



## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Keith Bain**

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### First Session

**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

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**HALIFAX, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

**Sixty-fourth General Assembly**

**First Session**

**4:00 P.M.**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Keith Bain

**DEPUTY SPEAKERS**

Angela Simmonds, Lisa Lachance

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

**PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

**PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

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

**Bill No. 123 - Liquor Control Act.**

**Bill No. 124 - Public Trustee Act.**

**Bill No. 126 - Nova Scotia Wine Authority Act.**

**Bill No. 129 - Motor Carrier Act.**

**Bill No. 131 - Powers of Attorney Act.**

**Bill No. 134 - Motor Vehicle Act.**

**Bill No. 137 - Halifax Regional Municipality Charter.**

**Bill No. 138 - An Act to Permit Virtual Business Meetings.**

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

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

Just one thing, if I could - for those who are joining us virtually, if you are on your telephone, would you please turn off your camera. Thank you.

#### **TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS**

The honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document. This is an article written by Jennifer Henderson and published on December 2<sup>nd</sup> last year in the *Halifax Examiner*, called “‘The worst possible outcome’: After the premier said he wouldn’t pursue it in court, Houston government is appealing disability rights decision.”

I am tabling this in consideration of a member’s statement to follow.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

LISA LACHANCE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to table a document in consideration of a member’s statement that I will make, entitled “I was paralyzed 6 years ago and now I struggle with suicide - but not for the reason you think,” published September 30, 2019 by Scott Jones for CBC News.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

SUZY HANSEN: I'd like to table a document called "Why Canada Needs a non-market rental acquisition strategy" with the author Focus Consulting Incorporated.

During Question Period on Friday, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing asked to see the information which I was directing my question from, so I am going to table that.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

## **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

## **GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Community Services.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 221**

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

Whereas on April 5<sup>th</sup>, Mount Saint Vincent University president Ramona Lumpkin announced the creation of the Scott McCain and Leslie McLean L'nu Student Success Bursary Fund to support Indigenous students pursuing studies at the Halifax university; and

Whereas the fund is made possible through a generous gift of \$500,000 by Mr. McCain and Ms. McLean, and the Mount - in recognition of the importance of removing barriers for Indigenous students - has matched their gift to bring the total fund amount to \$1 million; and

Whereas through both investments, Indigenous students will be able to meet the criteria for renewable bursaries to help them achieve a full-time undergraduate degree in their chosen field, and students can also access additional funds to help with unforeseen expenses;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me in congratulating the Mount on this partnership and thanking our universities and NSCC for the work they are doing to help create opportunities for more L'nu to pursue their dreams and create a bright future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 222**

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

Whereas emergencies can occur at any time of the day or night that require police, fire, or Emergency Medical Services to respond promptly to protect life or to preserve property; and

Whereas 911 call takers work in conjunction with emergency dispatch partners to provide a critical link between Nova Scotians experiencing an emergency and the first responders in police, fire, or ambulance who are there to help; and

Whereas these committed Nova Scotians answer and provide assistance to more than 250,000 emergency calls annually and are an integral part of our 911 system;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the Legislature thank Nova Scotia's 911 call takers and recognize April 10-16, 2022, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, which provides an opportunity to celebrate and honour these dedicated professionals who help keep Nova Scotians safe.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.



**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 154 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2019, the Tourist Accommodations Registration Act. (Hon. Pat Dunn)**

**Bill No. 155 - Entitled an Act to Amend Chapter 21 of the Acts of 1990, the Public Prosecutions Act. (Hon. Brad Johns)**

THE SPEAKER: Ordered that the bill be read a second time on a future day.

**NOTICES OF MOTION****STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

**DISAB. RTS. DEC.: PREM. COMMENTS - RECOG.**

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to look back on the October 6<sup>th</sup> ruling by Nova Scotia's highest court that said the continued institutionalization of persons with disabilities amounts to systemic discrimination. In an article by Jennifer Henderson that I've already tabled titled "'The worst possible outcome': After the premier said he wouldn't pursue it in court, [his] government is appealing disability rights decision," Henderson wrote the following:

"Here's what [the Premier] told reporters after a cabinet meeting Oct 7<sup>th</sup> . . .

Reporter (Question): Premier, there was a Court decision yesterday on a sort of longstanding issue involving disabled Nova Scotians who don't have appropriate housing. Are you going to continue to pursue that case in court?

[Premier] (Answer): No."

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the meaningfulness of the Premier's clear response to that question and the commitment that is represented to the basic rights to people with disabilities in our province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Uniacke.

**DAFFODIL CAMP.: SUPP. FOR THOSE WITH CANCER - RECOG.**

HON. BRAD JOHNS: April is Daffodil Month, and the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Campaign is back. The Daffodil Campaign has been celebrated for more than 70 years and each Spring it brings awareness of the devastating effects of cancer. The daffodil is a resilient flower, the first to bloom in the Spring, and the Canadian Cancer Society uses this flower as a symbol for their campaign as it is a reminder of strength, courage, and hope for Canadians affected by cancer.

In 2020, approximately 6,900 Nova Scotians were unfortunately diagnosed with cancer. The Daffodil Campaign is a way that we, as fellow Nova Scotians, can show our support to those affected. I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage all Nova Scotians to support those touched by cancer to The Daffodil Campaign.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**MACKINNON, COURTNEY: FINE & DANDI - CONGRATS.**

FRED TILLEY: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate and congratulate another young entrepreneur in our community, Courtney MacKinnon. Courtney is a lobster fisherperson but also runs a business called Fine and Dandi Soap and Candle Company. They actually make their own dandelion-infused oil, and my understanding is that the products are amazing.

A really important piece to Courtney's business is that she donates 10 per cent of all profits to local non-profit charities in our area. It's a wonderful way for her to give back to the community, so I would like to thank Courtney for her wonderful business and her great thoughts to donate back to her community. So thank you and congratulations, Courtney.

THE SPEAKER: The member for Dartmouth North.

**MCNALLY, GRACE: YARD SALE FOR UKRAINE - RECOG.**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Grace McNally and her neighbours in Crichton Park in Dartmouth North. Grace is seven years old and a Grade 2 student at Crichton Park School. She had been hearing news about the war in Ukraine and wanted to do something to help the people and families affected by the war. With the help of her parents, Lauren and Walter, she organized a yard sale which took place yesterday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Neighbours dropped off donations of goods to put in the sale. Everything was available by donation, so yard salers showed up to shop and made cash donations.

Grace also hand-painted a number of Ukrainian flags and gave them as thank you gifts to those who showed up with donations. In spite of the cool, drizzly day, I am pleased to say that Grace raised \$1,170, which she contributed to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation. I ask all members of the House to join me in congratulating and thanking Grace McNally for this tremendous and generous effort to support families in harm's way in Ukraine.

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

**COUGARS BASK. TEAM: CH'SHIP WIN - CONGRATS.**

DAVE RITCEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the CEC Cougars girls' varsity basketball team, who defeated Horton High 63-52 in the Provincial High School Division 1 championship game over the weekend. After a quarter of a century, a new provincial Division 1 Girls' Basketball banner will hang at the Cobequid Educational Centre. The number-one-ranked Cougars put in the work, played strong defence, and never took their eye off the prize.

