

GARY BURRILL: I wish to present a petition, which reads this way:

Whereas over one quarter of those who are homeless for the first time are over the age of 60; and

Whereas nearly 6,000 people are on the wait-list for public housing, with an average wait time of two years;

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government ban evictions of seniors whose incomes would qualify them for public housing until there is a place in public housing for them to go.

This petition has been signed by a number of residents of Oxford Street and Cornwall Street in Halifax Chebucto, and I have signed it also.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

LISA LACHANCE: I beg leave to table a petition.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

LISA LACHANCE: I'd like to table the following petition with the operative clause:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government ban evictions of seniors who have been in their same accommodations for multiple years, for the duration of the housing crisis.

It has received 64 signatures - and I have affixed my own - from residents on Edward Street, Vernon Street, Spring Garden Road, and other streets in Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Speaker, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, I'm pleased to submit the annual report of the committee for the period of September 2023 to August 2024 of the 64th General Assembly.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Addictions and Mental Health.

HON. BRIAN COMER: I beg leave to introduce a report entitled *Review Board Under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act Annual Report: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024*.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Speaker, I would like to table a document called *Nova Scotia Civil Procedure Rules Amendment (Family Division Rules) - June 11, 2024*.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

As Speaker of the House of Assembly, and pursuant to Section 33(7) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and Section 4(3) of the Privacy Review Officer Act, and Section 93(b) of the Personal Health Information Act, I am tabling the *2023-2024 Annual Report of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia*.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 481 - An Act to Index Social Supports to Inflation. (Hon. Derek Mombourquette)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction connected to my bill.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I draw the attention of the members to the gallery opposite where we're joined by many guests from Unifor: Jennifer Murray, the Atlantic Regional Director - I'll ask you all to stand when I say your name - is joined by Koren Beaman, Shelley Amyotte, Shannon Sampson, Adam Slaunwhite, Loran Bowden, Shauna Wilcox, Matt Blois. I apologize if I've missed anyone else. Thank you for being here in the House today for this important bill. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House.

Bill No. 482 - An Act to Declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic. (Claudia Chender)

Bill No. 483 - An Act to Amend Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Labour Standards Code, to Provide Paid Leave for Events of Domestic Violence and Other Emergencies. (Kendra Coombes)

Bill No. 484 - An Act to Amend Chapter 208 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Hospitals Act. (Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: Before we start Statements by Members, I'd like to do an introduction. I would like to acknowledge the members of the Soup Servants who are joining us today in the Speaker's Gallery.

This group was formed by a few members of the Parish of French Village Mothers' Union, who realized there were a number of community residents who are unable to leave their homes. They knew that a delivery of a jar of soup and a short visit would certainly contribute to their well-being.

Soup Servants has grown beyond the parishioners, welcoming volunteers who are willing to give their time for their special organization, which now delivers between 70 and 80 jars of soup a month. We laugh, we cry - the crying is from cutting up onions, though, I must admit. As I say your name, please rise.

Joining us today on behalf of the wonderful Soup Servants volunteers are Archdeacon Brianna Andrews, Elizabeth Dorey, Janet Champniss, Genny Kresic, Jane Pike, Margo Whitman. I would like to ask the House to give you a warm welcome. (Applause)

Thank you for all you do.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

HON. STEVE CRAIG: Before I begin, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

STEVE CRAIG: Today I'm pleased and honoured to introduce Jim Forde, who, as you will hear shortly, deserves much recognition for his long and distinguished work in music.

Jim is joined in your gallery, Speaker, today by his wife Noreen. Just before - I hope they're standing; if not, thank you for standing - I would mention that, in my years here at the Legislature, it's the first time in Province House that I've walked through with a guest who has been recognized and talked about by so many people. In fact, Jim has mentioned

that Strauss was playing when he came in. A number of the commissionaires he's played with and conducted with previously, and some of our own staff have had music lessons by the people in Jim's knowledge.

[1:15 p.m.]

Over the decades, he has been here at Province House in various capacities. I'd ask the House to recognize and thank Jim and Noreen for joining us here today before I read my statement. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House.

The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

FORDE, JIM: MUSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS - RECOG.

HON. STEVE CRAIG: Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mr. Jim Forde of Dartmouth. Jim is the former director of the Stadacona Band, producer of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, and past president of the Nova Scotia Band Association and the Canadian Band Association, and has received numerous awards recognizing his love and desire to foster music education in the community.

Since January 2004 - over two decades - Jim has been the principal conductor and music director of the Sackville Concert Band. The band is comprised of professional and retired musicians, local music teachers, and citizens who perform high-quality music in support of local events and promote the artistic development of young instrumentalists.

I would like to ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in applauding Jim Forde for his tremendous musical accomplishments and wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Speaker, may I make an unrelated introduction before I make my member statement, please?

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

ZACH CHURCHILL: I'd like to bring the House's attention to the West Gallery, where we are joined by local social media legend and influencer John Grant, who's here with his friend Sarah Johnson, who's a fourth-year political science student and VP of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Political Science Society here in Halifax. Originally from the South Shore, in Bridgewater, she's also a competitive swimmer and does all kinds of great things.

I'd like to welcome our two guests today to the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House. I hope you enjoy your stay.

The honourable member for Yarmouth.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING DAY: SUPPORT - RECOG.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: I rise today to recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day here in Nova Scotia. This is a day dedicated to promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion in our schools, workplaces, and communities. First proclaimed in 2007, this day is a reminder of the importance of standing together to reject bullying in all its forms.

The pink we wear today symbolizes our commitment to those who have been affected by bullying and to creating safer environments for everybody, particularly for our youth. It's vital that we continue to foster a culture of empathy and support where differences are celebrated and no one feels isolated or mistreated.

Speaker, I encourage all members of this House and Nova Scotians to reflect on how we can each play a role in making our communities more compassionate and inclusive. Together, we can ensure that bullying has no place in our schools, our workplaces, or our society.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

JAVA BLEND WORKERS: COLL. AGREEMENT - CONGRATS.

GARY BURRILL: Speaker, I'd like to extend the congratulations of the House to the workers at Java Blend Coffee, members of the Service Employees International Union, SEIU Local 2, on having reached in July their first collective agreement. The agreement follows an intense struggle for recognition at Java Blend Coffee, during which nine people lost their jobs and a boycott had been in place since January.

A settlement of the recognition issues was reached in May, resulting in the end of the boycott, the recall of the terminated workers, and the withdrawal by the union of an unfair labour practices complaint. This cleared the way for the collective agreement in July.

The first contract includes a grievance procedure, new seniority rights and recall rights, paid premiums of a dollar an hour, improved overtime rates, paid bereavement leave, and wage increases that go up with every year of service. The collective agreement was approved unanimously by the membership of the new union.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston.

HON. TWILA GROSSE: Before I begin, I beg leave to make an introduction in the gallery.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

TWILA GROSSE: I'm pleased and honoured to introduce Joan Firth and several members of her family. Joan, as you will hear, is a vital member of the Lake Echo community. Joining us today are Andrea Ellis, Roger Ellis, Christine Firth, Jocelyn Firth, Shawn Ryder, Ian Firth, Lauren MacDonald, Grace Firth, Ethan Firth, Ryland Firth, Lyn Miles, Zelda Guimond, and Corey Firth. I'll have more to say about Corey in a couple of minutes. I would ask you all to rise and accept the warm welcome of the Legislature. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House. I hope you enjoy your stay.

The honourable member for Preston.

FIRTH, JOAN: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

HON. TWILA GROSSE: I rise today to recognize Joan Firth, who is 92 years young and has contributed to the Lake Echo community since 1974. Joan is a pivotal member of the community who has supported many non-profit organizations, including St. David's United Church, Feed Nova Scotia, Orenda Canoe Club, and the Lake Echo Seniors' Club to name a few.

Joan is always willing to help anyone without judgment. She is an avid baker for fundraising in the community as well as sporting events. Joan is a dedicated mom with a strong sense of family. She is so proud of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. As you can tell, Joan is a cherished member of the Lake Echo community.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to please join with me in recognition of Joan Firth for all she is doing for the community at the age of 92. Thank you, Joan.

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

BEASY, JASON: CHIEF SCOUTS AWD. - CONGRATS.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jason Beasy, who earned the prestigious Chief Scout's Award at the end of the scouting season in June. Jason has been an active member of the 2nd Fairview Scout Troop since the age of 5. Alongside his father, Paul, who was one of the scout leaders, they shared in the full range of scouting

experiences, from community volunteering and Apple Day to camping and weekend-long canoe trips.

The Chief Scout's Award is the highest honour in Scouts Canada, and achieving it requires completing 18 levels of outdoor adventure skills, contributing 30 community service hours, and successfully leading a community-oriented service project. Jason's dedication to leadership, outdoor adventure, and community involvement truly shines through in this accomplishment.

Please join me in celebrating Jason on this remarkable achievement and wishing him continued success as he carries the lessons of scouting forward in life.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

SUZY HANSEN: I beg leave to make an introduction before my member statement.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

SUZY HANSEN: I would like to draw the House's attention to the West Gallery, where my CA, Ayesha Hum, is joined by some dear friends. We have with us today Mr. Louis Gannon - whom most call Uncle Lou or Mr. Lou - who has put in many years of work and dedication with basketball in Nova Scotia. He is also known for his many years with ANSMA - the African Nova Scotian Music Association - and has just received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for all his hard work.

I would also like to introduce Ms. Elham Mumuni, who is visiting us from Ghana. Elham is not a stranger to Nova Scotia. She has received many of her certifications from the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University. Her expertise and experience are in developing gender and social inclusion plans. While she's in Nova Scotia, she will be having presentations in communities, meeting with folks, and discussing topics on rural development and supporting small communities in Ghana.

I would like to ask all of you to rise - and I thank you - and accept the warm welcome of this House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome.

The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

MUMUNI, ELHAM: GENDER INCLUSION WORK - RECOG.

SUZY HANSEN: I rise today to recognize Elham Mumuni. She's an important leader in the work of feminism and gender equality. Elham is dedicated to advancing women's rights and social justice through multiple projects focused on women, feminist

leadership, and economic empowerment. Her experience is in developing and implementing gender and social inclusion plans globally by using a variety of mixed method analysis and assessments to include economic, social, institutional, and political economic analyses, focusing on identifying gender, feminist, and social gaps internationally.

Her work with all levels of government is ongoing and is very impactful through the changes in policy and legislation, working with partners such as Global Affairs Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs, and many, many more. I'd like all members of the House to extend a grateful thankfulness for all the work that she's been doing throughout all the countries in Africa and as well, globally across the world.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston.

HON. TWILA GROSSE: I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

TWILA GROSSE: Speaker, in your gallery is Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard. In 2016, Senator Bernard became the first African-Nova Scotian woman to be appointed to the Senate of Canada, representing the province of Nova Scotia, and her hometown of East Preston.

Senator Bernard champions issues impacting African Canadians and people living with disabilities. She is particularly invested in human rights, employment equity and mental health. A former professor at Dalhousie University in the School of Social Work, where she was also appointed special advisor on diversity and inclusiveness, she is the first African-Nova Scotian to hold a tenure-track position at Dalhousie University and to be promoted to full-time professor.

Senator Bernard has been a significant advocate for the recognition of Emancipation Day in Canada, and on March 24, 2021, MPs in the House of Commons voted unanimously to designate August 1st as Emancipation Day across Canada.

I ask all members of the Legislature to please join me in recognizing Senator Bernard for her outstanding work in the Senate and her unwavering commitment to social and racial justice. Welcome Senator Bernard. (Standing ovation)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House.

The honourable member for Kings West.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING DAY: SUPPORT - RECOG.

CHRIS PALMER: I rise today to bring attention to Stand Up Against Bullying Day here in Nova Scotia. We all know the story about how what became known as Pink Shirt Day began at Central Kings Rural High School. One of my constituents, David Shepherd, was one of the founding members of that movement.

What's truly remarkable is that this became a rallying cry around the world. From rural Kings County to the United Nations and around the world, the pink shirt has become the symbol of anti-bullying. Since being proclaimed in 2007, on the second Thursday of September, people across the province wear pink to recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day.

While different jurisdictions and organizations have their own unique anti-bullying day, we must remember that this isn't just about a day on the calendar. This is about standing together every day and supporting each other in the fight against bullying.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

MACLEOD, ALFIE: CANCER FIGHT - BEST WISHES

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: I rise in my place to recognize someone we all know who has been a long-time friend of mine, and that is Alfie MacLeod from Cape Breton.

I've known Alfie since I was a kid. He was a big part of our family growing up, the MacIntyres and the Novaks from Dutch Brook and Prime Brook and Mira, and Alfie dedicated his entire life to public service, whether he was elected or not. He was a great defender of everything for kids. I watched him get \$300 for an apple pie, for a little girl fighting cancer, and that's the truth.

