



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

Speaker: Honourable Keith Bain

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
POINT OF ORDER	3927
GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION:	
Res. 413, Gould, Loretta: Airport Art Works Display - Congrats., Hon. K. MacFarlane.....	3928
Vote - Affirmative.....	3929
PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:	
Law Amendments Committee, Bill Nos. 210 and 211, Hon. B. Johns.....	3929
[GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION:]	
Res. 414, Intl. Day Against Climate Change: Crisis Impact - Recog., Hon. T. Halman.....	3929
Vote - Affirmative.....	3930
Res. 415, Doelle, Dr. Meinhard: Death of - Tribute, Hon. S. Craig.....	3930
Vote - Affirmative.....	3931
Res. 416, C.B. Intl. Students: Hurr. Supp. - Recog., Hon. B. Wong.....	3931

Vote - Affirmative.....	3932
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS:	
No. 231, An Act to Amend Nova Scotia Regulation 163/2002, the Veterans' Number Plates Regulations, F. Tilley.....	3932
No. 232, An Act to Amend Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2000, the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act, B. Clark.....	3932
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:	
Diwali: Hindu Festival - Recog., Hon. T. Houston (The Premier).....	3932
Zwicker, Mitch: Firefighting Awd. Recip. - Recog., Hon. Z. Churchill.....	3933
Mills, Betty Lou: Death of - Tribute, G. Burrill.....	3933
Reid, Jenna: Canada Summer Games Medal - Congrats., Hon. K. MacFarlane.....	3934
Uncle Buck's: 25 Yrs. in Bus. - Congrats., Hon. B. Maguire.....	3934
School Supp. Wkrs.: Strike - Solidarity, K. Coombes.....	3934
GOVRC Workshop: 50 th Anniv. - Congrats., Hon. T. Rushton.....	3935
Fairv.-Clayt. Pk. Farm. Mkt.: 2 nd Season - Congrats., Hon. P. Arab.....	3935
Treaty Truckhouse: Opening - Congrats., L. Lachance.....	3936
Pugwash: Coms. in Bloom Awd. Recip. - Congrats., E. Smith-McCrossin.....	3936
Daughter, Maria - Birthday Wishes, Hon. B. Comer.....	3937
Diwali: Hindu Festival - Recog., Hon. Z. Churchill.....	3937
Bennett, Geoff: Com. Serv. - Thanks, S. Leblanc.....	3937
Centenarians in Lun.: High No. - Recog., Hon. S. Corkum-Greek.....	3938
Staff and Voluns.: Cdn. Blood Serv. - Recog., A. Duale.....	3938
Dal. CUPE Strike: Demand for Living Wages - Recog., G. Burrill.....	3939
Uniacke & Dist. Fire Dept.: Firefighters Fair - Thanks, Hon. B. Johns.....	3939
Barr, Sandra: Bancroft Awd. Recip. - Congrats., Hon. K. Irving.....	3939
Horizon Achievement Ctr.: Grand Opening - Congrats.,	