The team had six seniors, who have been together for countless years since they started playing mini-basketball. The team benefited from having these six seniors, as they counted on them down the stretch.

I would like the members of the House to join me in offering congratulations to the entire team, including the graduating seniors Jasenda Horseman, Jewel Woolfitt, Emma Roberts, Megan Gaudet, Emma Ross, and Jenna Adams, along with their dedicated coaching staff on bringing the championship banner back to CEC where it belongs.

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

**PACT: PGMS. FOR FAMILIES - RECOG.**

LORELEI NICOLL: Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the community organization known as Parents and Children Together Resource Centre, also known as PACT, who actively contribute to the well-being of families in the Cole Harbour-Dartmouth area and surrounding areas through their programs, workshops, and activities.

The Parents and Children Together programs are open to all parents, expectant parents, caregivers and their infants, toddlers, and children of all ages. Programming includes birth preparation classes, a drop-in play group, a new parents' group, a community trading cupboard, and a dads' Saturday morning group. Parents and children together provide discussions, speakers, resources, parent information, and support for parents and caregivers. Their centre is even available for rent on the weekends for birthday parties and baby showers.

I ask the members of the House of Assembly to join me in thanking the Parents and Children Together Resource Centre for their contribution to families.

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

**JONES, SCOTT: ART & DISABILITY ACTIVISM - RECOG.**

LISA LACHANCE: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honour Scott Jones. In 2013, Scott was paralyzed in a homophobic attack in New Glasgow. Very quickly afterward, he mobilized music and film for community strengthening. With family and friends, he created the Don't Be Afraid campaign. Here in Halifax, he was a musical director with the Phoenix youth services community choir, and founder of VOX: A Choir for Social Change. Scott publicly forgave his attacker, taking strength in the love around him.

Now a Ph.D. candidate in music at the University of Toronto, Scott is also a filmmaker. *Love, Scott* from 2018 chronicles his journey of recovery and forgiveness. It played worldwide. In February 2022, Scott released *Coin Slot*, which debuted in the U.K., and he continues disability activism, saying in 2019, "But, honestly, I want you to be worried. Not about me and my disability, but about the message that we as a society - well, the able-bodied folks - communicate to the beautiful, magical human beings that live on a different part of the spectrum of ability."

I ask all members to join me in recognizing Scott Jones for his art and advocacy.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

**WHITAKER, RICK: GUITAR-MAKING SKILL - CONGRATS.**

HON. KARLA MACFARLANE: I rise today to acknowledge the amazing craftsmanship of a true artist, Rick Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker, a resident of Pictou County since 1975, has been handcrafting guitars for more than 50 years. During those years, he has crafted 80 guitars and is currently working on No. 81. He uses a variety of woods, with each wood producing a slightly different-sounding guitar.

Although an artist, Mr. Whitaker says he is not an avid guitar player himself, but he does enjoy chording along with others. I congratulate Rick on this incredible accomplishment, and hope he continues his passion of guitar building for years to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

**LITTER PREV. COM: CLEANUP EFFORTS - RECOG.**

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Litter Prevention Committee in Clayton Park West. The LPC was initiated three years

ago by my office staff and a small group of community members who cared and wanted to do something about the increase of litter in our community. I would like to thank every LPC volunteer. To date we have done more than 10 group cleanups to clean up Clayton Park West.

Special thanks go to the committee lead, Jayne Hawkins; the coordinator, Michele DiQuinzio; the youngest member of the committee, Riley Cogswell; and also Kimberley Witherspoon, who has collected more garbage than anybody I know in the world. She actually received an award from HRM for her volunteerism with the LPC.

I ask that the members of this House join me in thanking all the Litter Prevention Committee volunteers, and I look forward to joining them on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for the first cleanup of this season.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**NEW HORIZONS BAPTIST CHURCH: 190TH ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

SUZY HANSEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate New Horizons Baptist Church on its upcoming 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Formerly known as Cornwallis Street Baptist Church, and before that the African Baptist Church, the church was founded by Rev. Richard Preston in 1832. The rich history of the church has seen many influential leaders, among them Rev. Dr. William P. Oliver, who was awarded the Order of Canada in 1984 and in 2009 was recognized as a Person of National Significance by Parks Canada.

The church is currently led by Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton and is undergoing renovations. Their anniversary on April 24<sup>th</sup> will be at St. George's Church at 3:30 p.m. and if you would like to go to the morning service, it will be held at Saint Matthew's Church at noon on Barrington Street.

I would like all the members here to help me congratulate New Horizons Baptist Church on the 190 years of prayer, service, and dedication to the community. We wish them a long and rich start to the next 190 years in their newly renovated location.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Richmond.

**STRAIT RICHMOND U11A PIRATES: C.B. CUP WIN - CONGRATS.**

TREVOR BOUDREAU: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the Strait Richmond U11A Pirates on a very successful season.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> they competed against the Sydney Steelers and, by a score of 8-1, they won the Cape Breton Cup Banner. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, they played against the Antigonish Bulldogs, beating them by a score of 5-4 to capture the U11A North Conference Banner. This past weekend in Truro, they played Hockey Nova Scotia's "Day of Champions," where they successfully defeated the Bedford Blues by a score of 7-3 to win the 2021-2022 U11A championships.

I would like to acknowledge the coaching staff of Adam Marchand, Natasha MacDonald, Scott Mombourquette, Andrew Warner, and Joey Maltby. The team manager Holly Burke, safety rep Michelle Sampson, and team statistician Reg Landry also deserve a round of applause.

I ask members of this House to join me in offering congratulations to all members of the Strait Richmond U11A Pirates, as well as the parents, family members, and fans who support the team.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

### **RADIO CIFA: 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

RONNIE LEBLANC: Monsieur le Président, en septembre dernier, Radio CIFA, la station de radio communautaire acadienne de langue française basée à Comeauville, a franchi une étape importante en étant sur les ondes depuis 30 ans. Sa première diffusion lors d'un salon professionnel local avait été le résultat d'années de travail pour établir une radio communautaire à Comeauville.

Depuis cette émission et le début de sa programmation régulière, la station de radio a évolué et s'est développée jusqu'à sa programmation actuelle. Les bénévoles et le personnel, du conseil d'administration aux personnalités en ondes, produisent une programmation qui est disponible dans le sud-ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse et dans le monde entier en ligne. Trente ans plus tard, CIFA continue d'informer nos communautés et d'encourager les artistes locaux à raconter leur histoire dans leur langue.

Je demande à tous les membres de se joindre à moi pour féliciter Radio CIFA pour ses 30 années en ondes et lui souhaiter un succès continu dans les années à venir.

Mr. Speaker, last September, Radio CIFA, the Acadian French-language community radio station based in Comeauville, reached the important milestone of being on the air for 30 years. Its first broadcast at a local trade show had been the culmination of years of work to establish a community radio station in Clare.

Since that broadcast and the start of its regular programming, the radio station has evolved and grown to its current programming. The volunteers and staff, from the board of

directors to the on-air personalities, produce programming that is available in southwest Nova Scotia and around the world.