I have a great personal story about Alfie I'll say in a sec. I know I don't have a lot of time. I do, as a Cape Bretoner, want to get on my feet and recognize that he's in a fight, and that everybody loves him, and we're praying for him and Shirley and the family.

As I said, he was a big part of my life growing up, but I have - my best Alfie MacLeod story, I'll say this: we were expecting my first child, and my poor wife Stephanie had five false starts. Into the hospital, out of the hospital, into the hospital. The sixth time we went in, the doctor said, "It's not time yet. You should go back home. If you feel anything different, come back in." But Alfie was in there getting a procedure. Alfie was a big part of my wife's family - the Kennedys from Louisbourg - so I went up to see Alfie. Five minutes later, she went into labour. (Laughter) I say to this day when I talk to Alfie: "Emily, who wasn't in the world yet, had a five-minute conversation with a Tory and she wanted out." (Laughter)

[1:30 p.m.]

Speaker, I appreciate you giving me the time to say this because it's important, regardless of politics. Governments come and go. We hold these seats for a short period of time, but friendships are forever, and he has been nothing but good to me and my family. Thank you. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

INDUCTEES: SPORTS HER. HALL OF FAME - CONGRATS.

KENDRA COOMBES: On July 15, 2024, the New Waterford and District Sports Heritage Hall of Fame inducted its 2024 inductees: John Melvin Angione was inducted as an athlete and builder in hockey and soccer; Frank MacKenzie was inducted as a builder in basketball; Mike "Bat" Cameron was inducted as an athlete in darts - very serious in my area; Cheryl Angione was inducted as an athlete in track and field and basketball; the 1984 New Waterford Dodgers Atlantic Intermediate "A" Basketball Team was inducted for their 1984 winning season; and the 1974-75 BEC Girls Soccer Team was inducted for their winning season, and I am proud to have a cousin, my cousin Jenny, who was on that team. Congratulations to all inductees, especially to my cousin Jenny.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Preston.

FIRTH, COREY: CANOEING COACHING - THANKS

HON. TWILA GROSSE: Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corey Firth. Corey Firth grew up in Lake Echo and first started paddling at the Orenda Canoe Club in 1980, the year after the club opened. He became a head coach at Orenda in 1998 and is still coaching today.

Over 4,000 children have paddled at the club under his guidance. Some of these athletes have gone on to become Olympians, compete at world championships, the Canada Games, and national championships. Corey is exceptional at understanding how to motivate and maximize athletic performance, but it is also clear that what motivates him is that every child who walks in feels important, achieves their potential, and leaves wanting to come back.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to please join me in recognizing and thanking Corey for his commitment and dedication to the Orenda Canoe Club and building up the sport of canoeing in Nova Scotia. Thank you, Corey.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

FANS: CULT. DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT - RECOG.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Filipino Association of Nova Scotia (FANS) for their outstanding contribution in uniting the Filipino community and enhancing our province's cultural diversity.

Since 1964, FANS has worked tirelessly to preserve Filipino heritage and foster mutual understanding. This year, under the leadership of President Helen Espino-Burchell, a Clayton Park resident, FANS organized two major events: the celebration of Filipino Heritage Month, and the Miss Filipino Atlantic 2024 Pageant. Both events beautifully showcased the rich culture, talent, and unity of the Filipino community. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Helen Espino-Burchell, all the volunteers, and everyone involved in making these events a success. Their dedication to fostering diversity and unity within our community is invaluable.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the Filipino Association of Nova Scotia for their invaluable work in strengthening and celebrating our community.

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

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction relative to my member's statement.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

LISA LACHANCE: Joining us today in the West Gallery is Lis van Berkel, who was a friend of Jane Kansas - whom I will speak about in my member's statement - for 30 years. Thank you for joining us today.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome.

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

KANSAS, JANE: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I rise today to talk about Jane Kansas, who was honoured posthumously as one of Halifax Pride Parade's 2024 Marshals. Jane moved to Hubbards in 1986, and quickly became known as the owner of Debbie's Dinette, a very gay-friendly community eatery. When she moved to Halifax, she was co-host of *TheWordisOut* on CKDU, and contributed the column Quiet Noise to *WayvesMagazine*. She also became president of the Gay and Lesbian Association and was Halifax Pride co-chair.

Later she reported for CBC radio's national show *This Morning* and wrote for the *Sunday Daily News* and *The Coast*. She biked down the coast of the U.S., and she also walked across a great portion of it in four months, from Montana to Maine, chronicling her adventures in zines and newspaper articles.

She then turned to producing a number of fringe plays: *My Funeral: the dry run*; *My Dead Dad* and *My First Heart Attack*. She was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her activism and activity in Nova Scotia.

It is hard to adequately capture the impact of Jane on the Queer Community in Nova Scotia. After her passing, I realized that I shared similar perceptions of others. I often invited her to speak at campus and community events, but she terrified me with her blunt and accurate calls to action. It was never clear if Jane actually liked you, but she was always there, pulling people together in community. I remain indebted to her and to Lis for Sunday Queer potlucks in the early 1990s that opened up a whole world for me.

Speaker, I ask all members to join me in honouring Jane Kansas.

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

CAMERON-KELLY, MARY: CAHF INDUCTION - RECOG.

HON. KEITH BAIN: Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the first female Aurora pilots who will be inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 14, 2024, in Toronto.

Mary Cameron-Kelly was born and raised in North Sydney. She joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1981. When she was posted to 405 Squadron, she became the first Canadian female pilot to fly the Aurora. This was one of the many firsts of her career, including being the world's first female Maritime Patrol Crew Commander and the first female pilot instructor on the Aurora.

She was honoured as well in 2018 through a postage stamp called The First Female Aurora Pilot 1992. She has been flying long-range patrol aircraft for many years and recently hit a significant milestone - 8,760 hours of flight time.

Please join me today in recognizing Captain Mary Cameron-Kelly for her 42 years of military service and her accomplishment of becoming the first female inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Shelburne.

NOLAN YOUNG: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

NOLAN YOUNG: Speaker, in the gallery we have two constituents of Shelburne, Tyson Ross and his wife Shauna. We are happy that they were able to make it out. Tyson was a former president to my executive and I'm happy they're able to be here. I'd ask them to stand to receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Welcome. We hope you enjoy your time here.

The honourable member for Clare.

BOULIANNE, GUYAUME: BOOK RELEASE - CONGRATS.

RONNIE LEBLANC: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Guyaume Boulianne on the recent launch of his new debut book, *Nâ*, a collection of poems inspired by the villages of Clare. Guyaume, a founding member of the group Cy and a talented storyteller, first shared an excerpt of his work at the Prix de poésie Radio Canada in 2018. This experience led him to embark on a six-year journey to create a full collection of poems dedicated to our region's villages.

Each village is represented by two poems, one offering the author's personal perspective and the other providing a historical or artistic viewpoint. Recently, Guyaume had the opportunity to share these stories with friends and neighbours at the launch of *Nâ* held during the Congrès mondial acadien.

I ask that all members join me in congratulating Guyaume Boulianne on the successful release of his first book.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Speaker, may I make an introduction before my member's statement?

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I'd like to draw the members' attention to a special member of the Unifor crowd up there, Koren Beaman. Koren is a resident of Dartmouth North and has worked at the Halifax Shipyard as a member of the Unifor Marine Workers Federation for almost 23 years. She serves as the Chair of the Unifor Atlantic Regional Women's Standing Committee and as a leader in fighting for workplace programs and initiatives.

Also, just for the record, if you are by chance hosting a Pride party in your constituency and having queer bingo but then you forget that you need someone to check the bingo cards, give her a call, because that's what she did for me in July at my Pride

party. I was embarrassingly without someone to check the cards, and Koren did it for the whole entire time.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome to the House. Thank you for your service to the member. (Laughter)

The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

BEAMAN, KOREN: WORK ON IP VIOLENCE - RECOG.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I rise today to recognize a truly inspiring member of the Dartmouth North community: Koren Beaman. Over several years, I have watched Koren lead in the essential work of advocating for and winning paid leave for people facing intimate partner violence and have been constantly impressed by her steadfast commitment to supports for women.

As a Unifor women's advocate, she connects women in her workplace with community resources and mental health support and provides an open door for anyone facing harassment or violence at work or at home. As such, she is known to her colleagues at the Irving Shipyard as the shipyard mom because of how she takes care of everyone there.

I'm very grateful for the work Koren does for women facing intimate partner violence. I ask the House to join me in thanking her for her dedication and tenacity.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Digby-Annapolis.

JARVIS, JOSEPH GIFFORD: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

HON. JILL BALSER: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of my friend and supporter Joseph Gifford Jarvis. Joe, from the community of Weymouth Falls, selflessly provided much time to his community. He was a long-time member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the PC Party and was the founding member of the Friends of the Sissiboo River Association. Joe loved music and thoroughly enjoyed karaoke and dancing.

Joe was special to so many, including me. I first met Joe when I decided to run as the MLA for Digby-Annapolis. He was so supportive of my campaign, and all those years ago, he also supported my dad with his campaigns too. I would often speak with Joe about important matters because he had such a great memory for families and the history of the area. Joe's name will certainly be remembered for years to come as a prolific letter writer. Many MLAs and MPs, and even the former President of the United States, have received a letter from Joe.

Joe will be greatly missed by his family, community, friends, and all who knew him. My condolences go out to his entire family. I ask all members of the House to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life of Joe Jarvis.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

PURCHASE, BRIAN: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

FRED TILLEY: Speaker, I happen to live in an amazing community with amazing people in that community. When the washing machine broke at Haley Street Adult Services Centre, they put out a cry to the community looking for someone to fix the washer. Their laundry program had been down for weeks. Who came to their rescue but Brian Purchase, the owner of Schwartz Furniture? Brian reached out the centre, and within the next day they had a new washer delivered to the centre and a lot of happy team members as their laundry program was reinstated.

I just wanted to bring attention to Brian and what he does in the community. This is just one thing that Brian is involved in. He's involved in the Regional Hospital Foundation and all kinds of volunteer organizations - too many to mention. Kudos to Brian and Schwartz. Good job.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

MACPHEE CENTRE: COM. SERV. - RECOG.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Speaker, I'm honoured to recognize the MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning in Dartmouth South for their outstanding work in empowering youth through art. The centre's dedication to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment reflects their commitment to fostering empathy, diversity, and personal growth.

I'm also thrilled to celebrate a significant milestone: the generous donation of the building at 50 Queen Street, Dartmouth, to the MacPhee Centre. This donation is a testament to the community's support and will greatly enhance the centre's ability to provide a safe, youth-driven space for exploration and self-expression. Through their innovative programs, the MacPhee Centre inspires leadership, helping every young person realize their full potential.

Please join me in applauding the MacPhee Centre for their transformative impact on our community and in expressing our gratitude for the generous donation that will support their important mission.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

[1:45 p.m.]

SULLIVAN, HELENA: 101ST BIRTHDAY - CONGRATS.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to an amazing constituent of mine who is known far across our Eastern Passage community. Not only did she give birth to one of my best friends, Mary, but she and her husband took out a mortgage on their home in order to allow the Eastern Passage Buffalo Club to become a reality.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize, to the best of my knowledge, the Lions Club's longest-playing bingo player, Helena Sullivan, who is turning 101 today. Speaker, I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in saying happy birthday to Helena Sullivan.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford South.

MASKWA AQUATIC CLUB: CH'SHIP WIN - CONGRATS.

BRAEDON CLARK: Speaker, today I want to recognize and congratulate everyone at Maskwa Aquatic Club, which is based in my constituency of Bedford South on beautiful Kearney Lake. This past August - last month - Maskwa brought home its second-straight national championship. The championships were held in Welland, Ontario, and Maskwa again just squeaked by their main competitor over the past few years, which has been Rideau Canoe Club out of Ottawa.

Many of us know Maskwa. It's helped hundreds and thousands of kids over the years. They offer programs in canoe, kayak, singles, and war canoe, and also Summer camps and all-day paddling to teach people about the joy of being on the water in canoes and kayaks. It's a wonderful place. Great people to work with.

I want to congratulate all the athletes, the coaches, parents, trainers - everybody who has helped them achieve this great achievement of a second-straight national championship.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

PALLIATIVE CARE TEAM: WORK - RECOG.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I rise today to recognize and thank those in the Cumberland County community who are dedicated to supporting patients and families facing end-of-life medical situations. Particularly, I'd like to recognize Dr. Keith Short and all the members of the palliative care team, whose kindness, compassion, and

understanding help those dealing with a palliative diagnosis as they navigate the health care system and learn to deal with the reality of what lies ahead.

I'd also like to recognize the Cumberland County Hospice & Palliative Care Society's volunteer visiting program. This relatively new program has a team of volunteers who are trained to support patients on a one-on-one basis by setting up regular visits - perhaps helping patients with errands and appointments, or just spending quiet time. The program has been well received, and now other areas of the province are asking how they too can establish a similar service.

Speaker, please join me in thanking all those who work with palliative patients and their families.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING DAY: SUPPORT - RECOG.