K. Coombes.....	3940
Baglole, Richard: EMS Exempl. Serv. Medal Recip. - Recog., Hon. B. Druhan	3940
Diwali: Hindu Festival - Recog., Hon. B. Jessome.....	3941
Treaty Day: Peace and Friendship Treaties - Recog., L. Lachance.....	3941
Friends of the Pug. Est. Grp.: Hurr. Cleanup - Recog., E. Smith-McCrossin.....	3942
Shields, Taya: Terry Fox Run Org. - Thanks, M. Sheehy-Richard	3942
Cromwell, Chelee: <i>Newbia</i> Publication - Congrats., L. Nicoll	3943
Kerr, Ann-Marie: Siminovitch Prize Nom. - Congrats., S. Leblanc	3943
Local Athletes: Summer Games Partic. - Congrats., Hon. S. Craig.....	3944
Ehsan, Mohammad: Bangl. Fest. Contribs. - Recog., R. DiCostanzo	3944
E. Hants Soccer Teams: Ch'ship Medals - Congrats., J.A. MacDonald	3944
RCL Ladies Aux. Branch 8: 95 th Anniv. - Congrats., F. Tilley.....	3945
Amero, Alex: Can. Games Partic. - Congrats., T. Taggart.....	3945
Comeau, Nadine: Mun. Counc. Election - Congrats., R. LeBlanc	3946
Peitzsche, Reece: QMJHL Draft Pick - Congrats., Hon. B. Wong	3946
Townsend, Emilie: Midd. Sports Wall of Fame Ind. - Congrats., C. Kerr.....	3946
Ryan, Ursula: Guys. & Area Dem. Supp. Grp. Creation - Congrats., Hon. G. Morrow.....	3947
Roach, Peyton: Advocacy for Disabled - Recog., Hon. I. Rankin.....	3948
Organizers: Barr. Axe Throwing Ch'ship - Congrats., N. Young.....	3948
Diwali: Hindu Festival - Recog., Hon. D. Mombourquette.....	3949
Sydney, Erin: Skate Park Fundraiser Org. - Recog., Hon. B. Adams.....	3949
Barb's Bench Walk: Dom. Viol. Awar. - Recog., Hon. B. Maguire	3950
Dig. Farmers & Artisans Market: 5 Yrs. of Success - Congrats., Hon. J. Balsler.....	3950
MSVU: 2022 Graduates - Congrats.,	

Hon. P. Arab	3950
STEPS on Arthur: Opening Delaney House - Congrats., D. Ritcey	3951
Bhardwaj, Vishal: Com. Serv. - Thanks, L. Nicoll	3951
Decker, Mark: Terry Fox Run Team Org. - Thanks, Hon. T. Halman.....	3952
LeBlanc, Olivia: Saving a Life with CPR - Thanks, Hon. C. LeBlanc	3953
Leger, Patricia: Walking School Bus Init. - Recog., R. DiCostanzo	3953
Celtic Colours Intl. Fest.: Celeb. of Culture - Recog., J. White	3954
HOUSE RESOLVED INTO CWH ON BILLS AT 6:05 P.M.	3954
HOUSE RECONVENED AT 11:59 P.M.	
ADJOURNMENT, House rose to meet again on Tue., Oct. 25 th at 11:00 a.m.	



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

Sixty-fourth General Assembly

First Session

5:00 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

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

HON. BRIAN WONG: Mr. Speaker, I actually have a point of order.

On October 19th the member for Northside-Westmount alleged that the FOIPOP Commissioner said the PC government violated Section 7. I don't believe he tabled the document that says that, because one doesn't exist.

Had the member looked at the dates covered by that request, he would find that it was the previous Liberal government that did not comply with Section 7. In fact, when the government came into office, there were 24 FOIPOP requests outstanding from the former two Liberal Premiers' Offices.

Furthermore, it took the FOIPOP team months to gain access to the records of the staff of the former two Premiers, because they did not provide them voluntarily.

I ask that the member either table his documents or retract his statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I will ask the member for Northside-Westmount if it was a quote that it be tabled. If he doesn't have the quote to table, it is not a point of order. We'll allow sufficient time for the honourable member, if he has it, to table it.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

RESOLUTION NO. 413

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

Whereas beautiful images depicting Mi'kmaw culture and traditions were created by Loretta Gould, a Mi'kmaq artist from Waycobah First Nation in Cape Breton, and are now on display for all to enjoy at Halifax Stanfield International Airport; and

Whereas the permanent display was installed on the windows of the airport's check-in hall, in honour of Mi'kmaq History Month, and showcases traditional Mi'kmaw art; and

Whereas the collection of 24 images illustrates themes of nature and the seven sacred teachings and will encourage Nova Scotians and visitors to learn more about the Mi'kmaq and Mi'kmaw culture;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly join me congratulating Loretta Gould and the Halifax International Airport Authority on this initiative and commit to finding opportunities to highlight Mi'kmaw artists and their work in our 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.