This year, 30 years later, CIFA continues to inform our communities and encourage local artists to tell their stories in their language. I ask that all members join me in congratulating Radio CIFA for 30 years on the air and wish them continued success in the years to come.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

### **RAMADAN: IFTAR CELEB. - THANKS**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, today is the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Ramadan, a time that Muslim people around the world observe a period of fasting, prayer, reflection, and good deeds.

During Ramadan, observing Muslims fast from sun-up to sundown and break the fast each day with Iftar. Last night I was happy to attend a community Iftar celebration at the Dartmouth Masjid with some of my colleagues and many friends and neighbours in the Dartmouth North community.

Before the breaking of the fast, we were welcomed by the Imam, who gave us a talk on the practice of fasting for the Islamic faith and the benefits to one's physical and spiritual well-being.

Following the talk, the fast was broken by the eating of dates, then prayers, then a wonderful meal, which finished up with Mariyyah's famous tiramisu. It was amazing. It was a lovely evening of friendship, generosity, and thoughtful conversation.

The Masjid in Dartmouth North is the original meeting site of the Islamic Association of the Maritime Provinces, which was incorporated in 1967. Since its inception, it has grown to be a thriving home for prayer and fellowship for Muslims in Dartmouth and beyond. I am grateful for the welcome I received at the Masjid and for the incredible community spirit that is inhabited there. Ramadan Mubarak to all Muslim people in Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Guysborough-Tracadie.

### **QUAD CO. WHITECAPS: CH'SHIP WIN - BEST WISHES**

HON. GREG MORROW: I rise today as a proud hockey dad and coach to recognize the Quad County Whitecaps for winning the 2022 U15 AAA Hockey Nova Scotia Female Provincials.

The Whitecaps played the Fundy Highland Stars in the Day of Champions at the RBC Centre in Dartmouth yesterday. These two teams have played each other close all year and yesterday was no exception, with the Whitecaps coming away with a 3-2 win.

There is one player from my constituency on this team, so I'd like to acknowledge and congratulate Kendall Doiron of Boylston. I have a feeling you'll be hearing me speak more about her in the next three and a half years. This team also features players from constituencies represented by the honourable members for Antigonish and Inverness, and even as far as Northside-Westmount.

The Whitecaps will represent the province's Team Nova Scotia at the U15 AAA 2022 Female Hockey Atlantic at the Pictou County Wellness Centre April 28 to May 1. I ask all members of this House to join me in wishing these fantastic young ladies good luck, and maybe take the opportunity to check out a game when the time comes.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

**LESSER, DEREK & FRANCINE: CAREMONGERING INIT. - THANKS**

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: I'd like to recognize Derek and Francine Lesser of Yarmouth. For the last couple of years, the Lessers have been organizing a caremongering initiative that has had a huge positive impact on our community.

They have established in their house a drop-off location for people to bring donations of food and other household items. The Lessers then deliver the food and items to individuals and families who have indicated that they are in need of these things.

The Lessers' use of social media to put a call out for food donations and other essential items has encouraged many to help out, and those who have been assisted in turn have then asked how they can be of help to others.

It has been truly remarkable to see such a movement of caring and kindness in our community of Yarmouth, and I ask this House to join me in thanking the Lesser family, as they have inspired so many to pay it forward.

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

**METRO WEST FORCE HOCKEY LEAGUE VOLUNS.: DED. - RECOG.**

LISA LACHANCE: I rise to recognize the hard work and dedication of the players, coaches, parents, and other volunteers with the Metro West Force hockey league. Metro West Force supports girls and youth from U7 to U18 from across HRM to develop their hockey skills and good sportspersonship, and to play all levels of competition.



Usually, safety in hockey means something else, but of course, over the last two years, safety has also meant seasons that start and stop and rapidly changing standards for practices and games, all supported by volunteers. At the same time, players have demonstrated their resilience and passion for the game by showing up and playing to the best of their ability. As a proud goalie parent, I am truly grateful for the skills and dedication of all the volunteers that make hockey season work.

As the regular hockey season in Nova Scotia wraps up, let's recognize everyone who worked together to support our young people this past season.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

**CARSON, DOROTHY: UNITING 3 CHURCHES - CONGRATS.**

TOM TAGGART: I rise today to congratulate Dorothy Carson of Five Islands on her leadership in uniting three churches - Peniel United, Economy United, and Riverside United - for the past two years while there has not been a minister in these areas.

Dorothy has led the faith community managing finances, keeping buildings in repair, and organizing Sunday services with lay people or visiting ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all Members of this House of Assembly to please join me in congratulating and thanking Dorothy for her leadership and her spiritual guidance for the Cobequid Pastoral Charge.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Annapolis.

**LAWRENCE, LILLIAN: TRACK CAREER - CONGRATS.**

CARMAN KERR: I rise today to recognize an exceptional young sprinter from Annapolis, Lillian Lawrence. Through her tremendous work ethic and natural talent, Lillian has achieved incredible success in her athletics career, finishing second in the 100 Metres and third in the 200 Metres at the 2019 Athletics Nova Scotia Outdoor Championships. That same year, she was named the Junior Female Athlete of the Year at Bridgetown Regional Community School and the Intermediate Track and Field MVP.

This speedy Annapolis County Athletics Club veteran recently committed to joining the University of New Brunswick track team, and she is working hard to reach the podium at the Atlantic University Sport Championships.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Lillian Lawrence on her successful track career and wishing her all the best in the next chapter of her life at UNB.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**QUEENS & KINGS NAT. PRODS.: SUCCESS - CONGRATS.**

SUZY HANSEN: Today I rise to recognize a local company, Queens & Kings Natural Products. It was founded here in Halifax Needham by a resident in my community by the name of Tanika Bundy.

Queens & Kings Natural Products specializes in all-natural or almost natural hair and body products. Products are made in small batches, and the only synthetic ingredients used are fragrance oils which are safe to use even on sensitive skin. All products are available unscented upon request. Queens & Kings Natural Products promotes positive self-esteem by giving you amazing healthy products that make you look and feel great.

I myself and my household of myself and the children all have Queens & Kings Natural Products, and my favourite is Imperial Ice. I want to say congratulations to Tanika Bundy for your success and the amazing products you offer.

You can learn more about her products at Queens & Kings Naturals on Instagram, Queens & Kings Natural Products on Facebook, and you can usually find Queens & Kings Natural Products at any Black pop-up throughout HRM.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

**S. WOODSIDE COM. CTR.: FOOD BANK FUNDS DON. - RECOG.**

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the South Woodside Community Centre board for graciously donating funds to purchase items for a small local community food bank.

The funds have been given to South Woodside residents Larry and Vivian Hubley to keep the shelves stocked at their outdoor food bank. In Fall and Winter 2021, the members of the community centre offered funds to help purchase Christmas dinners to give to local families in need of assistance. This is just one more way that the members of the South Woodside Community Centre give back to our community residents. They also rent out their facility for pickleball and more, and these funds go to support the students at South Woodside Elementary School and a scholarship for Dartmouth High School.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia Legislature to join me in recognizing and thanking all of the members of the South Woodside Community Centre board and the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford Basin.

**SCOLLARD, GABBY: *WHY I STAY* BOOK PUB. - RECOG.**

HON. KELLY REGAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give a shout-out to Bedford resident Gabby Scollard, who is giving hope to people struggling with depression and suicidal ideation.