SUZY HANSEN: Speaker, many of us are wearing pink today to bring awareness to Anti-Bullying Day. Wearing pink signifies our collective will to stand up against bullying. Today, students across the province are showing their pinks to promote love and caring for each other, to promote no bullying in schools. Bullying has no place in schools. Bullying has no place in the workplace. Bullying has no place in our wonderful province of Nova Scotia. Let us all today think about our words and actions at school, at work, and at play. Let us foster an anti-bullying mantra to care for each other: Be kind and respect each other.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

ATKINSON, CHELSEA: CCMW PARTICIPATION - CONGRATS.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chelsea Atkinson of Springhill. Chelsea has been selected to participate in the Diamonds in the Rough Stage in Edmonton, Alberta during Canadian Country Music Week. Diamonds in the Rough Stage is a program, stage, and podcast to support independent country artists across Canada. It provides a showcasing opportunity during the important Canadian Country Music Week. Please join me in congratulating Chelsea Atkinson on this outstanding opportunity. We know that all are very supportive of her and very proud of her in Cumberland County as well as all of Nova Scotia. Good luck.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Dartmouth.

CHRISTIE, C. & I.: 75TH ANNIV. - BEST WISHES,

LORELEI NICOLL: Speaker, I rise today to recognize Clarence and Isabel Christie in celebration of their 75th wedding anniversary this October. Isabel was 17 and Clarence had just turned 19 the week before they got married in a small railroad town in Manitoba. They had two small children by the time Isabel was 20, and in 1952, Clarence joined the Royal Canadian Navy. After boot camp in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, they packed up the car with two kids and drove to Nova Scotia, where it's been their forever home. Three more children would follow, as well as eight grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.

Clarence retired from the navy and then had a successful second career with the Halifax *Chronicle Herald*. Growing up, Isabel always worked outside the home, and she held positions including at CJCH, now CTV Halifax. As the children left the nest, they were able to build their dream home on Ross Road in Dartmouth. With too many bedrooms to fill, they ran the successful Riverdale Bed and Breakfast for over 15 years. Now, at 94 and 92, they live in a smaller home in Portland Hills in Cole Harbour, Dartmouth.

Speaker, please join me in extending congratulations on the joyous occasion of Clarence and Isabel's 75 years of marriage.

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

HUBBARD, APRIL: PRIDE PARADE MARSHAL - RECOG.

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge April Hubbard, one of Halifax Pride's parade marshals for 2024. April is an advocate, arts administrator, accessibility consultant, and a proud queer, Mad, Disabled woman living in Kjiptuk.

This year, Halifax Pride named April as their official ambassador for her ongoing work within the community to create spaces for artists with disabilities. She has worked with organizations like reachAbility, Kinetic, and Atlantic Presenters Association, and was the chair for the Halifax Fringe Festival. April is a trapeze artist and acrobat who has performed with LEGacy Circus since 2019.

April's career as an actor was cut short when she was diagnosed with a tethered spinal cord and chronic pain. She found there was little space for someone with a visible disability on stage. Since then, April has been fiercely outspoken for inclusivity within the arts community and has pushed organizations to create a better path forward.

Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the contributions of April Hubbard through art and activism.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Shore.

MURPHY, ALLISON: GASTON-CHAGNON AWD. - CONGRATS.

HON. KENT SMITH: Madame la présidente, je me lève en place aujourd'hui pour féliciter M. Allison Murphy, qui a gagné le prix Gaston-Chagnon qui est présenté par le Conseil Communautaire du Grand-Havre.

Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to Mr. Allison Murphy on winning the prestigious Gaston-Chagnon Award, presented through the Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre. This award, also known as the Great Volunteer of the Year Award, is named after the great philanthropist who contributed so much to the development of French-speaking culture in Nova Scotia. The Gaston-Chagnon Award highlights individuals who have made significant impacts through their actions, positive influence, and dedication to French-speaking communities.

I ask that all members of the Legislative Assembly join me in congratulating Allison on this significant recognition and thank him for his ongoing volunteer work in East and West Chezzetcook and Grand Desert.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

HALIFAX DRIVING SCHOOL: SAFETY PROM. - THANKS

ALI DUALE: I would like to acknowledge the important role that Halifax Driving School plays in promoting road safety and preparing responsible drivers in our province. Speaker, this institution has taught new drivers the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to navigate our roads safely and responsibly. The dedicated instructors at the driving school go beyond teaching the rules of the road; they instill in their students the value of caution, expectation, and awareness.

Driving schools are critical to reducing accidents, promoting safety, and ensuring that every new driver understands the responsibility that comes with getting behind the wheel. Therefore, I ask members of this House to join me in thanking Halifax Driving School for their quality work in producing good drivers that will keep our roads safe.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

HOWELL, KIRSTIN: ACTRA AWD. RECIP. - CONGRATS.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I rise today to congratulate Dartmouth North resident Kirstin Howell for winning the ACTRA Maritimes award for outstanding performance by an actor for her role in the CBC TV series *Moonshine*. Her role is Thirsty Katie.

Kirstin, or Kiki, as she is known to many, is a wonderfully versatile and talented actor who has had many roles in film and TV productions made here, including *King &*

Pawn, Everybody's Meg, This Hour Has 22 Minutes, The Queen of My Dreams, and Stage Mother, to name just a few. She's also appeared on many stages around the province.

Kirstin is also a successful acting coach and has established a business in service to other actors in helping them make their own self-tapes to submit for auditions. Self-tapes are a phenomenon that really came into being during the pandemic, and Kiki is a leader in helping folks look and sound their best from her studio on Victoria Road.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Kirstin Howell on her much-deserved acting award for *Moonshine* and in thanking her for her important role in our province's film and TV industry.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

PACE, CHLOE: GIRL GUIDES WORK - RECOG.

HON. TIMOTHY HALMAN: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievements of a young woman from our community of Dartmouth East, Chloe Pace. Chloe exemplifies the spirit of leadership. As a dedicated leader for Girl Guides of Canada, Chloe is a beacon of inspiration and empowerment for our youth.

Chloe has recently accepted an incredible opportunity to volunteer in Switzerland on behalf of the guiding association. Chloe's work has not only fostered growth and confidence among the young girls she leads but also underscores the value of service.

It is with great pride that we acknowledge Chloe's contributions and celebrate her as a role model. Her dedication to guiding and empowering the next generation serves as a testament to the positive difference one individual can make in the world.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens.

GREENFIELD COM. PARK SOC.: NEW PARK - RECOG.

HON. KIM MASLAND: On Saturday, July 13th, the Greenfield Park Society held their grand opening for the Greenfield Community Park. The event has been years in the planning and was made possible by a committed group of volunteers. A vision of Richard Freeman, the project came to fruition thanks to the dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts of Richard and the team at Greenfield Recreation. The park hosts a walking trail, community gardens, a gazebo, a firepit circle, children's play equipment, disk golf, a utility field, and a refurbished ballfield. There is something for everyone.

I would like to congratulate and thank Peter Bessey, president of the Greenfield Community Park Society, and the board of directors and volunteers who have created an

accessible and inclusive park for all ages. I invite all members of the House to visit and enjoy a fun-filled day at the park.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford Basin.

TAYLOR, RALPH: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

HON. KELLY REGAN: Speaker, I would like to note the passing of a long-time Truro resident who more recently lived in Bedford. Ralph Taylor passed away in August at the Victoria General Hospital after a battle with cancer, 80 years after his mother died in the exact same hospital of the same illness.

Ralph grew up on the family farm and he remained a farm boy at heart all his life. He worked in the agriculture sector, even serving as the Executive Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture at one point. He also showed and judged cattle, ran the family Christmas tree farm, and was an appraiser, chiefly of agricultural properties, until the age of 84. Ralph was dedicated to his family and his community, serving as councillor. He was on too many boards and committees to name here in just one minute. Ralph Taylor was one of those folks that people can absolutely count on. His word was his bond. If you were a Liberal and you needed election signs put up, Ralph was your man.

I would like to share our condolences with his cherished wife Eleanor and his beloved daughters Lynn and Susan and their families. We'll see you at the movies, Ralph. You'll be missed.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

VOLS.: GRADING DAY EVENTS - THANKS

KENDRA COOMBES: Speaker, Grading Day is a big deal in my riding, with community organizations hosting events for children and families within the community. The Whitney Pier Legion hosted a Grading Day party that included a bouncy house, face-painting, balloon animals, a barbecue, and giveaways. The New Waterford Volunteer Fire Department also hosted a Grading Day party, including a food truck, games, chalk painting, and a water balloon fight. Everyone had fun, and I want to express my deep gratitude to these organizations and to the volunteers for making Grading Day just a little bit extra-special.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

STRIDES HEALTH & WELLNESS: 10TH ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Speaker, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Strides Health and Wellness on celebrating 10 remarkable years in

business. Over the past decade, Strides Health and Wellness has not only made a lasting impact on the well-being of our community but also exemplified what it means to be a leader in the industry. Their unwavering commitment to excellence and their passion for promoting health and beauty have set them apart. As they celebrate their 10th anniversary, we recognize the enormous contribution Strides Health and Wellness has made in our community. Congratulations on this incredible milestone.

[2:00 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Order. The time for Statements by Members has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS

THE SPEAKER: The time is now 2:00 p.m. We will finish at 2:50 p.m.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

PREM: POPULATION DOUBLING PLAN PROBLEM - ADMIT

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: This Premier's tenure in office has been really characterized by broken promises. There is one promise, however, that the Premier has kept to Nova Scotians, and that's to double the population at a time when we're out of housing, our health care system is being overrun, and our schools are overcrowded. This is leading to dire consequences for Nova Scotians, with the highest increases in the country in rent and home costs. My question to the Premier is: Does he not understand that while he's creating a province that's easier to move to, he's creating a province that's harder to build a life in?

HON. TIM HOUSTON (The Premier): We all know the member for Yarmouth is against population growth. He doesn't want population growth. He doesn't like immigration. Just last year, 51 doctors moved to Nova Scotia from another country. So far this year, there's another 50 who are committed to moving here. Just last year, 619 nurses moved to Nova Scotia from another country. I would like to ask the member very specifically: Which one of those doctors or nurses does he want to tell, "You're not allowed here. We don't want you in Nova Scotia"?

ZACH CHURCHILL: I think it's very clear that I can be pro-immigration and pro-growth but point out very clearly how the Premier's arbitrary number to double the population is creating problems for people. Let's look at the numbers he just presented: fewer than a thousand health care professionals over the last year when he brought in close to 30,000 new Nova Scotians. Guess what? Every one of those new Nova Scotians is going to need more nurses and more family doctors. The fact is that we are not building enough

homes or apartments to keep up. To accommodate the Premier's population-doubling, we need to build 13,500 homes this year. Housing starts are at 6,600. We are building half the homes that the people need.

THE SPEAKER: Order.

Next question? I did not hear a question. Excuse me? I ask that you stand and retract that.

AN HON. MEMBER: There was nothing on the record.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

ZACH CHURCHILL: I certainly will, but it's frustrating when we're asking questions . . .

THE SPEAKER: I ask that you retract it, please.

ZACH CHURCHILL: I certainly will. I'm happy to retract . . .

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

ZACH CHURCHILL: . . . those comments.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. It's an unparliamentary word.

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition with his final question.

ZACH CHURCHILL: The Premier is creating a housing crisis and affordability crisis by pushing numbers for population growth that far exceed what his own Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration says is sustainable. I'll bring the Premier's attention to the *Accountability Report* from the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration that says sustainable population and economic growth means a net interprovincial increase of migrants by 10,000 a year and new immigration landings by 17,000. That's 17,000 people.

The Premier is doubling the number of people coming into the province when we don't have houses. That far exceeds the amount that his own Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration says we can handle. Why is he doing that?

THE PREMIER: The member is talking about a 40-year plan, and under that plan, the immigration to this province is focused on health care workers and skilled trades. We are building more homes. We are fixing the health care system. We will continue to do that.

What is very clear from the member for Yarmouth is the member for Yarmouth wants more doctors, just not from another country. The member for Yarmouth wants more health care workers, just not from another country. He wants more skilled trades, just not from another country. I think the member for Yarmouth just should be very clear with Nova Scotians that that's his position: He doesn't want those health care workers from another country.

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

PREM.: HOGAN COURT TENDER CHANGE - EXPLAIN

CLAUDIA CHENDER: In February the Auditor General's scathing report on the Hogan Court deal highlighted inappropriate procurement practices and wasteful government spending. In the wake of this we recently discovered an unannounced \$120 million sole-source contract that was awarded to Shannex in June for this project, which we asked the government about and for which there was no rationale given. Since then, in the last couple of days this government has quietly changed that three-months-old tender notice on their website, from \$120 million to \$20 million. My question to the Premier is: Can the Premier explain this change? Why so much secrecy and confusion?