Before we move on with Government Notices of Motion, with the unanimous consent of the House, can we move back to Presenting Reports of Committees?

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

[PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. BRAD JOHNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members.

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. 210 - Regulations Act (amended).

Bill No. 211 - Builders' Lien Act (amended).

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.

[GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION]

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

RESOLUTION NO. 414

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

Whereas today is the International Day Against Climate Change, a day to recognize the harmful impacts of this urgent global crisis, which is impacting people around the world, including here in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas Nova Scotians are doing the hard work to respond to climate change, including developing and switching to sources of renewable energy, reducing their emissions, making their homes more energy-efficient, and preparing for the impacts of climate change; and

Whereas Nova Scotia has legislated targets and goals that are guiding us forward to take the action we must take, including closing coal-fired electricity plants, protecting more of our land to help capture and store carbon, reducing industrial and consumer emissions, and more, with the goal to achieve net zero by 2050;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House join me in reaffirming our commitment to work together to address climate change and ensure the health and sustainability of our planet, province, and communities.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

RESOLUTION NO. 415

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

Whereas Dr. Meinhard Doelle had a passion for learning and teaching and believed there were solutions for even the most complex issues, placing value on all perspectives; and

Whereas Dr. Doelle's leadership in environmental law and his contributions to our academic community will echo for generations in Nova Scotia and beyond; and

Whereas Dr. Doelle's work was instrumental in guiding the development of Nova Scotia's aquaculture regulatory framework and his support for its continuous improvement through ongoing conversations and planned involvement with the coastal classification system now under development was greatly appreciated;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House remember how Dr. Meinhard Doelle improved the quality of our environment and the lives of Nova Scotians and offer his family and friends our best in this difficult time.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed?

It is agreed.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Minister of Advanced Education.

RESOLUTION NO. 416

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

Whereas on September 23, 2022, a destructive storm, Hurricane Fiona, made landfall in Nova Scotia; and

Whereas approximately 450,000 Nova Scotians were without power as a result of the hurricane, including more than 65,000 Cape Bretoners; and

Whereas several Cape Breton international students responded by giving back to their community, cooking food on an open fire and serving hot meals and tea to thousands of people;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this Legislature acknowledge the generosity of these students, who continue to enrich our province with their customs, traditions, and kindness. We hope they will choose to stay in Nova Scotia after their studies.

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. 231 - An Act to Amend Nova Scotia Regulation 163/2002, the Veterans' Number Plates Regulations. (Fred Tilley)

Bill No. 232 - An Act to Amend Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2000, the Employment Support and Income Assistance Act. (Hon. Ben Jessome)

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

NOTICES OF MOTION

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou East.

DIWALI: HINDU FESTIVAL - RECOG.

HON. TIM HOUSTON (The Premier): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the celebration of the important annual Hindu festival of Diwali.

Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. In many Hindu communities, this festival also marks the commencement of the Hindu New Year.

The Hindu community of Nova Scotia has come a long way since the early 1960s. From a few hundred families then, the community has grown to a few thousand now, and continues to grow with every passing year. There are some Hindu families whose third generation continue to reside in this province.

Today, students from India are studying in various professional vocational programs in almost all universities and community colleges in the province. Many of these students make Nova Scotia their home and will permanently put roots here.

The Hindu community, besides positively enhancing the diversity of the province, has made and continues to make immense contributions to the economy of the province in many sectors, especially technology, education, health care, transportation, and retail.

I would like to ask the member of the House to join me in congratulating the Hindu community in Nova Scotia and wish them a happy and prosperous Diwali.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

ZWICKER, MITCH: FIREFIGHTING AWD. RECIP. - RECOG.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: Mr. Speaker, the Yarmouth Fire Department recently held its annual banquet and awards night.

After a long career with the fire department, Mitch Zwicker was presented with an award after retiring as a volunteer. The department said that this was a small token to thank Mitch for the many years of service that he gave to his community.