Gabby is 19, and in her final year of high school, she wrote her first book, *Why I Stay*. Gabby explains that she had been diagnosed with depression at the time. When she would have suicidal thoughts, she would write down a reason why she should stay as a counterbalance to those thoughts.

After she recovered, Gabby decided to share those reasons with others who could be struggling too. To quote Gabby, the book provides “365 reasons to stay alive when your mind is giving you every reason not to.” *Why I Stay* is available for purchase on Amazon.

I want to thank Gabby for thinking of others who are struggling and writing this book to help them. I know she’s hearing from people whom this book has helped, which is in itself another reason for Gabby to stay.

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

**NAUSS, BILL: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

DANIELLE BARKHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the long-time Chester resident and beloved community member Bill Nauss.

Bill Nauss passed away suddenly on January 26, 2022. His loss is felt by our entire community, and on behalf of the people of Chester-St. Margaret’s, I want to extend condolences to his loved ones.

Bill worked at the South Shore Work Activity Program, referred to as SWAP, which is a program to help people who have difficulties obtaining employment. He also previously served - sorry, this is a hard one for me - as chairman for the Village of Chester Commission, where we worked closely together. He became one of my mentors and a dear friend.

I would ask that all members of the House of Assembly join me in honouring Bill Nauss for his long-standing contributions to our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

**VOLUNS.: KIDS' SPORT EVENTS - RECOG.**

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Mr. Speaker, we're seeing the end of Winter sports and the transition into the Summer sports. In our communities all over Nova Scotia we have amazing volunteers who step up each and every year to support our kids, and coach and volunteer and raise money and play such an important role in ensuring that our kids have the opportunity to get outside and participate with their friends as we move into the Summer months.

I rise in my place today to recognize all the volunteers on the island and across the province who are gearing up for a lot of Summer activities for our kids, whether it's amateur sports, whether it's Summer camps, or any other opportunities for kids, there's a lot of good people in our community, so I rise in my place to recognize them.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Shore.

**GRADUATES: YESS PGM. - RECOG.**

KENT SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to the first cohort of graduates from the Eastern Shore's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program. YESS is a unique program with a commitment to help young people, particularly those who face barriers to employment. Each participant entered a seven-week job placement with local employers after receiving training in communication, first aid, interpersonal skills, team building, conflict resolution, WHMIS, food handling, mental health awareness, and much more.

I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing all YESS program graduates, as well as the program coordinator, Debbie Farrell, on their hard work and perseverance in finding meaningful and gainful employment.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**BENOIT, BRENN: BRAVERY DURING HEALTH CHALLENGES - RECOG.**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: I rise today to recognize Brenna Benoit from Timberlea, who appeared on the front page of the *Chronicle Herald* on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Brenna desperately wants to move, walk, and run. Unfortunately, this beautiful and courageous four-year old's feet have curled in on themselves and do not support her weight or function to allow her mobility. Brenna's muscles are not growing with her bones. Although her bones continue to grow longer, her muscles are not growing at the same pace. The result of bones and muscles not growing in tandem caused the condition of her feet turning in.

Born at only 24 weeks in her mom's pregnancy, and weighing only 1.5 pounds, Brenna has suffered through meningitis twice and has cerebral palsy. Brenna's family and

friends are raising money so Brenna can have specialized surgery in the U.S. that will address her condition, help her walk, and hopefully eliminate the need for a hip replacement before she turns six.

Despite huge challenges this little girl faces, she has a strong personality and abundance of perseverance that keeps her fighting, and the determination needed to overcome her health issues and lead a happy and fulfilling life.

I'd like the members of the House of Assembly to join me in recognizing Brenna's bravery and hope that she is able to get this surgery soon.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

**BELLIVEAU FAMILY: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

HON. TIMOTHY HALMAN: I rise today to recognize a family, Maureen and Grégoire Belliveau, Annice Melanson, and Julien LeBlanc, who have all stepped up for the community of Dartmouth East in unique ways when needed.

Many of my colleagues in this Chamber may recognize a quote, or some variation of: Half of being a parent is just showing up. As the parents and the extended family of Claire Belliveau, Dartmouth East's Community Outreach Coordinator, Maureen, Grégoire, Annice, and Julien have always shown up and made a great contribution, whether they have all come to assist in the Square Roots program, helping with preparing and sending holiday cards, or a quick phone call from Greg to ask why the internet isn't working, or how to unjam a shredder, these four Dartmouth East residents have always helped when needed.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank this family for always showing up and supporting Dartmouth East in their own unique way. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

**BURGER, FRIEDA: HON. WOMAN OF EXCEL. AWD. - CONGRATS.**

HON. KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong volunteer and retired business owner, Frieda Burger is loved and respected throughout the Annapolis Valley. She is a selfless, passionate woman who is very active in the business community and continues to volunteer with many organizations after retirement from her family business.

Frieda Burger was recently awarded the Honourary Woman of Excellence Award by the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce at the 2021 Woman of Excellence Awards. The award recognizes Frieda's incredible contribution to our community through many volunteer organizations and her leadership in the family business.

Through her decades of work, Frieda has inspired many future women leaders. I ask the members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating and thanking Frieda Burger for all of her community contributions, and on receiving the 2021 Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce Honourary Woman of Excellence Award.

[4:45 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **AMHERST STRIDERS: ACTIVE LIVING PROM. - THANKS**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Amherst Striders. The Amherst Striders are a running group who meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays that was started by Mr. Alan Theal, who is a retired gentleman from the Canadian Armed Forces.

They are a group of runners of all levels who support each other actively to get out and promote an active lifestyle and have been active since 2010. Their motto is “No one is left behind.” They often run in support of awareness, such as the Coldest Night of the Year and Valentine’s Day Run, as they are also very community-minded people.

Today I would like to thank the Amherst Striders running club for all they do in promoting active living and supporting one another.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

### **MATTHEWS, LARRY: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, it’s with the utmost sadness that today I pay tribute to Larry Matthews, who passed away on October 14, 2021.

Larry was a well-known member of our community, and his loss is felt throughout East Hants. Larry was the owner, broker, and creator of Hants Realty Ltd., a dream he started in 1977, and it has remained a flagship of Nova Scotia real estate. Larry’s business motto was “a tradition of integrity and common sense,” and this was evident in all his transactions and interactions with his business colleagues and clients.

Larry not only obtained many business credentials, but his passion and his success derived from his love of people and their stories. He loved to help people realize their dreams of finding a home, not just a house.

I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his wife Peggy, his two daughters and their families, his colleagues, and his many friends.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

**LOCAL RESIDENTS: RECENT TRAGEDIES - BEST WISHES**

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Today I want to recognize the people of the Spryfield, Sambro Loop, and the Purcells Cove communities. The last few weeks have seen a lot of tragedies, where some people have even lost loved ones.

To the youth in the community, know that you can be whatever you want to be. Don't let others bring you down or define you. To the parents, know that we are all in this together. To the entire community, if you need someone to talk to, please reach out. You are not alone.

The loss of a loved one is never easy, but we live in the best communities in Nova Scotia, and we'll get through this together.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Glace Bay-Dominion.