THE PREMIER: Of course, the Hogan Court initiative is a nation-leading initiative. It's a really important initiative on transition to community facilities. It will help provide health care spaces for Nova Scotians. It is a very positive thing, working with a very reputable partner who has been doing business in this province for a long time and doing good things on behalf of Nova Scotians. The information the member is talking about is on a public website. I hardly think that anything on a public website is trying to be secretive, Speaker.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: In March of this year, department representatives said that a finalized contract with Shannex would be ready "in a matter of weeks and not months." That was nearly six months ago and this government is moving forward clearly, publicly, without any contract in place, despite the specific directive not to commence work with private sector partners before contracts are in place. I wouldn't fix a deck, let alone build a house, without a signed contract. My question to the Premier is: Why is this government barreling ahead with this kind of ill-advised and inappropriate spending?

THE PREMIER: Speaker, Hogan Court is a good initiative. It's good for Nova Scotians. I hardly think that the Nova Scotians who will be utilizing that facility will be disappointed. They will be pleased that they are getting access. On one hand, we have the members opposite saying, Go faster on health care, you're not going fast enough; on the other hand, we have them saying, Go slow. Speaker, we're going at the right pace for Nova Scotians. We will fix the health care system and make sure Nova Scotians can have access to care.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Let's talk about the speed that this secret spending is buying us. The concept of a transitional care facility is a good one. We know there are seniors waiting now in hospital beds that could be more appropriately cared for in this kind of facility but this government's bad dealings and refusal to listen to expert advice have plagued this project from the start.

Hogan Court was supposed to open in late 2023; now, at the end of 2024 - and if you've driven by lately that still seems ambitious. The purchase, sale, and financing of this hotel have been bad deals and are still largely secret. I've asked the Premier before but I'll give him the opportunity again: Does he still think that the purchase of this facility was good value for Nova Scotians?

THE PREMIER: Absolutely, Speaker. This is a wonderful thing for Nova Scotians. In December there will be 68 beds open there and starting next year, again, 110. Absolutely this is a good think for Nova Scotians.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

DCS: OVERPOPULATION PROBLEMS - ADMIT

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: We are experiencing the challenges of overpopulation. The Premier's goal is to double the population arbitrarily, from one end of the province to the other. We've seen the symptoms of it with homelessness tripling under this Premier, with rental costs going up more in Nova Scotia than in any other part of the country, with housing costs going up, and the Premier is exceeding his own Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration's targets. They have said this in their own report. The amount of people who have been nominated to Nova Scotia has far exceeded the business target plan of 2,700 a year. My question to the Premier is: Does the Premier not understand that he is creating challenges for every single Nova Scotian, including those who move here, by trying to double the population when we can't handle it?

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I want to thank the honourable member for the question. There's this line that they keep repeating, as if by saying it over and over it's going to be true, that homelessness has tripled. It's tripled. The fact of the matter is, over the last month, homelessness has been reduced, and it continues to reduce.

The reason is because there was no plan two years ago. There was nothing. We know that there was patchwork. There was a couple of dollars here and there that was being spent on homelessness. Since this government came into power, the budget has increased 360 per cent. If we want to talk about planning and spending, how about Bloomfield? How about 191 units, affordable units that could have been built, would have been built eight years ago, but that government decided to scrap it?

ZACH CHURCHILL: Let's put the Minister's comments into perspective. He's bragging about the fact that his government has had to spend 360 per cent more to deal with the homelessness situation that has tripled under the government. The Minister is bragging about how many new homeless shelters the Province needs to invest in. That isn't even keeping up with it.

What they won't recognize is how their actions, their policies, are actually contributing to this homelessness situation, as people can't afford rents, as they're being evicted without being protected. Seniors now living in tents because the Premier is bringing in more people than we have supply of housing to deal with. Does the Minister really think it's a good thing that he has to spend so much more money on homelessness?

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I'm not bragging, I'm cleaning up messes. That's what we're doing, and that's a fact. A hundred and ninety-one affordable units could have been online at \$79,000 a unit. Imagine that. In downtown Halifax at \$79,000 a unit. When asked by the media, and I will table it, why the project was scrapped, there was no answer. There was no answer. We are spending because we have to. We are spending because we believe in protecting our most vulnerable Nova Scotians, something that was forgotten about under that government.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

DCS: HOUSING PROBLEM CREATED - ADMIT

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: This is simple economics, supply and demand. The Premier is increasing demand for housing by doubling the population, doubling the amount that the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration says is sustainable, at a time when housing supply is scarce. We have a zero per cent vacancy. This Premier is out recruiting people who move here. We've heard the stories. Hotel-hopping with their kids; three, four, six families living in single-family dwellings because they can't find a place to live; and we've seen homelessness triple as a result of this. My question to the Premier is: Does he not see that he's creating a real challenge on cost, on availability for people, and increasing homelessness in this province.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Let's talk about facts here. 2020, housing starts under the former government: zero. Housing completions, 2020, under the former government: zero. From 2020 to 2023, housing starts have gone up over 3,000, and they - listen, I know it hurts, I do, but the truth of the matter is, to place the blame on a government that's spending, that's building and that's investing, I just don't get it. The facts don't lie. We can say whatever we want here - and if he doesn't believe me, talk to the YWCA, talk to Adsum for Women and Children, talk to the people who are on the ground.

ZACH CHURCHILL: Housing starts are at 6,600 this year. If we're going to handle the population doubling, of 30,000 that the Premier is bringing in, we need to have 13,500

houses. That's half the supply that we need. We see the symptoms of overpopulation in people's life, and how much they're paying to live, in availability of housing and being able to access family doctors, hospital services.

We're not given a reason why they are exceeding the numbers that the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration actually say are sustainable. Less than 3 per cent of these folks are going into the health care system to work. Ninety-seven percent of them aren't. Does the Premier not understand that he's creating issues for our health care system on top of housing by bringing in more people than our systems can handle?

[2:15 p.m.]

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I wasn't going to stand on this one, but I am going to stand on it because I know those members. A lot of those members are friends. I consider them colleagues, obviously. We're all in this together, but the truth of the matter is that if we had leaders who took that same opinion 30 years ago, I wouldn't be in this country. A lot of members in this room would not be in this country. That's what I keep asking them: Which member, which person, when you walk around the street do you point at and say that person should not be here?

The fact of the matter is that we have a housing crisis. We have a health care crisis. The way we are going to deal with that is skilled trades, health care workers - and again, which ones shouldn't be here?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

LSI: IMMIGRATION NUMBERS - EXPLAIN

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: The government is missing the point of the question. We want people to come here, but guess what? When they get here, we want them to be able to find a place to live. We want them to be able to find a doctor. We want them to know that they've got language services in our schools, that they're not going into schools that have overcrowding by the hundreds. We want people to thrive here.

Yes, we need more skilled labour. We need more staff for our hospitals. Fewer than 3 per cent of these folks are going into our health care system. The Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration says we need 17,000. They're doubling that, and my question is: Why? Is it just for the revenue?

HON. JILL BALSER: I think we all in this House agree on the importance of immigration, but one thing that I wanted to clarify right now - and I said it yesterday - is that when we're looking at population growth, we have to look at it in its entirety. We know that we are now retaining more Nova Scotians in the province. When I think of when I was

growing up in Digby - and many Nova Scotians can resonate with this story - Nova Scotia wasn't good enough, and you had to move away.

Now that, in fact, that narrative has completely reversed, young people can see the opportunities in this province, and they are thriving. We know that immigration is also a very key pillar in our population growth strategy.

I just want to highlight something. When I was a member of the YMCA . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order.

ZACH CHURCHILL: The trend of in-migration started happening back in 2014. It was at a sustainable pace that was helping grow the economy and was creating opportunities. We have now, because of this government's goal to double the population, overfilled the bucket, and we no longer have the capacity to deal with this growth. I'm talking to young people who are worried about being able to afford a future here. I'm talking to newcomers who can't find a place to live and who are considering going back home because of the challenges they face here and the services they can't get.

Does the government not understand that by exceeding the numbers that they themselves have said are unsustainable - by twice the amount - that they are creating more problems than solutions for Nova Scotians?

JILL BALSER: We know that back in 2014, through the Ivany Report, that we needed to plan for growth. Although Nova Scotia's population was in decline at that point in time, the former government also initiated a very important program of which I was a member - the YREACH Settlement Services. When we look at that whole government approach, we have to make sure that organizations are ready and prepared to welcome individuals from interprovincial migration. We also know that international immigration and the retention of young people and others in our province is the way in which we are growing strategically.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

LSI: DOM. VIOLENCE LEAVE PAY - INCREASE

KENDRA COOMBES: My question is for the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration. Five provinces, three territories, and the federal government offer five paid days of domestic violence leave. Here in Nova Scotia, only three paid days are available. Why is this government offering fewer paid days of domestic violence leave than the majority of the jurisdictions across this country?

HON. JILL BALSER: We know that in our current Labour Standards Code, as the member has mentioned, it is three paid days for victims of domestic violence. Back in

April, alongside the Minister of Justice, we made a commitment to consult Nova Scotians on that exact issue. We want to look at five paid days because those who are fleeing domestic violence deserve to have that support. I want to assure the member that we have done consultations and I will have more to share very soon.

KENDRA COOMBES: This is a very important topic. People need to be able to have these paid days in order to actually use them. I would like to ask the minister: Given that consultation is going to be taking place, and given that a jurisdictional scan has already taken place by the department, can the minister commit to it by the end of the year?

JILL BALSER: We absolutely agree on the importance of this issue and making sure that victims of domestic violence have that support they need when they need it. I know that the consultations have wrapped up, and so I will make sure that there is a response before the end of the year.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

MAH: TRUSTED DEVT. PGM. - FUND

HON. IAIN RANKIN: We know that non-profits have capacity to increase housing. Sheri Lecker from Adsum for Women and Children recently testified to the Health Committee that they could build 25 more affordable units at The Sunflower in my area in 18 months if they had just a bit more government funding. Non-profits have demonstrated that they could build housing, and they should receive the Trusted Partner Program like the Province is doing for private developers. This would speed up approvals and get housing built tomorrow, as she said. Will the Premier commit to extending a trusted development program to speed up project approvals for non-profits that have demonstrated the capacity and the track record to build these houses?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

HON. TIMOTHY HALMAN: This government, under the leadership of the Premier, is actively supporting the entire continuum of housing. Just last weekend, I had the opportunity to visit Mount Hope to see 32 units of affordable, supportive housing being offered by the YWCA. The government is actively co-operating and partnering with not-for-profit organizations throughout the province, and we are supporting the entire continuum of housing.

IAIN RANKIN: That's a good project, which is actually highlighting the reason why we need to continue to support these non-profits and speed up the process for them. The Sunflower, though, specifically has 25 units that have roughly 50 per cent of their tenants being women, children, or gender-diverse people, and they are looking to expand. They have the land. They have dollars raised. This is the ideal model - next to transit, near a new community centre - and it actually has a passive design the minister would be

interested in. Will the minister commit to funding the next phase of the Adsum Sunflower project and doing everything possible for all non-profits to be funded and speed up the housing development in this province?

TIMOTHY HALMAN: The Government of Nova Scotia is always looking to partner. We will take what has been recommended here under advisement, and I will be mentioning it to the minister. Certainly, we are making enormous progress on the housing file. Just in the area that I represent, you have student housing, market housing, and affordable and supportive housing. We aren't doing any effort-sprinkling as the previous government did on this file. We are taking action, we're supporting not-for-profits, we're supporting market housing, and we're supporting supportive housing. We are getting it done.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford South.

RTA: RES. TENANCIES ENFORCEMENT - CLARIFY

BRAEDON CLARK: Speaker, over the course of this week, the government has taken us on a long, strange journey when it comes to residential tenancies enforcement. A month ago, the Premier was still looking at the best way to implement it. Two days ago, the Minister of Service Nova Scotia claimed that experts didn't recommend that he do it. Yesterday, the minister said, Sure, the experts did recommend it, but we're not going to do it anyway. I'd like to ask the minister: What changed, and why can't he get his story straight?

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: I'll continue to try to clarify things for the Opposition again today. We asked Davis Pier to create a playbook of what a compliance enforcement unit could look like in Nova Scotia. We took that report and we looked at other jurisdictions that have a compliance enforcement unit. The outcomes are not what are desired here and we determined those outcomes would not be desired for Nova Scotians. It would lead to more red tape, more bureaucracy, and longer resolution times for tenants and landlords.

Meanwhile, we're looking forward to making the system better and fairer for both tenants and landlords in Nova Scotia. That's why we brought forward amendments to the legislation, and that's why we're making changes inside the department.

BRAEDON CLARK: What's strange is that the minister is the only one making that argument. The minister and the Premier, when it comes to this issue, love to talk about balance. "Balance" is the buzzword of the day, and yet when we deal with residential tenancies enforcement, IPOANS and Dal Legal Aid, in a balanced view, both support an enforcement unit. The minister talked about experts and outcomes. Well, Davis Pier said go ahead and do it. Dal Legal Aid said go ahead and do it. IPOANS said go ahead and do it. The only people who said "Don't do it" are the Premier and the minister, and I'd like to know why.