I'd like to ask this House to join me in thanking Mitch Zwicker for his many years of dedication to the safety of his community, congratulating him on his retirement, and wishing him a safe and healthy future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

MILLS, BETTY LOU: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE

GARY BURRILL: I wish to pay tribute to the late Betty Lou Mills, who passed away in New Glasgow on July 17th at the age of 84.

Betty Lou Mills worked at Michelin Tires Canada in Granton, Pictou County for 20 years, where she was a principal leader in the three attempts of the United Rubber Workers between 1977 and 1979 to organize a Michelin workers' union. The third of these attempts was met in December 1979 by the passage of the Michelin Bill, an anti-labour law, which required that a majority of all the workers at each site of a company with interdependent plants must simultaneously vote in favour in order to certify a union. The bill was enacted retroactively following a certification vote at the Granton plant, with the result that the votes of the Granton workers were never counted.

Betty Lou Mills's leadership in all the union drives at Michelin is prominently featured in the documentary *The Michelin Bill: The Workers' Story*. Her voice was heard and her courage is remembered.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West.

REID, JENNA: CANADA SUMMER GAMES MEDAL - CONGRATS.

HON. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Jenna Reid of Caribou on her silver medal in the javelin throw at the Canada Summer Games that took place in August.

Jenna played several sports while attending high school at Pictou Academy, including softball, soccer, and hockey. However, it was track and field that secured her a place on the Nova Scotia Canada Games team. Javelin is difficult to practice indoors, so during the winter months, Jenna focused on strength training and the technical aspects of throwing. Her medal-winning throw was 47.58 metres. Jenna currently attends Wofford College in South Carolina and competes as part of the Wofford Terriers track and field team.

Once again, I congratulate Jenna for her excellent showing as a member of Team Nova Scotia and for her silver medal. I wish Jenna continued success in track and field.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

UNCLE BUCK'S: 25 YRS. IN BUS. - CONGRATS.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Uncle Buck's of Spryfield on their 25 years in business. Uncle Buck's has delivered delicious food from one corner of the community to the other. Owner Ricky Tanner has stepped up time and time again to supply free food to the community in times of need. He's always only a phone call away to help with fundraisers and community events. Ricky T. and family, congratulations on 25 years in business, and here's to 25 more, bud.

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

SCHOOL SUPP. WKRS.: STRIKE - SOLIDARITY

KENDRA COOMBES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Birthday.

I rise today to express my solidarity with school support workers. School support workers are the glue that holds our schools and our classrooms together. Unfortunately, their wages are very low, and the pay varies depending on their locations. Today, more than 600 workers from the Annapolis Regional Centre for Education walked off the job, and 160 workers at the South Shore Regional Centre for Education intend to follow suit tomorrow.

The support workers include educational assistants, student assistants, student support workers, library support workers, and early childhood educators. I wish to express my solidarity with the members of NSGEU.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

GOVRC WORKSHOP: 50th ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Happy Birthday. Maybe the Leafs can make it past first round this year for you on your 70th.

THE SPEAKER: Order, please. (Laughter) You're beginning to push it.

The honourable member for Cumberland South.

TORY RUSHTON: In all honestly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the GOVRC workshop in Springhill on their 50th anniversary. The GOVRC workshop is a vocational training facility in the Springhill Industrial Park for intellectually challenged adults. They are a non-profit organization providing work for these individuals so that they may lead productive lives.

The goal of the GOVRC is to develop potential in a work environment to make it easier for these workers to move toward employment in the community.

Please join me in congratulating the GOVRC workshop in Springhill on 50 years of service to the community and for their dedication to their clients' needs. I hope to see them in the greenhouse next Spring.

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

FAIRV.-CLAYT. PARK FARM. MKT.: 2ND SEASON - CONGRATS.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: I'm going to try this again: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker.