**DOUCETTE, THERESA: COM. SERV. - RECOG.**

JOHN WHITE: It is my pleasure to rise today to honour Theresa Doucette for her dedication and community involvement in the towns of Glace Bay and Dominion.

Theresa has spent a lifetime working for any good cause that is on the go in our community. It doesn't matter if it's a charity event, a benefit dance, a service club, or a school event: One of the first people to greet you walking through the door is Theresa.

Cape Breton has its share of struggles, but community spirit certainly is not one of them. Theresa has been helping to build a positive reputation for decades and the impact she has had truly is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, with dedicated people like Theresa Doucette, I can assure you, Cape Breton's future is just fine.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

**ST. ANDREWS'S COM. CTR.: COM. SERV. - CONGRATS.**

ALI DUALE: Mr. Speaker, I have been involved with St. Andrew's Community Centre for many years. I have seen kids who grew up in the basketball program at St. Andrew's who now play for several different universities.

Today I would like to recognize the staff, volunteers, and participants at the centre, who make it feel so much like a second home for so many people. I congratulate them on

their new facility and wish them continued success with their amazing community outreach.

This centre has had a huge impact on my life in terms of helping the community. I have attended this centre for almost 12 years every Sunday, unless I was sick, and I encourage members of this House to visit this new facility. It can be a model in your own community.

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

**CARROLL, DAVE/KENNEY, MO: ECMA NOMS. - CONGRATS.**

HON. BRIAN WONG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two renowned Waverley musicians, each nominated for an East Coast Music Award to be presented at an event taking place May 4<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton.

Dave Carroll's first recording in 10 years, *Until One Day*, is nominated for Contemporary Roots Recording of the Year. Dave has been playing music professionally for 32 years and is pleased that his songwriting and production stands with the great new music being produced in this region.

Mo Kenney, a multiple ECMA winner, is nominated for her recording of *Covers*, an album of cover versions of songs by artists such as Pasty Cline, Stone Temple Pilots, The Kinks, and Tom Petty.

Please join me in congratulating these musicians for their continued musical success and their latest award nominations.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bedford South.

**CPA BOYS BASK. TEAM: CH'SHIP WIN - CONGRATS.**

BRAEDON CLARK: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I took a road trip up to Truro with my son to watch the CPA Boys Basketball team win the first Division 1 provincial championship in the 40-plus-year history of the school. (Interruption) That is older than me, indeed. And what a game it was. My four-year-old sat there for an hour and a half and watched the whole game - 78 to 75 over Halifax Grammar School.

Senior guard Nate Forward hit a three with 20 seconds to go, putting the Cheetahs up by three, and that was the final margin.

I want to recognize all the players, all the coaches, all the parents, and all the volunteers. It's a lot of work to get through a high school basketball season, and it's pretty sweet when you come out on top. Congratulations to the players.



THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**EMBREE, KEN: CAMP. WORK - THANKS**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a very special man, Ken Embree of Amherst.

Ken is a retired nurse. He was a nurse for 52 years. He was from our area in Cumberland, but he was a nurse in Toronto. He is one of the many volunteers who have helped with many things on my campaign and is always offering to help in the constituency office. Ken loves our community and loves being a part of local jams and church events. He loves to sing and is part of the men's vocal group called The Fellas. Ken is a very special man who always wants to help people in every way and will often direct people to my office so that I and my staff can assist.

Today, please join me in thanking Ken for all of his time and work. Volunteers and seniors like Ken are a very important part of our community in helping get things done.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens.

**HORTON, CHERYL & STEWART: CONTRIBS. TO COMS. - THANKS**

HON. KIM MASLAND: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Queens County entrepreneurs Cheryl and Stew Horton.

For nearly a decade, Cheryl and Stew owned and operated Brady's Home Building Centre, Liverpool Home Hardware, and Liverpool Home Furniture. Over these years they maintained high standards; recognized the loyalty, expertise, and resilience of their staff; and gave back to their community, whose members shopped locally and supported their businesses during challenging times. In December, they announced the sale of their businesses and admirably supported the new owners during the transition.

On behalf of Queens constituents, I would like to express sincere thanks to Cheryl and Stew for not only choosing to operate their business in Liverpool and Sandy Cove but also for their numerous and generous contributions to our community. I wish them all the best as they embark on their new adventure.

THE SPEAKER; The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

**CAUCUS STAFF: PREP. FOR HOUSE SESSIONS**

FRED TILLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the caucus staff - for our party but also for all of the parties - who have been working very

hard to get us all prepared for these House sessions. They're working late nights, they're putting in lots of hours, and they're helping us to put our best foot forward.

To the crew down at 5151 George Street, thank you for everything that you do every day to help us be successful. We appreciate everything.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle.

**TMAC 2022 CONF.: SPOTLIGHTING SW N.S. - RECOG.**

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: I rise today to highlight this year's upcoming Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC) 2022 conference hosted by Yarmouth and Acadian Shores, one of the first in-person media events in Canada this year. This event, taking place from June 22-26, will spotlight southwestern Nova Scotia and its world-class hospitality, build awareness of Nova Scotia's tourism and cultural experiences, and support tourism recovery, all in anticipation of the Congrès mondial acadien in 2024.

In the Argyle region, visitors can choose from various tours and events, including experiencing the enchanting Trout Point Lodge, taking a boat tour around the historic Tusket Islands, or visiting the Village historique acadien in West Pubnico to experience our rich and diverse culture. Mr. Speaker, I know you wouldn't want to miss your opportunity to experience an authentic lobster boil on the shores of Lobster Bay.

I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in welcoming all visitors to our beautiful region and hope they'll leave our area with memorable experiences with plans to return soon.

THE SPEAKER: The member for Cole Harbour-Dartmouth.

**LEDUC, JOHN & ALICE: 70<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

LORELEI NICOLL: Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize Mr. and Mrs. John Leduc of Cole Harbour, who on April 19<sup>th</sup> will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with family and friends. The Nova Scotian couple was married on April 19, 1952.

John is a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy, and he and his wife Alice still live independently in their home, where they delight in entertaining their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. An anniversary such as theirs is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes for tomorrow.

I ask that you join me in wishing John and Alice Leduc a very happy anniversary, and we thank Mr. Leduc for his service to our country.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants West.

**DEEMER, LETITIA: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to community volunteer Letitia Deemer.

Tish joined the West Hants Chamber of Commerce back in 1989 after receiving advice from a local business owner who stated, “If you have a business, you join the local Chamber of Commerce. It’s just good business.” She has been involved with what is now known as the Avon Chamber of Commerce for over 30 years.

Not only did Tish start and run her own business successfully for more than 25 years, she is also a long-time volunteer with the Hants Community Hospital and a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor. In 2016, she received the True Rotarian Award, an honour not given to many people, and is currently serving her second term as president of the club.

Tish is a mother, a business owner, a volunteer, and a driving force who gets things done behind a warm and kind personality. I ask that all members join me in thanking Tish Deemer for continuing to volunteer her time and enthusiasm.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

**COMEAU, ALEX: VIOLIN-MAKING SKILL - RECOG.**

RONNIE LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, Alex Comeau, a local carpenter, is getting more and more attention for his violins.