COLTON LEBLANC: Speaker, I want to be on the record. I have a lot of respect for tenant and landlord organizations and understand their advocacy for a compliance and enforcement unit. Again, respectfully, the scenarios presented that were thought would be resolved by a compliance and enforcement unit would not be resolved by a compliance and enforcement unit.

We're taking appropriate action. We're moving in the right direction. We are the government of action. I guess the members opposite are experts in inaction. They took time to study and look at things and not get things done over eight years, but we are a government of action and getting it done.

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request to have the document tabled that was quoted from by the Minister of Community Services, if he was quoting. I ask, if the Minister of Community Services was quoting a document, that he table that document.

The honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I don't want to take away from Question Period. I apologize. I'll table it.

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

MAH: AFFORDABLE HOUSING - BUILD

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: In 2021, the PC Party in its platform acknowledged, "We have a housing crisis in this province," but went on to say, "Our PC government will take action to make housing affordable". Three years later, the PC government has made a big deal to announce dozens of affordable homes, but our province actually needs thousands. My question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is: How many deeply affordable homes will we need in the coming years to deal with Nova Scotia's population growth?

THE CHAIR: The honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, what I would like to share is that we've made record investments. For the first time in decades, a government has invested in public housing. For the first time since the 1990s, this government is building 273 new public units that have been announced, and that will help 700 people.

PATRICIA ARAB: Speaker, there are statistics that show that housing per capita is down in Nova Scotia but nowhere in my first question did I say that they aren't doing something. My question was: How much do we need to do in order to keep up with the pace of the population? Dozens of houses are not keeping up with the pace of our

population. We need a real plan for housing to ensure that Nova Scotians can afford a place to live, not just piecemeal announcements. Most Nova Scotians want to live in market housing and own a home, but our infrastructure is stretched thin.

[2:30 p.m.]

I represent Fairview-Clayton Park, which is a diverse, tight-knit community that was built as affordable housing but now people have to leave. They have to sell their homes because it is not affordable in any way, shape or form. My question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is: Is he committed to building entire affordable housing communities?

TORY RUSHTON: Obviously yes, a couple of years ago we said we had a plan for housing and that included affordable housing. It's not just government taking this initiative, as well: there are private sector individuals taking it right across the province. I can speak about a corporation in Oxford, my hometown, that is building upwards of 25 new homes for people coming to our community. But what is the government doing? I'll tell you, Speaker: \$239 million in three years in affordable housing.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

DCS: BY NAME LIST - REDUCE

SUZY HANSEN: My question is for the Minister of Community Services. The minister wants to talk numbers, so let's do that. Yesterday, the minister made the bold claim that his government had cut the By Name List in half by one-third. That's clearly not the case. Rather than cutting this list by the 400 the minister has suggested, we know that the list has actually grown by about 900 people under this government's watch. Speaker, my question to the minister is: What is the plan to actually reduce this list and when will we see it reach zero?

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I don't think I said a half and one-third. What I said was, and I'll quote again, the Executive Director of the YWCA, Miia, said, "There are 94 families on the Halifax By Name List that attracts people experiencing homelessness. These new units will reduce that list by one-third." That's what I will table. Words matter, Speaker.

What are we going to do? We're going to invest in my community, your community, their community, and her community. I hope she's as vocal and supportive outside the House as she is inside.

SUZY HANSEN: I read the same article as the Minister - I just tabled it.

I also want to say that record investments and actions to do the work are two different things. When we talk about money, we also need to show the work - 32 families is not the same as 30 per cent of the list.

I don't want to diminish what permanent, affordable housing means to those families, because it's huge. At the same time, we heard just last month in committee that one local organization was housing 200 children in hotels and emergency units and turning more away every day. Some of these families have been living in hotels more than two years.

My question to the minister is: What is the plan for permanent housing for the rest of these families?

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Again, I think I was misquoted there - I said families on the By Name List. I cleared it up and I can clear it up again and we'll continue to clear it up.

Obviously, the member read the article and the article was very clear. She doesn't have to believe me; she can listen to the YWCA, she can listen to Adsum for Women and Children.

What are we doing? When we first got here, there were 200 supportive housing units across this province. There are now 800 - 600 more, with even more to come by the end of the year - a 360 per cent increase and that includes \$200 million. That's money going towards The Bridge in Dartmouth, which is supporting people and people are now leaving The Bridge who only a few months ago were homeless and they now have permanent housing.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Annapolis.

MAH: WAIT-LIST FOR PUBLIC HOUSING: DECREASE

CARMAN KERR: Speaker, the lack of affordable housing continues to be one of the largest issues in Annapolis. One of the ways the provincial government could help with this challenge is by providing public housing. Unfortunately, there are dozens of people who desperately need the support in Annapolis and they're not able to access it. There are wait-lists for all the public units in Annapolis. I know people who have been on the list for years and recently they received a message from the department: You're no longer on the list and there's nothing we can do for you. Besides removing people from the list for no reason, what is this government doing to decrease the public housing lists in Annapolis County?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: I'd personally be very surprised if they removed people from the list, but I will speak to the minister and find that out. Obviously, if you have the letter, please table that for us so we can look into it further. I will say: This government's not doing anything? Two hundred and forty million dollars in three years is nothing to shake a stick at. We made announcements for the first time in decades for affordable housing. We have a plan forward, and we will continue to carry this plan forward to help people in your constituency and all across this province.

CARMAN KERR: I agree that \$239 million is a large number. We're just not seeing any of that in Annapolis currently. Despite the significant wait-lists, there are eight unoccupied units at Sunset Meadows in Middleton. Many of these units haven't been filled in years - eight units removed by the government in an affordable housing crisis. The minister and his staff are fully aware. They know there are mildew problems, they know there are mould problems, and they know there are asbestos problems, yet no steps have been taken to help. I'll table pictures to show those units. This government has refused to renovate these units or build new ones. Why is the minister okay having eight less public housing units in Annapolis?

TORY RUSHTON: Obviously, I can't get into case by case, acting for the minister. The member tabled these documents. I'd certainly encourage the member to reach out to the minister and have a fulsome conversation. I will certainly take notes back to the minister, but I'd be very surprised if our minister would be satisfied with eight less houses anywhere in the province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

MAH: PLANS TO BUILD HOMES - CLARIFY

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Earlier this week, the Premier said his party's plan is to build 40,000 homes, but we know with the increasing population across the province - not only in Halifax but in communities really right across the province - that that number is not going to be close. My question to the minister today: Can the minister clarify new housing targets based on our population growth?

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Obviously, I wouldn't have that information right at hand, acting for the minister. I'm sure that he will be paying attention here, having my notes. What I can say is that housing stocks and housing starts have progressed under this government. We'll continue to work on our plan. We'll continue to succeed. Every time there's a challenge, I know our minister and our team will work on it.

DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: It's an important conversation, because the plan for the government is to double the population. That has been the message from the

government from Day 1. We've seen that growth in Cape Breton, and it's been great. We've had newcomers from all over the world. The challenge - and it's not just unique to Halifax. We're seeing it in communities all over the province now, where housing is a major issue. We hear the stories of multiple families living under one roof.

The department, I believe, wants to do more long-term planning to keep up with the Premier's planned growth. My question to the minister: Is he worried that Nova Scotia's capacity to build enough housing to support Nova Scotia's doubled population - is this a concern for him?

TORY RUSHTON: I just want to clarify for the House and Nova Scotia: The housing plan is a five-year plan. The population growth is a 40-year plan. Facts are important. Over the last year, Nova Scotia housing stocks have increased by 4,600 units. As a government, we made a significant investment into housing starts, up 48.4 per cent so far to date this year. Speaker, we started a plan three years ago. We heard the Premier talk about tilling the garden. We were tilling the soil. Well, a few sessions ago, we were putting those seeds in, and now it's September and October time. It's time for harvest, and we are producing.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

DHW: CUMB. CO. EMERG. DEPT. - EXPAND

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: My question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. When a person in Cumberland County needs to be admitted to the hospital, there's a very good chance they'll spend hours, if not days, waiting in the emergency department. There are many reasons, including many people waiting for long-term care. In fact, in Northern Zone alone, there are 112 people waiting in an acute care hospital bed - waiting for long-term care.

The primary reason overall is there are simply not enough acute care beds in Nova Scotia entirely. Since Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre opened in 2002, there have been many changes made to the physical building, and in fact there's planning being done for a major expansion.

In December 2020, there was an announcement made for Yarmouth and Cumberland. I'm wondering if the Minister of Health and Wellness can tell us why the expansion has not started in Cumberland when it has started in Yarmouth.?

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: The work has been happening behind the scenes. There has been a renovation in the emergency room related to a significant flood. We are working with the Department of Public Works to look at how we can best plan. It is under design process. We'll continue to do that. There's no stalling the project. We continue to

be committed to making bigger spaces for people to care for patients in Nova Scotia, and we'll continue to do that.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: The renovation that happened from the flood doesn't replace the need for the major expansion. In fact, the Emergency Room was made smaller with the renovation.

During the month of September, on many days the in-patient occupancy at Cumberland Regional was over 100 per cent: 135, 132, 115, and 109. I will table those documents. The fact is we need more acute care beds at Cumberland Regional. We need them throughout the entire province. My question to the Minister of Health and Wellness is: Will more acute care beds be made as part of the plan for the expansion for Cumberland Regional? We need palliative care beds, we need psych beds, and we need more acute care beds. When will this be done? Can she please give the people a timeline - an actual date - when construction will start?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: As a province, we continue to plan for population growth. We look at the chronic disease burden that many Nova Scotians carry. We look at our aging population. We know that we are severely underbedded because of lack of investment over many years not only in our acute care system but in our long-term care system, as well.

We continue to plan across the province to understand how people utilize and access care. We will continue to do that. I have great faith in the teams that are working on these projects. We are working as quickly as we can to address being underbedded, both in acute care as well as long-term care.

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

DCS: UNIVERSITY AVE. CAMPERS - HOUSE

LISA LACHANCE: My question is for the Minister of Community Services. I know the Minister is well aware of the University Avenue homeless encampment in my riding, and that it's growing. I've heard from folks living there - concerned neighbours, many Nova Scotia Health employees, and families going to the IWK, the Dickson Building, and the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre - all saying what we already know: People shouldn't be living in tents, and everyone has a right to safe, permanent, and dignified housing. What is the pathway towards a home for people living in tents in my riding?

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Everybody deserves and has a right to a safe, dignified home, and that's what we're working on. We're working with our partners - whether it's HRM - and we're working with our service providers, Welcome Housing. We're working with Shelter Nova Scotia. We have people on the ground right now

gathering information. Not only that, but we're seeing the tents now on University Avenue. People are leaving those tents now, and they're going to safe, affordable housing. The truth of the matter is that, depending on the individual, not all is one-size-fits-all. We have to make sure that people get the housing and the resources they need. There is a plan in place, we're going to be working day-to-day and night-to-night with HRM, and we'll see movement really soon.

LISA LACHANCE: If the Minister is able to table a description of where people are going - from tents to permanent homes - that would be great. It's unacceptable to make the increasing number of seniors experiencing homelessness go through the challenges of overnight shelters, Pallets, and tiny homes before they are offered permanent affordable housing. As Judy, a 77-year-old woman living unhoused in my constituency, explained, "It's not home. It's not where I want to be. I go to bed crying every night. I need to be out of here." I've tabled that.

[2:45 p.m.]

Speaker, when will this government provide a permanent, affordable home to Judy, her husband, and the increasing number of seniors who are finding themselves in similar situations?

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: We're not going to stand here in the Legislature and tell people where we're housing individuals. That's a personal thing. It's a privacy issue. What I can say to the member is that when that member approached me a couple of months ago, I was fresh on the job about issues in their community. I worked with that individual. I worked with that member. We were able to house individuals. We have a plan. We do.

I understand. Listen, every single day, I get up and I think about individuals on University Avenue. I think about people right across this province who are experiencing homelessness. We are dedicated to that. We are working with HRM. In fact, we are meeting with our service providers twice a week. We have a plan. I would say to the member that they will see action very soon.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

EECD: PARK WEST SCHOOL LAND - PURCHASE

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Park West School, in my constituency, is beyond overcrowded. There are more than 1,000 students in a school built for 595. Many classes are over capacity. There are 12 modular classrooms. They've added three portables. Last week the students were told they could only use the restrooms twice a day. Imagine this. This problem, I anticipate, will only get worse as the Premier doubles the population. My question to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development or the Department

of Public Works, whoever has the answer: Have they purchased the land at Park West from HRM, and if not, how long do urgent negotiations take for this department?