I want to extend congratulations to the Fairview-Clayton Park Farmers' Market on its successful second season. This small but mighty market has a great selection of local crafters, producers, bakers, artists, and community groups. When you shop at the indoor-outdoor market, you are greeted with the musical stylings of the resident musicians, Jeff and Gary, who always keep the shoppers entertained.

This small business could not have been so successful without the support of our local arena, Centennial Arena, and all the staff who helped out each week, including some whom those in this Chamber may know already. Volunteer and planner extraordinaire Debbie MacKinnon has ensured that a variety of goods and services was available, and was always there to greet you with a smile. While the weekly market may be over, you can now shop for local items at the Fall craft show and fundraiser coming up on November 24th.

I want to extend my appreciation to Deb for her continued service in our community and for ensuring that all the local small businesses have a place to shine.

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

TREATY TRUCKHOUSE: OPENING - CONGRATS.

LISA LACHANCE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to recognize a milestone for the Mi'kmaw community in my constituency.

The Treaty Truckhouse is a new enterprise that just opened on the waterfront here in Kjiptuk. It is a Mi'kmaw-run store and gathering spot where Indigenous creators and businesspeople can display, promote, and sell their work to visitors.

Beyond the business aspect, truckhouses are an important place for Indigenous communities. They are provided for in the 1752 Peace and Friendship Treaty as a type of trading post for Indigenous communities to exchange goods and supplies. In recent years, they have acted as a way for them to exercise their rights to remain on land and advocate for important causes. This modern-day reimagination of the truckhouse is a fusion of old and new that provides another way for settlers and their descendants to consider the meaning of reconciliation.

I ask all my fellow members to join me in congratulating the Treaty Truckhouse for opening up a new channel where the Mi'kmaw community can showcase its arts and culture.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

PUGWASH: COMS. IN BLOOM AWD. RECIP. - CONGRATS.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Village of Pugwash. The Village of Pugwash was the winner of the Class of Champions Small Category in Communities in Bloom this year.

They received a rating of five blooms, silver, and a special mention for prospering partnerships during the 2022 National and International Symposium, an awards ceremony in Victoria, British Columbia.

The Village of Pugwash was in competition with Kinistino, Saskatchewan. The community also received an Outstanding Achievement Award for the Communities in Bloom Community Involvement Award. The Village of Pugwash is a beautiful place, and the residents take pride in this. Pugwash is one of the many gems in my constituency of Cumberland North, and I am very proud of their accomplishment. It is truly a community in bloom. Please join me today in congratulating the Village of Pugwash.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton East.

DAUGHTER, MARIA - BIRTHDAY WISHES

HON. BRIAN COMER: Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of birthdays, I'd like to acknowledge my daughter Maria. I think she's watching Legislative TV for the first time this evening. God love her if she's starting that tonight.

Earlier this month she celebrated her fifth birthday. I certainly miss you, Maria. We had a really good time at your party. I know her little brother Johnny is watching. He doesn't know what's going on, but that's okay. I miss you too.

I'd also like to acknowledge my beautiful wife Jennifer. We had our eighth anniversary earlier this month. I just want to acknowledge, with all the members, we all sacrifice a lot to be here for our families and our communities. I just want to acknowledge all of our families. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: It certainly appears with all these celebrations, it's going to be one big party in Cape Breton pretty soon.

The honourable member for Yarmouth.

DIWALI: HINDU FESTIVAL - RECOG.

HON. ZACH CHURCHILL: I'd like to wish Happy Diwali to all Nova Scotians. Diwali is one of the most popular festivals in Hinduism. It symbolizes the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

Nova Scotia is home to thousands of Hindus who are our friends, family, and co-workers. On this holiest of days, I wish all love and light.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

BENNETT, GEOFF: COM. SERV. - THANKS

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring the attention of the House to a resident of Dartmouth North, Geoff Bennett, who gives of his time and talents to many important causes.

I first met Geoff when he delivered a Christmas tree to my home, which I had bought as a fundraiser for the Banook Canoe Club. He regularly volunteers for events at the club, and this past weekend Geoff was named the inaugural recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award at Banook.