His passion for violin-making began in 2008, when Alex, who wanted to learn to play the violin but could not afford to buy one, decided to make one. He did his research and approached a senior with years of experience making violins. The violin maker mentored Alex, allowing him to make mistakes and then helping him overcome these mistakes.

Now 36 years old, it is Alex who has years of violin-making experience. Choosing from wood he has dried for seven years, he works over 300 hours on each of his violins, trying to make his current project better than the last.

I ask that all members join me in recognizing artisans such as Alex Comeau, who learned and perfected the skills of violin-making that have been passed down for generations.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings West.

**CONRAD, DONNA: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

CHRIS PALMER: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to rise today to recognize my friend, a dedicated community volunteer and business owner, Donna Conrad. Donna is a realtor and owner of RE/MAX Advantage in Kentville and has been working in real estate for nearly 30 years.

Donna is a lifelong resident of Berwick who donates her time to work with the community to help organize fundraising events and volunteer initiatives. Donna is a member of the Berwick Gala Days committee that organizes the annual Princess Pageant, and has started the Berwick and Area Business Community Group.

Donna also started Stockings Were Hung, an initiative to provide Christmas stockings to Annapolis Valley children in need. She holds regular fundraisers for this initiative, as well as for the local food bank. Her business has helped support breast cancer research through Yard Sale for the Cure and has helped bolster food banks through RE/STOCK, an initiative created through RE/MAX.

Donna has a love of people and community, young and old alike, which she clearly demonstrates in her efforts to support those in need in Kings West.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Donna for her time and commitment to volunteerism, creating events and activities that attract people to Berwick, and to both supporting the growth of our small businesses and contributing to numerous fundraising initiatives.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

**FRASER, ALLISTAIR: AUTISM AWARE. FLAG-RAISING - THANKS**

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, April is Autism Awareness Month. Today, I'd like to recognize an artist and game designer, Allistair Fraser, for raising the municipal and provincial Autism Awareness flag today. Alistair is a close friend and a star.

April is World Autism Month and autism touches more than 70 million people worldwide. This month is an opportunity to help break down barriers and misconceptions. As Dr. Kerry Magro once famously said, "Autism can't define me. I define autism." Thank you, Allistair.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

[5:00 p.m.]

**CORKUM, SARA: MOTION DANCE CENTRE - CONGRATS.**

HON. STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sara Corkum and the staff of Motion Dance Centre in Lower Sackville.

Following the birth of Sara's first child, she was looking for a dance class that both she and her baby could attend. Not being able to find one, she decided that she would have to create what she was looking for.

Sara opened up Motion Dance Centre in 2015, which has grown from a staff of one to a staff of eight, running upwards of 60 classes a week. Sara's goal has always been to provide a positive, supportive environment for anyone with a desire and passion to dance, regardless of their experience level.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sara and her staff for teaching their students not only the joy of dance but how the very best of themselves can come out. I ask that all members of this House of Assembly join me in that.

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

The honourable Government House Leader.

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: It is an honour today to speak going into Supply on the budget. I had the delightful opportunity on Friday to do Estimates and to have a wonderful opportunity to talk about the Department of Seniors and Long-term Care.

One of the things that came up routinely was a discussion as to who said what when, and when were things done or not done. Health professionals - and there are many in the House - know that when you're trying to cure a disease, it is really important that you understand how the person got the disease before you start implementing a treatment program. I've had the opportunity as the minister now for the last six months to get a better understanding of how we ended up where we're at.

I did get to mention a few things on Friday, but I want to go through a bit of a history lesson for the members here who didn't have an opportunity to hear me speak on Friday.

The previous government has made several references to the fact that we were stealing or repeating their playbook on long-term care. I suggest that in order to do that, there would have had to have been a playbook. For the sake of all the members in the House, I want to go through the historical summary of it, because it is a sad tale, and all parties have a part in all of this. Disease doesn't progress randomly on its own; it takes a lot of time for things to develop.

For everyone's awareness, in 1977, the regulations for long-term care beds came into place. The Homes for Special Care Act came into place in 1989. Just nine years later, the Auditor General started suggesting then to the government of the day that they needed to redo the legislation. They said the same thing again to the next government, and the next government, and the next government. There are several references I won't repeat. I'll table all the documents that show that no government ever decided to rewrite that legislation.

Times have changed. Families are no longer living down the street: They're living across the country or around the world, so our government is going to rewrite the legislation. That will be coming up in the Fall of 2022. Of course, all of the stakeholder groups, Opposition MLAs, everyone who has loved ones in long-term care, all the staff who work there - we want everyone's feedback. We will be doing the consulting about that, but it is a major undertaking. The only province I know that has already done that is Ontario. It's a massive document, a massive undertaking. That is a commitment, because without that legislation, you can't have proper strategic planning.

We'll talk about strategic planning and who came up with that. The last time I can find a strategic plan for long-term care, or continuing care, in fact, is 2006. The Health Minister of the day, the Honourable Christopher d'Entremont, on May 6, 2006 released the continuing care strategy for Nova Scotia called *Shaping the Future of Continuing Care*. The strategy launches work for a 10-year action plan to improve and expand the province's continuing care system. That included all the things that we talked about, including investing in infrastructure.

For everyone's awareness, at the time, they were investing an announced 1,320 long-term care beds. Of course, we all know that did not happen. At the time, they were investing \$51 million above and beyond their previous budget, which in today's dollars would equate to \$128 million, which is the third-largest investment in long-term care since this came out. The wait time at that time was 1,079 people. Back then, there were only about 80,000 seniors. That's a significant wait time back in the day - just so you're aware that is what their plan was.

The next document I'll reference - and I'll table them all at the end - is from the Auditor General. I'm very fond of Auditor General Reports because they're non-partisan. What this report, written in 2011, was saying was that at the time there were 7,604 long-term care beds. This was 2011, so 11 years ago.

Today - and we counted, because when we asked the previous government how many single and double beds they had, they did not know. When I became minister, I said, well, how about we count them? So we did. There are 4,704 single beds in Nova Scotia, and there are 1,611 double beds. That's equivalent to 7,926. From 2011 to now, there are 322 beds.

The problem is that the number of seniors is going to double from 2020 to 2040 - double from 16 per cent of us to 32 per cent, right when I need those beds. Mr. Speaker, I should have had girls instead of boys, because I'm not sure my sons are prepared to take on that responsibility when it's my turn.

This Auditor General Report - and I believe in 2011, the NDP government was in power at the time - said, "The Department had no support to show it replaced those facilities which were most in need. We do not know whether the facilities with the most serious deficiencies were replaced," and they made a lot of recommendations. It said:

"The Department has not established agreements with existing long term care service providers, who represent the majority of long-term care facilities. Since there were no agreements and therefore no clear termination provisions, Department management believed they had to negotiate with existing service providers for replacement facilities rather than going through a competitive bid process. Although this process was in compliance with the Provincial procurement policy, we do not accept the reasonableness of this explanation. It is a poor management practice to spend large amounts of public funds without contractual agreements.

None of the eight recommendations made in our June 2007 Report have been implemented."

That's the NDP government. They go on, "We recommended that the Homes for Special Care Act and Regulations be updated . . . however, no action has been taken."

The Auditor General goes on to say, on Page 105, 5.41, "The absence of service agreements may result in inconsistent service delivery standards and expectations, or may result in inconsistent or unclear reporting requirements."