HON. BECKY DRUHAN: We understand how incredibly important it is to plan proactively and take action to ensure that we have educational spaces to address the growing needs of our communities all across the province, particularly in HRM, where we see rapid growth. I thank the member opposite for the opportunity to talk about the work that we're doing around that. Speaker, we have a historic \$1 billion capital plan to address long-languished needs in education. That means we've got 46 capital repair projects going across the province. We have 47 new classrooms and modular units, and we have 14 schools under development. As soon as we're able to announce any additional programs under this, I will be as excited as the member opposite to receive the news.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: That \$1 billion? This school was allocated for Park West in 2018. It's been six years, and we got \$1 million out of that \$1 billion. Is something wrong with allocating money for a school in HRM that is so overcrowded that students can't go to the washroom when they need to go?

BECKY DRUHAN: Speaker, I'm a "do what you can with what you have where you are" kind of person. I like to take action with what I've got. When we're talking capital, these are projects that need to be planned and undertaken for years. As the member opposite pointed out, this project was announced well before our government took action. I'm just looking at the Auditor General's report from when the member opposite's party was in government. It indicated that the government was doing a poor job of planning for new and renovated schools. It approved schools despite no evidence of need. It failed to take timely and appropriate action to plan. We are cleaning up this mess, and we'll get it done.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

ALI DUALE: I know I don't have much time, but I would like to ask this question to the Minister of Service Nova Scotia. I'm just wondering, this 5 per cent cap . . .

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

The honourable Minister of Communications - sorry, Community Services.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I barely have a grasp of the English language. That is not one for me.

I do want to table a document, but I will say, in my eagerness, I maybe read it incorrectly. What I meant to say was the percentage increase was stagnant. The percentage increase was zero, and it was stagnant. I will table that document. (Interruptions.)

THE SPEAKER: Order. It's not the time for explaining or bickering back and forth.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, would you please call Government Bills for Second Reading.

PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 476 - The French Language Services Act, An Act to Amend.

Bill No. 476 - French-language Services Act (amended).

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

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: I'll deliver some remarks en français followed by en anglais.

Madame la présidente, je propose que le projet de loi 476, comme on dit chez nous quatre-cent-septante-six, la loi modifiant le chapitre 26 des lois de 2004, la loi sur les services en français, soit maintenant lu une deuxième fois.

Je suis ravi de parler aujourd'hui des modifications proposées à la loi sur les services en français. Ces modifications permettront au gouvernement de renforcer son engagement envers la communauté acadienne et francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse - une population croissante.

La francophonie néo-écossaise est la plus ancienne au Canada, et elle est dynamique. Cette année est le 20^{ème} anniversaire de l'adoption de la loi en 2004, et il s'agit d'un rappel de l'histoire du peuple acadien depuis le début des années 1600. L'équipe de l'Office des affaires acadiennes et de la francophonie travaille en étroite collaboration avec la Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, qui est l'organisme porte-parole officiel de la population acadienne et francophone de la province. Je tiens à les remercier sincèrement.

Nous avons plusieurs collectivités acadiennes et francophones à l'échelle de la province, de chez nous à Argyle, Clare, Rive-Sud, la Vallée d'Annapolis, Halifax, Chezzetcook, Truro, Pomquet, Tor Bay, Île Madame, Sydney, et Chéticamp. En Nouvelle-Écosse, le français est la langue maternelle d'environ 35 000 personnes et est parlée par plus de 100 000 personnes.

C'est pourquoi je suis ravi aujourd'hui de proposer ces modifications à la loi sur les services en français. Ces changements législatifs nous permettront de mieux adopter les programmes et les services au priorité et aux besoins changeant de la communauté.

Plus précisément, les modifications proposées reconnaîtront les francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse qui contribuent à la diversité et au dynamisme de la province. Mettrons en évidence le rôle important de la langue française dans le développement de la communauté acadienne et francophone; exigerons une révision de cette loi tous les dix ans; changerons la définition du Ministre responsable de la loi au Ministre des affaires acadiennes et de la francophonie; ajouterons des dispositions précises au sujet du rôle du ministre en ce qui a trait à offrir des conseils au gouvernement sur l'utilisation de la langue française; et ajouterons le comité consultatif du ministre à la loi.

En proposant ces modifications, nous renforcerons notre engagement envers la communauté acadienne et francophone croissante de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Monsieur le président, comme vous le savez, nous venons tout juste de célébrer et de reconnaître le mois d'août comme le Mois du patrimoine acadien en Nouvelle-Écosse. Les couleurs de l'Acadie ont été fièrement affichées pendant le mois pour démontrer le dynamisme durable de notre communauté et célébrer notre fierté culturelle.

De plus, nous avons accueilli le Congrès mondial acadien 2024 dans le sud-ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse il y a quelques semaines. Là où pendant neuf jours, des milliers de personnes de partout dans le monde sont venus célébrer la fierté, la force, et la résilience de la communauté acadienne - des rassemblements, des concerts, des spectacles, et des expériences culinaires.

Pour moi, c'était vraiment le 15 août, le Tintamarre, là où on a fait vraiment vibrer les rues de Yarmouth, fait beaucoup de bruit pour s'assurer que le monde entier sache que la communauté acadienne est toujours ici.

Cette loi est encore une autre preuve de l'engagement de notre gouvernement envers les peuples acadiens et francophones, notamment notre stratégie d'immigration francophone, la loi sur le CSAP, la modification de notre budget pour accueillir les fonds communautaires et nos organismes communautaires. Cette loi reconnaît l'importance de la langue française et permet au gouvernement de répondre aux attentes de ses partenaires acadiens et francophones. La loi contribue à la préservation et à la croissance de la communauté et assure la prestation des services en français par les institutions publiques désignées.

Monsieur le président, nous écoutons à nos partenaires acadiens et francophones pour déterminer la meilleure façon de préserver et de renforcer notre communauté et d'offrir des services en français.

Finalement, je tiens à remercier la FANE, la Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, pour leur engagement, leur dévouement, leur travail acharné, et leur collaboration sur plusieurs initiatives et plusieurs dossiers qui touchent la communauté acadienne et francophone, mais particulièrement aujourd'hui les modifications portées à la loi sur les services en français. Alors à la présidente actuelle Denise Comeau-Desautels; à l'ancien président, Kenneth Deveau; au directeur général actuelle Jules Chiasson; et à l'ancienne directrice générale, Marie-Claude Rioux, avec qui j'ai eu l'occasion de travailler, un grand merci en mon nom personnel et en nom de notre gouvernement.

Je passe maintenant en anglais.

Speaker, I move that Bill No. 476, an Act to Amend Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2004, the French-language Services Act, be now read a second time.

I'm pleased to provide remarks today on the proposed amendments to the French-language Services Act. These amendments will allow government to strengthen its commitment to serve Nova Scotia's growing Acadian and francophone community. Nova Scotia's Acadian and francophonie community is the oldest in Canada, and it is vibrant. This year marks the 20th anniversary - 20 years since the Act was introduced in 2004 - and it is a reminder of our province's deep historical ties of the Acadian people since the early 1600s.

My office, the Department of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie - our team works very closely with the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse, which is the official spokes-organization or spokesperson for the province's Acadian and francophone community. We have a number of francophone communities across the province, whether it be home in Argyle, moving up the shore to Clare, Rive-Sud, the Annapolis Valley, Halifax, Chezzetcook, Truro, Pomquet, Tor Bay, Isle Madame, Sydney, and Chéticamp.

With about 35,000 Nova Scotians who speak French as their first language and more than 100,000 Nova Scotians who speak French, I am very pleased to bring forward these amendments to the French-language Services Act. These legislative changes will allow us to better align programs and services with the changing needs and priorities of the community.

Specifically, proposed amendments will recognize French-speaking Nova Scotians as contributing to the province's diversity and vibrancy; highlight the important role of the French language in the development of the Acadian and francophone community; require a review of the Act every 10 years; change the definition of the minister responsible for the Act to the "Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie"; add specific language around the minister's role in advising government on the use of French language; and add the minister's advisory committee to the Act.

By bringing forward these amendments, we are strengthening our commitment to serving Nova Scotia's growing Acadian and francophone community. As you are aware, we just celebrated and recognized August as Acadian Heritage Month for the first time in Nova Scotia, and the colours of Acadie were proudly on display throughout the month as we showcased our community's enduring vitality and celebrated our cultural pride.

Additionally, we hosted the Congrès mondial 2024 in southwest Nova Scotia a few weeks ago. Over nine days, thousands of people from around the world celebrated the pride, the strength, and the resiliency of the Acadian community. I have never been prouder. Whether it be through concerts and different culinary experiences, our family gatherings, and particularly August 15th, whether it be the concert at the airport in Yarmouth, or for me the Tintamarre, where we made lots of noise and made sure the streets of Yarmouth were shaking - I think they still are shaking with all the noise - it was a very special moment for our community.

[3:00 p.m.]

This legislation is further evidence of our government's commitment to the Acadians and francophones of Nova Scotia. It recognizes the importance of the French language and enables government to respond to and meet the expectations of our Acadian and francophone partners. The Act contributes to the preservation and growth of the Acadian and francophone community and provides for the delivery of French-language services by designated public institutions. We are listening to our Acadian and francophone partners on how to best preserve and grow these communities and deliver French services.

Speaker, before I take my seat and hear remarks from colleagues opposite, I do want to express my personal appreciation to the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse for their ongoing commitment, collaboration, and hard work on different files that touch the Acadian community, from Argyle to Chéticamp. It is true that strength through unity - l'unité fait la force - that we can move forward together, but the partnership and the positive working relationship that we have, whether it be with the current folks at la FANE - the president, Denise Comeau-Desautels; Jules Chiasson, the executive director; the previous president, Kenneth Deveau; and Marie-Claude Rioux, the former executive director. It's been a pleasure to work with all of them during my time as minister.

With those few words en français and en anglais, Speaker, it is my pleasure to hear from my colleagues opposite.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

RONNIE LEBLANC: Monsieur le président, en grandes lignes, nous supportons ce projet de loi. Les (inaudible) positifs iront en grandes lignes. Lorsque tu aides ou fais suggestions ou proposes un peu, mon collègue le Ministre des Affaires acadiennes et Francophonie sait que quand ça vient aux services en français, on pense qu'il y a plus de

travail à faire là. On comprend que ça se fait plus dans les régulations (inaudible). Si tu prends, par exemple, le Département des services communautaires, avant la pandémie, notre bureau a été ouvert tous les mardis et nous avions un « caseworker » qui était francophone qui venait pour desservir la communauté francophone de Clare. Depuis ça, le bureau est seulement ouvert - il faut faire un « appointment. » Puis, si tu veux des services en français il faut les aviser en avance, puis ils vont trouver quelqu'un dans la province qui peut donner ce service-là.

L'autre endroit qui a un peu d'inquiétude, et je sais que c'est compliqué, mais c'est autour des services de Travaux Publics lorsque les gérants maintenant dans notre circonscription de Clare - nous avons un des deux gérants qui est francophone, mais avec du temps, est-ce qu'il prend sa retraite? Il y a une bonne chance d'avoir deux personnes complètement anglophones, ce qui créera un autre problème pour des services en français.

On comprend que la loi - même aujourd'hui que le ministre présente adresse points nécessaires à son mandat. Je sais que c'est son mandat pour essayer d'adresser ces situations-là. Il demandera de garder à ça, et peut-être faire des modifications en termes des règlements ou pousser le département sur le mandat qui est là.

En disant ça, alors supporter la loi et j'ai hâte de voir parce que le comité et les membres du public auront à dire à ça.

I'll try to repeat myself as best I can, Speaker. We are supportive of the bill. I think overall it's a really good bill. Anything that strengthens and supports the Acadian communities is a positive, in my mind, and all the communities across the province.

Where I would maybe push the minister a little bit is when it comes to the actual French-language services. Two examples I'll raise: one, Community Services, where the office in Meteghan was open Tuesdays and we had French services there, with a caseworker who spoke French. COVID came. It changed from open on Tuesdays to open by appointment only, and if you needed French services, you needed to call in advance and ask for a French caseworker, and they'd provide that service from somewhere across the province. That's something I know some individuals in my community have written letters to Community Services in the province about.

The other issue - which is not an issue right now, but I can see it coming - is Public Works - the French service through Public Works. Two of the managers there - we have two. One of them is currently bilingual - French - but eventually he'll take his retirement. As a community, I've heard it quite a few times from residents that they'd appreciate it if in one manner or another we could ensure that there are some French-language services or somebody who can speak French within the managerial ranks.

Those are two issues that have been raised by my constituents to me. I wanted to raise that with the minister as he moves forward with this bill.

We are supportive of this bill, and we want to see what the Law Amendments Committee and the residents and the public will have to say. Thank you.

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

LISA LACHANCE: Je suis contente de prendre la parole pour partager un peu des pensées de notre équipe sur cette loi, ainsi que la langue est une partie primordiale du bien-être, de la santé, et de la culture pour les personnes.

En fait, mon premier job au gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse était pour la Commission de la fonction publique, où j'étais responsable pour développer les lignes directrices quant à la prestation des services en français en Nouvelle-Écosse. Donc, là, j'ai eu l'occasion de réapprendre et d'apprendre plus au profondeur l'histoire des acadiens ici en Nouvelle-Écosse, de penser à l'impact du Grand dérangement, mais aussi en suite la discrimination quant à la langue française dans la province, surtout la langue française acadienne dans la province. J'ai eu l'occasion de rendre visite à plusieurs communautés acadiennes. Donc, avec tout ça, j'ai appris, et j'ai développé des lignes directrices pour la prestation des services de naissance jusqu'à la fin de vie, c'est-à-dire « birth to grave ».

On a besoin d'accès aux services comme mon collègue a expliqué même dans les travaux publics mais aussi pour la santé évidemment, l'éducation, surtout pour l'éducation en enfance, le logement, les services communautaires, aussi pour les besoins des personnes âgées. C'est tout important pour rendre plus saines, plus fières les communautés acadiennes. Aussi maintenant, on fait face à une croissance d'immigration francophone, française, qui est aussi important pour notre province. C'est aussi important et ça rend - pas plus important, mais ça ajoute un peu de l'emphase sur la capacité de notre gouvernement de livrer des services en français.

On pense qu'on devrait être prêt pour cette nouvelle réalité. Je suis contente de voir cette loi aujourd'hui et dans cette session. J'ai hâte d'assister au comité de Law Amendments pour écouter les perspectives de tout le monde acadien et francophone dans la province.

Speaker, I am happy to rise and share a few thoughts from our team on this bill. We know that language is so important. It's so important for well-being, it's so important for health, and it's so important for culture.

In fact, my first job with the Government of Nova Scotia was working for the Public Service Commission and developing guidelines to support the implementation of French-language services in the Province of Nova Scotia. It was a great opportunity to relearn the history of the Acadians, to consider the impact of that - not only in the past but for current folks in current culture - and to really understand the importance of being able to provide services and have access to services from birth to the grave. We know that everything - from education, early childhood education and government services such as housing,

health, long-term care - from birth to grave, folks need to have access to services in the language that they choose, whether it's French or English. It's so important in terms of it being a way to be able to express yourself and to be able to really also take pride in your community and in your family history.

I also think that we're seeing a commitment to French immigration. We're seeing growth in French immigration to this province. It's a really important part of strengthening the province, and so we need to be ready. We need to have these services available in a way that's sustainable in the Nova Scotia context.

With that, I'll take my seat. I look forward to further discussion on the bill.

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

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: Monsieur le président, quelques commentaires en français et suivant en anglais.

Je félicite vraiment les commentaires de mes collègues de l'opposition. Certainement je vois ce projet de loi comme un projet lègue du Congrès mondial acadien voyant qu'on est à 20 ans depuis le dernier congrès et l'adoption de la loi en 2004.

Les commentaires portés par le membre pour Clare sont appréciés. Je voulais partager quelques faits rapides. Notez sur les Travaux publics, j'aimerais vraiment souligner et partager mon appréciation à l'équipe des Travaux publics. On a remplacé tous les panneaux dans les régions acadiennes alors tous les panneaux sur les autoroutes et les bienvenus dans la région d'Argyle, de Clare, des différentes régions acadiennes de la province - un investissement partagé avec le gouvernement fédéral, un investissement de \$400,000. Alors c'est aussi un lègue du Congrès mondial. C'est un peu bizarre de voir des panneaux durer 20 ans mais c'est grandement apprécié de la part de la communauté.

L'autre affaire qu'on n'a pas eu l'occasion de parler encore trop, c'est la bonification de notre entente avec le gouvernement fédéral. Nous avons bonifié notre entente pluriannuelle, par plus de 75 pour cent. Alors, c'est un grand investissement partagé avec le gouvernement fédéral, ce qui nous permet de continuer nos investissements pour appuyer à plusieurs différents ministères, soit des investissements ciblés pour s'assurer la prestation des services et l'augmentation de la prestation des services en français dans le domaine de santé, de soins de long durée, santé mentale et des dépendances; s'assurer que le volume des documents traduits peut continuer à s'avancer; on pourra toujours faire des améliorations à notre site web, pour s'assurer que l'information soit disponible en anglais et en français; et à s'assurer ces renforcements par les ministères désignés.

D'autre part, nous avons également augmenté par 23 pour cent nos fonds communautaires l'année fiscale, l'année dernière, pour appuyer plus d'initiatives en communauté.

Avec cela, j'aimerais proposer la deuxième lecture de ce projet de loi.

Speaker, quickly in English, I'd like to say that this is a legacy piece for the Congrès mondial. Here we are in 2024, 20 years after the first time the Congrès was hosted in Nova Scotia, 20 years almost to the date I think - although it was perhaps in October - when the original Act was passed at the time - again, I want to add by a PC government.

Also, the member for Clare spoke about the Department of Public Works. I do also want to extend my appreciation and highlight the good work of the Department of Public Works to replace the "Welcome to" different Acadian region signs across the province. That was a shared investment between the federal and provincial government, I believe in the ballpark of \$400,000. The replacement of bilingual stop signs, I know it was a constituent of the member for Clare that started that work a number of years ago.

[3:15 p.m.]

But also, to highlight the increase in our bilateral agreement with the federal government: 75 per cent increase over five years to support the delivery of French language services here in the province, to make targeted investments in health care, in addictions and mental health, and seniors and long-term care, to ensure that we can continue to translate documents for the public, to make changes to our website - that information that's important to Nova Scotians is available both in English and in French - and that we continue to strengthen the delivery of French language services and also the increase to our community funds to allow that more Nova Scotia francophone Acadian communities can take part.

With those few words, I move to close second reading of Bill No. 476.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 476.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Would you please call Bill No. 471, Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act.

Bill No. 471 - Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: I move that Bill No. 471 be now read a second time.

I've had the privilege to work with my Cabinet colleagues to put forward a bill that advances Nova Scotia opportunities. Together we're making changes to protect the health and safety of Nova Scotians, promote our offshore wind industry, and strengthen regulations for important and historic industries across the province. This is about advancing opportunities for Nova Scotians, and the amendments in this bill all share a common theme.

I don't have to remind anyone of the devastation last year's wildfires caused. Because of climate change, wildfires are becoming a greater risk. The amendments to the Forests Act will help protect Nova Scotians from increasing risk. Back in May, you may remember that we issued a proclamation for the 2024 wildfire season. It removed the exemptions for campgrounds, requiring them to follow the daily burn restrictions for the season.

These amendments will make that change permanent and remove all other exceptions to the daily burn restrictions. It doesn't matter how close or how far away from the woods you are, you have to follow them. Everyone needs to follow the daily burn restrictions on the Burn Map that are updated at 2:00 p.m. daily or get an industrial permit when appropriate.

You will also recall that we increased the fine that can be issued with a summary offence ticket. It's \$25,000 in this wildfire season. We did that through a proclamation. We're not making that permanent legislation, but we maintain the option of doing it again through proclamation if needed.

We are increasing the fines that we can pursue by laying charges that require a court appearance. These fines are going from \$100,000 to \$1 million for corporations and from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for individuals. We're also clarifying some language to help our conservation officers enforce aspects of the Forests Act related to wildfire prevention and management.

We're working hard to develop our offshore wind. Our first call for bids for offshore wind will go out next year, and we have a plan to offer licences for 5 gigawatts of offshore by 2030. Our federal counterparts are working on the legislation for regulating the new activity through Bill No. C-49. We're confident the federal process will finish up soon, which is why we're putting our own mirror legislation on the table now, so everything is ready to move.

We're doing that through our Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act. This is also called the Provincial Accord Act. Together, these two pieces of amended legislation will expand the mandate of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board and change its name.

The new Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator will regulate offshore renewable energy projects and power lines. That includes offshore wind. This is an expanded mandate, in addition to continuing its regulation of oil and gas. Other changes to the Act clarify regulatory processes for future offshore energy projects and modernized language.

I want to reiterate our commitment to working with our First Nations partners throughout this process. They've been involved in the conversation to date, they've expressed their support, and we are committed to keeping them in the conversation as we progress down the path forward to offshore wind developments.

The amendments to the Accord Act allow both federal and provincial Ministers of Natural Resources and Renewables to determine the areas where offshore wind could be. I can tell you that we support the offshore wind happening in areas that are not in conflict with protected areas. We're going to make sure we effectively manage both economic development and environmental protection priorities. We're also being proactive and preparing for the potential that Bill No. C-49 won't pass in time for a commitment to do the first call for offshore wind in 2025. That's what the amendments to the Marine Renewable-energy Act are for.

With these changes, the intention is to facilitate an interim pathway, just in case we need it, to proceed with the call for bids even if there were a further delay with the federal legislation process - which I don't believe will. It allows us to establish an entity, such as the Offshore Board, to regulate the sector in the interim process.

These amendments do not allow us to proceed with developing offshore wind industry without our federal partners. It just gives us a different pathway forward to pursue this industry in jointly managed waters in time for the call for bids next year. Either way, we'll be working hand in hand with our federal government to establish the regulatory process and do the first call for bids for offshore wind next year.

These changes expand the planning tools and clarify the process for issuing offshore wind licences in both Nova Scotia and jointly managed waters in the future. This bill does not change our promise to put the regulatory framework for offshore wind in place for joint waters first. I said we will do that - we look at any wind activity in any Nova Scotia waters - and I do intend to keep that promise. This bill will also give tidal companies more flexibility to shift focus on their projects getting under way if needed.

Continuing with the green, clean energy theme, we're also changing the Gas Distribution Act. Eastward Energy is currently Nova Scotia's only gas utility, and they want to move forward with low-carbon fuels like hydrogen and renewable natural gas. To do that, they need to recover costs from gas repairs when they make cleaner fuel investments. Those investments could be things like contracting for cleaner fuels or

developing their own hydrogen projects. The changes we're making through this bill will allow the Utility and Review Board to consider these requests from the utility.

Those are all the amendments within my mandate, and I'm pleased to present a few on behalf of my colleagues.

Our fisheries generate about \$2.5 billion annually in exports. That's nearly 40 per cent of Nova Scotia's exports. Aquaculture contributes \$120 million to our economy. Amendments to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act will improve the licensing process for low-impact, sustainable aquaculture.

In 2023, we conducted a regulatory review, with recommendations to increase transparency and public participation while reducing the red tape. The amendment to the Act will streamline regulations for shellfish and aquaculture plants, promoting sustainable growth. The process for marine fish aquaculture will remain unchanged but will include increased public engagement when applications go to the independent Aquaculture Review Board for hearing and decisions. We're also updating the Act's purpose to highlight seafood's significant role in our food system and its importance at the tables of Nova Scotians.

Harness racing is a longstanding tradition in Nova Scotia. The industry generates economic activity for our province with direct employment and spinoff activities in our rural communities. There are also many volunteers involved in the infrastructure that is used for community activities. Harness racing here is regulated under the Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission.

Newfoundland and Labrador repealed their legislation in May and left the commission. They had originally joined the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission in 2015, so we're putting language in the Act to reflect the remaining members: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

This bill removes Newfoundland and Labrador from the Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission and renames the commission back to the Maritime Provinces Harness Racing Commission. It will also change the core requirements to reflect the three remaining provinces. These changes will support the continuation of harness racing here in Nova Scotia.

Finally, Speaker, we're making amendments to the Public Procurement Act. They support the changes announced in July that will help ensure that Nova Scotia's processes for procuring goods and services are aligned with our goals to support Nova Scotia businesses. Basically, if a Nova Scotia business is within 10 per cent of a leading bid for a government contract and the other bidder is not a Nova Scotian business, the Province awards the contract to the Nova Scotia business. This, of course, is within the Canada Free Trade Agreement limits.

These changes give all public sector entities the discretion to do the same. While it isn't new for the Province to be doing a great deal of supporting with local businesses, these amendments will go even further to ensure that we are supporting Nova Scotia businesses - in particular, those small and medium-sized businesses that are the backbone of our community.

Speaker, all these amendments will advance Nova Scotia opportunities. With that, I will take my seat. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

RONNIE LEBLANC: Obviously, this is a huge bill with a lot of information on it, so I'll have just a few things to say before I'm looking forward to hearing what stakeholders have to say at the Law Amendments Committee and the stakeholders have time to go through it.

On the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act, one issue that I raised during the bill briefing and I have questions around is offshore wind and what exactly that looks like, especially around marine protected areas. I know the federal government has proposals around that and are doing consultation.

I have attended a few of the consultation meetings, so it was part of the discussion around if windmills would be allowed within those marine protected areas which, from the indications I got, was not being considered at the time. One question I would have for the minister is: Does this bill have any impact on those consultations, and will it ultimately allow offshore wind to be installed in the marine protected areas?

On the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, there are a few of the changes that I think are very good, like additional consultation, which I think is always a plus. I do like the fact that production of shellfish and aquatic plants will be under the administrator's authority and won't have to go through the entire process that say, a fin fish company would have to go through because that's something I've heard over and over, as I am sure the minister has as well. For a lot of these shellfish companies, they are smaller companies that can't afford or it's very difficult for them to afford to go through the regulatory process. I think that will be a positive change, in my opinion.