Mr. Speaker, if I could summarize long-term care, that sentence does it. That was written in 2011: inconsistent service delivery standards, inconsistent expectations, and inconsistent or unclear reporting requirements. That was 2011. That is not what we want to see.

Let's see how things progressed. On July 30, 2015, the article "Nova Scotia long-term and home-care plan could include user fees" says the Health and Wellness minister of the day, Leo Glavine, released *Continuing Care: A Path to 2017*. In 2015, he released something to say we are going to have the *A Path to 2017* guide. The article says:

"It proposes changing the placement policy to give priority to people with the highest needs, using performance-based contracts for care providers and considering giving people money directly to buy needed services.

Glavine says they will also examine user-fee structures.

He's asking people in the province to provide feedback before the new strategy is released in 2017."

This was in 2015, Mr. Speaker. Then, he wanted to release a plan in 2017. This document is the last I can find on a strategic plan promise.

There is a saying that failing to plan is planning to fail. We know that the government that was in power for the last eight years focused on home care - home-first strategy. Theoretically, a very solid plan if you have enough staff, if you understand the frailty scale, if the world hadn't changed and families hadn't moved across the country and around the world, if you hadn't factored in an aging population, and if a pandemic hadn't hit. But they all did.

On August 5, 2020, the PC Party of Nova Scotia announced our plan 10 months before the election was called, and we committed to 2,500 new beds - 3,500 if we could get federal help. Why that many beds? Because there was no promise ever for that degree of beds, and it's because we could count what was coming down the road. We could anticipate because we knew exactly how many people were going to be aging and what percentage of them were going to need to go into long-term care.

When we took over as government on December 8, 2021, we announced historic investments in continuing care assistance. We didn't know exactly how many continuing care assistants we had, because the previous government hadn't put the CCA registry in place. It is now in place; we started it in February. By June of 2022, we'll know exactly how many CCAs are in the province, but while we're waiting to count them all we're giving them a 23 per cent raise, and the money is coming - it's negotiating itself now - with the unions and the CEOs of each of the facilities.

We are going to pay 2,000 CCAs to go to school for free, as well as their books. The current CCA students in class are getting their tuition back if they sign a two-year return-of-service agreement at the end of their term. We have 300 who are also going to - above and beyond the 300 for the PLAR course, so 600 are going to be able to get their



CCA accreditation that way, and we have 300 in the Work and Learn program. They're getting paid to go to school, they're getting free tuition, and they're getting a 23 per cent raise.

[5:15 p.m.]

Those are historic investments. They're not out of anyone else's playbook. Those are straight out of our playbook. Six CCA recruiters - we also don't have enough physicians in long-term care. There has been no real plan for primary care for those working in long-term care. We are working on that, Mr. Speaker. We announced 13 clinical nurse practitioners to work in long-term care to make sure that those most vulnerable were going to be there.

Finally, home care: Over the past five years before my government took over, the number of visits per person in home care was steadily declining every year from just over 100 to down just under 80 per person per year. For those who weren't aware, a loved one is eligible for 100 hours of continuing care, home care a year - sorry, 100 hours of home care a month, plus 50 hours of VON care for 150 hours a month times 12 months, and the average Nova Scotian was getting just over 100 hours, and then just last year it was down to below 80 visits because we were so critically short-staffed.

I want to reassure Nova Scotians that what the Auditor General recommended back in 2011, we're going to fulfill all of those recommendations. What the 10-year strategic plan laid out back in 2006 - if that had gone through, we wouldn't be where we're at right now. The other thing I want to mention is that our department, within three months, put out a Seniors Care Grant, put \$500 into the pockets of every Nova Scotian with an income level below \$37,500, and over \$10.9 million of that has already gone out, and efforts are under way to make sure that as many Nova Scotians who can get it do that.

Finally, what I can commit is that there will be consistency across the sector. There will be new legislation, there will be new contracts with the long-term care providers, and all of our home care providers, of which we have 20. The best news of all is that we expanded the direct care benefits, so if we can't give you home care through the agency that's in your community, to the level that you need, there is direct funding that we can give you so that you can hire the person you need.

Mr. Speaker, the number of people waiting for home care when we took over was just under 1,500, and now the number of people waiting for home care is just over 1,100, which is a dramatic improvement, and we are just getting started.

THE SPEAKER: Before we move on, I'd ask the honourable member to table much of the figures that she gave before.

The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I've been here eight years and that's the biggest pat on the back I've ever seen in my life. That was good.

I'm going to give you a little bit of history. We just got a lesson from the member. I'm going to give her a little history lesson back. Right now, they are building just over 400 new beds and that would be the 236 beds the previous Premier, Stephen McNeil, announced and the former Premier after that, Premier Rankin, announced. So there are no new beds being built that haven't already been announced by the former Liberal government and she knows that.

They promised during the election 2,500 new beds. We've heard the Premier and the member in Question Period walk that back. It has been 25 new and renovated beds - we'll do new and renovated beds. You can read the platform all you want. The platform also promised right away a Better Pay Cheque Guarantee. We don't see that at all.

If you go through department by department here, nothing for Fisheries and Aquaculture, nothing for Environment and Climate Change, a 4 per cent increase for Health and Wellness - 4 per cent, a historic increase, extending Liberal programs that were already there, continuing the building of infrastructure which this government voted against time and time again. They voted against the QEII, they tried to shame us for it and yet they are going to be there to cut the ribbons and they are talking about historical investment in health care that was already done under the previous government.

You go over to Community Services: nothing for low-income - you have an opportunity to stand up - but there is an absolutely zero dollar increase for income assistance monthly payments - zero dollars - and they are laughing about that, Mr. Speaker. They can sit there and pat themselves on the back because they gave someone \$500 once. That's like giving me a baloney and cheese sandwich today and I say, "What do I get tomorrow?" and you say, "Nothing,. There's nothing for you tomorrow. It's only today".

For two budgets in a row, Mr. Speaker, we gave people who needed it the most on income assistance the largest raises in Nova Scotia history and what did this government do? Nothing. No raises, no income, nothing. Not inflation - nothing. (Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic has the floor.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: So they can talk about all these important investments they've made but the truth is that when we look at the \$30 million for housing announcement they made, \$22 million of it went out just a couple of weeks ago, right before they had to spend it, to one of the wealthiest developers in Nova Scotia. They were going to build those anyway but they gave them an incentive.

When the minister stood up and we asked him, will these be low-income, affordable housing? They are not going to be affordable housing. They couldn't define affordable housing.

Well, I'm here to tell you that affordable housing, by all metrics, is 30 per cent of your monthly income. I will bet my bottom dollar that none of those buildings that you are giving \$22 million of Nova Scotia tax dollars to - \$22 million of Nova Scotia tax dollars are going to one of the richest companies in Nova Scotia and zero of them will be affordable, i.e., 30 per cent.

What does that say? Who are you building homes for? The same developer built homes in my community at \$600,000, \$700,000 and \$800,000 a pop - \$600,000, \$700,000, \$800,000 a home. That's what they were building more for. They made a fortune off of this.