One area and maybe this is where, if the minister feels he wants to clarify, is around the amendment that would come: the proposal to advance applications, 47A. It says the amendment - so that would be - yes, the minister's discretion not to advance applications for aquaculture licences and leases due to non-compliance. It says - I guess it would be after 47A(5), it would be: "Where, in the opinion of the Minister, an application does not comply with all the terms and conditions in an option to lease issued pursuant to Section 44A, the Minister may, in the Minister's discretion," and if you go to (b), "reject the application."

I just want some clarification around the minister's authority versus the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board. Does this mean that at the end of the day, the process is that the minister has the authority to reject the application? Where do you distinguish the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Review Board authority versus the minister? As you know, for an industry to thrive, it needs regulatory certainty. I'm asking or questioning if this creates another aspect where the industry is wondering, after doing all these multi-million-dollar investments, if the minister can just decide that, in his opinion, it doesn't meet the requirements.

[3:30 p.m.]

I know I've heard from the aquaculture industry that there are some concerns around certainty or support from the government. You can debate if you support aquaculture or don't support aquaculture, but if it is a priority of the government, then there should be certainty around the regulations.

You have the coastal classification map that's coming out soon. With these changes - and I know the Premier has made comments regarding certain applications that have raised some concern with the industry. All that put together - I guess if the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture would like to clarify what his authority is and how he sees - does this create regulatory uncertainty for the industry?

I'll leave it at that. I want to hear what the stakeholders have to say at Law Amendments, but certainly - like any bill, there are good things in it and some that raise some concern. I'll leave it at that.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Speaker, I'm happy to rise and give a few short remarks on behalf of my caucus regarding this bill, which, in the government's own words, is an omnibus bill.

Like other caucuses, we assign critic areas or areas for which we are the spokesperson in the NDP. For this bill, it was understandably difficult to figure out who was going to speak to the bill. I'm sure our friends in the Liberal caucus had a similar situation. The bill covers many wide and unrelated subjects.

I don't want to talk too much about the implications of an omnibus - omnibus bill like this one - I can't even say it, so why talk about it? But I am the Natural Resources and Renewables critic for the NDP, so I thought I would say a few words.

I do just want to start by saying I find it strange to be providing comments on a piece of legislation, as the Natural Resources and Renewables critic, that also touches on

harness racing and procurement and aquaculture licensing. Maybe we'll hear more about that another time.

But from the Natural Resources and Renewables perspective, I will give some general words of support on the expansion of the renewable wind energy. Nova Scotians, as you know, Speaker, pay high amounts for quite dirty electricity, and any movement toward getting our province off coal and toward a greener grid is a welcome one.

Developing not one but two regulatory pathways for offshore wind projects is no small proposal. To have something of this significance and detail lumped into a bill amending seven other pieces of legislation across four different departments, in my opinion, makes little sense. There are also some significant changes to the Forests Act regarding wildfire prevention and the Gas Distribution Act regarding cost recovery for blended fuels and hydrogen production. Again, I think both of these pieces of legislation warrant debate of their own.

I think many of us are naturally suspicious about this type of omnibus bill and the intentions behind it. We've seen controversial amendments tucked into this kind of bill in the past, and while the full implications of this bill are not yet clear, we have little choice but to treat it with a degree of skepticism.

There's a lot of material to digest in this large bill, for us in the Opposition but also for Nova Scotians and the stakeholders with direct interest in the variety of subjects that this bill intersects with. As the bill progresses, I hope we can get into the details of each little section and hear feedback from the community. I look forward to a robust and insightful discussion at Law Amendments, and I hope to hear from stakeholders on the many subject areas touched on by this bill.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

HON. KENT SMITH: Today is a good day. Today we're making meaningful steps forward, working together to deliver real progress. You've heard me say it multiple times in this House, that seafood is our largest export and our largest industry: \$2.5 billion worth of exports. Forty per cent of Nova Scotian exports are seafood-related.

Although that is an impressive number, we know we have opportunities to make it even larger. That opportunity is in the aquaculture sector. The sector in aquaculture is worth \$120 million to our economy and employs about 820 people throughout our rural communities. That's only 6 per cent of the overall seafood exports. There's more that we can do, and that is a big piece behind including this section in the Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act.

In 2023, a regulatory review of the aquaculture sector in Nova Scotia was completed. The review included recommendations focussed on regulatory rightsizing,

increasing transparency, and improving public participation. These important amendments have been put forward to rightsize the regulatory framework for Aquaculture Nova Scotia and promote sustainable economic growth within the sector.

We heard loud and clear from the sea farming sector when they called on us to make the licensing process more efficient to enable them to grow - pun intended. We heard from industry that shellfish and aquatic plant aquaculture are the priority areas for change. A new administrative approval pathway for shellfish and aquatic plant applications will reduce the regulatory burden on operators by not sending them through the adjudicative hearing process. It will also shave time off the approval process without compromising on the quality of the review. This will create clarity and certainty for those local businesses and the communities they operate in.

We also heard that there should be increased opportunities for public participation and transparency throughout the aquaculture approval process. Several of the proposed changes will create new and better opportunities for public engagement and increased transparency. To put it simply, the proposed amendments will cut red tape and increase the opportunity for voices of community members to be heard.

Red tape means that it can take years for someone to get a licence or a lease to start a low-impact, sustainable shellfish farm - years that they could be generating income, employing people, and supporting rural seaside communities. While these amendments will set up the shellfish and aquatic plant aquaculture sector for growth - pun intended - creating economic advantages in the jobs in coastal and rural communities, it is important to reiterate that the approval process for marine fin fish aquaculture is not changing. Fin fish applications will continue to go to the independent Aquaculture Review Board for public hearing and decision. In fact, these changes will increase the amount of public engagement opportunities throughout that process as well.

These amendments are important and essential for delivering on government's commitment to support low-impact, sustainable aquaculture in Nova Scotia, implement recommendations from the recent public review, and improve the aquaculture regulatory framework in Nova Scotia.

The department will also make a symbolic change to the purpose of the Act to recognize that seafood is an important staple on the tables of Nova Scotians and plays a significant role in Nova Scotia's food system. These amendments will advance Nova Scotian opportunities - opportunities that support the collective framework of our future.

I will take my seat momentarily, but I've made some notes on the member for Clare's comments regarding the minister's discretion when it comes to the terms of reference. We will have baseline terms of reference for each application that must be satisfied. Each application that we receive will have unique situations. We want to ensure

that the minister has the ability to add to those terms of reference, and we need the flexibility to be able to do that. That's the reason for it being included in the bill.

With that, I'm pleased to offer those comments on Bill No. 471. I look forward to hearing from stakeholders at Law Amendments. I expect that we'll have favourable responses from industry on the changes that we are making.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister for Service Nova Scotia.

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: I'm pleased to take this opportunity to speak briefly in support of Bill No. 471. Specifically, I'd like to speak to the amendments put forward to the Public Procurement Act. We all know that local businesses are the backbone of our communities. These are our neighbours, our family, our friends - Nova Scotians who work hard to achieve their dreams and to give back to our communities. Everyone in this House, I'm sure, knows hard-working local business owners. They are often the ones who sponsor local charities, give to kids' sports teams, hire members of our communities, and spearhead fundraising drives for great causes. They produce high-quality products and services that are cost-competitive and everything they do supports our local economy. They deserve our support and we as a government are happy to provide it.

Back in July we announced our new Nova Scotia Loyal procurement policy, which means local businesses - Nova Scotia businesses - will get a 10 per cent advantage when they are competing for government contracts. We are putting our money where our mouth is. That means if a Nova Scotian business is within 10 per cent of the lowest bid and the other bidder or bidders is not a local company, the Nova Scotia business will be awarded the contract and this, of course, is within the Canada Free Trade Agreement limits.

This will govern how government departments do their purchasing but it will also be broader. It will also include enabling languages so that our schools, our universities, our municipalities, and the health care sector can do the same. Already, nearly 75 per cent of government spending goes to local companies and this new policy will help us do even more.

Supporting local businesses is something we can all agree on in this House, so I encourage all members of this House to support this bill, which creates more opportunities for our local businesses.

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

The honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Thank you very much, Speaker. I thank the members opposite for the positive feedback, conversation, and general support for the bill. In all

honesty, it is a big bill but there is not a lot in here that hasn't been talked about over the course of the last two years.

With that, I move to close debate on Bill No. 471.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is for second reading of Bill No. 471.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

[3:45 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, I request unanimous consent of Bill No. 482 - An Act to Declare Intimate Partner Violence an Epidemic.

I ask this to be read second and third reading and to bypass Law Amendments and Committee of the Whole House.

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request. Is it agreed? It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, would you please call the order of business Private Members' Public Bills for Second Reading.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, I ask that you please call Bill No. 482.

Bill No. 482 - Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I move that Bill No. 482 now be read a second time.

It's a good day in this Legislature. If you're here long enough, these moments happen like shooting stars, where we all come together, usually somewhat unexpectedly, and we do what's right at the right time. This is one of those moments.

By passing this legislation today, declaring intimate partner violence an epidemic, we are enshrining the findings of the Mass Casualty Commission in law in this House. We are coming together as legislators to acknowledge the depth of this issue - the fact that 30 per cent of women report being the victims of physical or sexual violence at the hands of their partner. That means that many of us in this Chamber have experienced that - our friends, our families.

The reason that those numbers aren't changing is because of stigma. Today we are all doing a very important thing. This is not just symbolic. This is an act of breaking that stigma and acknowledging the importance of this. For that, I want to thank my colleagues. I want to thank the Mass Casualty Commission and the work they did. I want to thank all the people on the front lines of this epidemic. I want to thank Koren and Jennifer, and the women of Unifor who have worked so hard. We see you, we hear you, we love you, and we are all committed to this change.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: First, I want to commend the Leader of the New Democratic Party and the advocates on her very successful and fast-moving advocacy on this today. I know that the folks in the audience have spoken on behalf of women across this province who have been experiencing gender-based and domestic violence in their own homes. As those individuals told me, sometimes going to work is the only place we can be safe.

It was asked, certainly by the Premier earlier, why we would need to pass this in legislation. I would say - and I thank the Premier for doing this - it's because it isn't law where we enshrine fundamental values of our society and of our province. By passing this we will enshrine, as a value, in law, that every single legislative member, every single party stands against the true epidemic of domestic violence in this province, and collectively we will be required by this law to improve that situation for women from one end of the province to the other.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I just want to stand and say thank you to the NDP caucus for bringing this bill forward. I want to thank the Premier and the government for passing this bill. I want to thank the advocates who are here, as well as the many other advocates across our province.

Certainly, we all know that this is an epidemic. In my area that I represent we know it all too well, after Portapique. We are still living with the effects of that. Last year, a Cumberland County woman was killed by her partner. A few months ago, a Cumberland County woman was killed at the hands of her husband. This affects each and every one of us. I want to thank everyone in this House for passing this bill.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration.

HON. JILL BALSER: I also want to thank the member for bringing this forward. We know with the rates and numbers in the province that domestic violence and intimate partner violence is an epidemic in this province. Having the voices of Nova Scotians here today in this House to be heard about the significance and what this means - knowing that there are tears of joy and there has been advocacy for so long, that we stand all together in this House and acknowledge the epidemic that is before us.

But we are going to act, and we will continue to act. As the Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, I know that my predecessor carried this work in her heart in everything that she did. Honestly, Speaker, I want to emulate her in this role, and knowing that so many people here inspire me to continue to do more. I know this government is committed to doing more too, and signing the National Action Plan with the federal government to make sure that Nova Scotia does their part. We will continue to listen to the voices of victims and everyone in this house to make sure that that action is seen for years to come.

THE SPEAKER: If I recognize the honourable member for Dartmouth South, it will be to close second reading on this bill.

The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I move that we close second reading on Bill No. 482.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is to close second reading of Bill No. 482.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

Ordered that the bill be read for a third time today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR THIRD READING

The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Speaker, I move third reading of Bill No. 482.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth South.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: I now move to close third reading of Bill No. 482.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is to close third reading of Bill No. 482.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried. (Standing ovation)

THE SPEAKER: Ordered that this bill do pass and that the title be as read by the Clerk. Ordered that the bill be engrossed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, I move that you do now leave the chair, and the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is carried. We will have a short recess.

[3:54 p.m. The House resolved into a CWH on Bills with Deputy Speaker Lisa Lachance in the Chair.]

[5:06 p.m. CWH on Bills rose and the House reconvened with Speaker Danielle Barkhouse in the Chair.]

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

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

Bill No. 459 - Health Professional Associations Continuation Act.

Bill No. 464 - Stronger Workplaces for Nova Scotia Act.

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

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: That concludes government business for the day.

I move that the House do now rise to meet again on Friday, September 13th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Government business will include third reading of Bills 459 and 464.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House rise to meet again on Friday, September 13th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We stand adjourned.

[The House rose at 5:07 p.m.]