Yet when the minister stood up and we asked him "Are these going to be affordable?" and to define affordability, they won't do it. They can't do it, because their definition of affordability at \$150,000 a year is drastically different from the majority of Nova Scotians' definition of affordability.

If you really want to support people, you have to invest in public housing. You have to invest in rent supplements that make a difference. This was the same government, this government here, that railed against rent supplements when they were in Opposition. They said they were useless, and they don't work. It's a waste of money. We stood here for seven years and heard that from them.

The first thing they did was say, we're doing rent supplements. It's great. It's going to change the world. Everybody, it's going to be great.

If you go through department by department, line by line in this budget, and ask how this is going to change Nova Scotians' lives and how is it going to help - listen, there are some good things in there. There definitely are some good things in there. We talked about the fertility stuff, but that only works for people who can afford it. If you don't have \$10,000 in your pocket to do fertility treatment, you're SOL. You can't get it. (Interruption) I don't know what you think that stands for. That's the issue here. (Interruption) They're simply out of luck. SOL. (Laughter)

They talk about doctor recruitment and how they're going to do all this stuff for health care. Every single health care metric has declined drastically and has declined at a historic level; it's gotten worse and worse. Wait times are just worse than they've ever been, and they're getting worse every month.

You know what else is getting worse every month? The amount of COVID. We're seeing 80, 90 to 100,000 cases in three months. People are pretending on that side that it

doesn't exist. They're saying, get out there. Go have fun. We encourage you to have fun, but people also want to be informed. But they refuse to do that. They won't inform Nova Scotians. They're archiving the past information so people can't access it. Why are you archiving information? Nova Scotians have a right to that.

For students, another example. There's nothing here for students. There's nothing here to attract Nova Scotians to this province. They talk about all these good things they're doing, but what we're also hearing from people and stakeholders is there has been zero consultation. They're not consulting with stakeholders. There are unintended consequences.

We think about the individual who moved from my community, your community, any community in Nova Scotia to Alberta to work. Think about that for a minute. They've been out there for years and years to work, and they plan to return home in a couple of years. They want to buy property. They're Nova Scotians, they want to buy a home in Nova Scotia. Guess what you just did to them? You just taxed them. They're not coming back. They're going to stay in Alberta. That's true.

I see some members over there shaking your head. I guess those people haven't reached out to you, because they've certainly reached out to all of us and said, I want to come home and now I'm being told if I buy a home in advance - because they want to buy it now, because the market is going crazy, and continue to support their family in Alberta - they're going to pay extra money. It's going to do nothing, zero, to help the affordability of housing.

They think that it's going to be this big, huge cash win and flow for them. If you really were so concerned about housing, you would tie that income to housing. So money coming in would actually go into housing instead of the general coffers where it will just get spent on little projects here and there. That's what's going to happen.

I see they pat their back and say how great they're doing. You know what? God darn it, we hit the ground running. We've hit the ground running.

All I'm seeing is people running to 811 to try to get a family doctor. All I'm seeing is people running around trying to get in to see a specialist, people running over potholes on every corner on every street in Nova Scotia. (Interruption) I had to get that one in. I was seeing if she was paying attention, Mr. Speaker.

I see the ministers running to the media to make announcements that were already made. Let's extend virtual care. When did virtual care come in? You voted against it. I see members shaking their heads. It was part of a budget that you voted against. If you're going to vote against a budget, you should probably read every line in the budget. But you voted against that, some of you. The same people who are saying it's great are the same people who voted against it.

I will say, as I said earlier, there is some good stuff in this, but this isn't a monumental, world-altering budget like they claimed during the election, like they claimed the moment they got elected. Then they slowly walked it back. Well, you know, what's 18 months? We're not going to make it in 18 months. Or the six months that we got to have this plan out and that plan out - it's a little more complicated than we thought it was going to be. I don't know if we're going to be able to make these timelines in these budgets. But you made those promises to Nova Scotians during the election, and Nova Scotians are not going to forget. They're not going to forget the promises. (Interruption)

Mr. Speaker, we sat here for 15 minutes and listened to the honourable Minister of Seniors and Long-term Care speak, and I have been interrupted and heckled by the members for Pictou and the member for Argyle and a few others non-stop. Non-stop.

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

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate if the member wouldn't discuss the presence or absence of members in the House.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I didn't. I said the member for . . .

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you did. You said the member for Pictou.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Who's that? I'm saying Pictou West, or whatever she is. Sorry. I apologize. I don't know your constituency.

THE SPEAKER: It's pretty much a given, when you name a constituency, who the member is.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Well, I was actually complaining to you. (Interruptions)

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. The longer this goes on, the less you'll be able to talk.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Well, I would like you to control that side of the House. (Interruptions)

THE SPEAKER: I will tell you right now that the heckling that's going across hasn't stopped you from continuing to talk.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: But I was interrupted.

THE SPEAKER: I've called people to order twice already.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Thank you, and I appreciate that.

[5:30 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: I will continue to do it when I feel it's not accomplishing anything.

The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Now that the members have wasted three minutes on this, we'll continue on.

Again, this is a hope-and-pray budget. We hope and pray that the 4 per cent that we put in health care is actually going to make the difference in people's lives. But it's not, because we have already seen all the metrics in health care decline.

There is zero money for public housing in this. It's like people are being left behind purposefully. It gets right to the core of you, because the people who need it the most are not reflected in this bill. They'll stand up and say, we're giving them \$500. We're giving them a one-time bit of money - pittance - in their pocket.

What they really need is more money on a monthly basis, a steady income. They need access to the same healthy food that people with money have. They need to be able to drive their vehicles when the price of gas goes up. Again, that doesn't mean a one-time credit.

There is zero investment in public housing, zero investment in the housing market in general when it comes to affordable housing. There were zero dollars for increasing income assistance rates. There was nothing in there for Seniors Pharmacare. The seniors, who need it the most, who are on fixed incomes, as the price of drugs goes up, which they are, they're suffering. They pat themselves on the back, but I just don't see where these changes are that are going to improve people's lives.

That's all we ask when we do a budget, that you don't just concentrate on the people who support you and the people who vote for you, but you concentrate on all Nova Scotians. The ones that need it the most are the ones who are so disenfranchised because they see nothing in this budget, and they see nothing in this government that reflects who they are and the struggles they're going through.

That is sad because they have - they could do the right thing here. We see the Premier change his mind on a whim any time there's pressure, so there's a little pressure now. Help the people who need it the most.

THE SPEAKER: The motion to resolve into a Committee of the Whole on Supply is now carried.

We will briefly recess for 15 minutes.

[5:49 p.m. The House resolved itself into CW on Supply with Chris Palmer in the Chair.]

[9:53 p.m. CW on Supply rose and the House reconvened. Deputy Speaker Lisa Lachance assumed the Chair.]

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

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

THE SPEAKER: Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. KIM MASLAND: Mx. Speaker, that concludes government business for the day. I move that the House do now rise and meet again on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Business will include the continuation of the Committee of the Whole on Supply to deal with Budget Estimates, second reading of Bills No. 149, 148, 147, 145, and 143; Committee of the Whole House on Bills No. 124, 123, 126, 134, 129, 131, 137, and 138; and third reading of Bill No. 118.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House rise to meet again on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We stand adjourned until April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

[The House rose at 9:55 p.m.]