Geoff is a past president and current facility director on the board of directors, and he was instrumental in helping Banook receive an important grant from the Province for a very exciting revitalization project. In his time away from Banook, Geoff is an operating room nurse at the IWK. In his time away from the IWK, he is part of the Canadian Rwanda Open Heart Project, where he visits Rwanda with a surgical team which performs heart surgeries on children. He is helping Rwanda establish its first independent open heart surgery program.

I ask all members of the House to join me in thanking Geoff Bennett for his enormous contribution to life in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and beyond.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

CENTENARIANS IN LUN.: HIGH NO. - RECOG.

HON. SUSAN CORKUM-GREEK: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a scientifically documented phenomenon relating to the area I serve.

Lunenburg County is known as one of three areas of the world with the highest number of centenarians, or people who live to 100 years of age. Over the past few weeks, I have personally extended birthday greetings to Kay Genge of Mahone Bay, Atwood Meisner of New Germany, Frances Feindel of Lunenburg, and Myrtle Taylor, formerly of Barss Corner, on her - wait for it - 107th birthday this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, although I hold out little hope of ever joining this prestigious club, I continue to be inspired by these incredible citizens, and their experiences and stories.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

STAFF & VOLUNS.: CDN. BLOOD SERV. - RECOG.

ALI DUALE: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker.

I'm very proud to have the Halifax Canadian Blood Services donation centre within my constituency of Halifax Armdale. I would like to recognize the centre's staff and volunteers who help facilitate this service. If you can donate blood, please book an appointment with the centre. You could help save a child battling cancer or help a mother recovering from giving birth.

The Canadian Blood Services do amazing work, and I'm proud to bring attention to their efforts.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

DAL. CUPE STRIKE: DEMAND FOR LIVING WAGES - RECOG.

GARY BURRILL: Mr. Speaker, today is Day 6 in the CUPE strike at Dal, where the 1,500 members of local 3912 have been on strike since last Wednesday in an effort to get the university to pay living wages to teaching assistants, markers, demonstrators, and part-time faculty. Picket locations are moving daily in the strike. Today's location is the Rowe Management Building on University Avenue, where this morning picketers heard from Danny Cavanagh, president of the Federation of Labour; as well as poet, professor, and activist El Jones; and Dal's NDP MLA, the member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island, among others.

All three spoke about the profound unfairness of a situation where wages for union members have not increased since 2019, while administrative and senior staff have received increases close to 8 per cent - 13 per cent, in the case of the university's president. Local 3912's slogan in the strike is Living Wages for Living Here. Sounds pretty reasonable to me.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Uniacke.

UNIACKE & DIST. FIRE DEPT.: FIREFIGHTERS FAIR - THANKS

HON. BRAD JOHNS: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another successful firefighters' fair in Mount Uniacke District Fire Department. After a two-year pause during the pandemic, this year's firefighters' fair, held on June 24th and 25th, promised and delivered fun activities for everyone, including fair rides, booths, bingo, a parade and a dance to wrap up the weekend and wonderful festivities for all.

I would like take an opportunity to thank all those who attended this weekend of fun in support of the Uniacke District Fire Department. I would also like to take an opportunity to extend my gratitude to the volunteer firefighters for continuously giving back to their community, whether it be through events like this volunteer firefighters' fair, or by working hard keeping residents of Uniacke safe every day.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

BARR, SANDRA: BANCROFT AWD. RECIP. - CONGRATS.

HON. KEITH IRVING: Mr. Speaker, from all the constituents of Kings South, Happy Birthday.

Mr. Speaker, Sandra Barr is a geologist and professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at Acadian University and has compiled a remarkable career. Sandra has mapped the geology of nearly half the Maritimes, taught thousands of students,

has hundreds of publications, and co-authored books on the geology of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

[5:30 p.m.]

To add to her many accolades, Sandra was recently named the 2022 recipient of the Bancroft Award by the Royal Society of Canada. This biennial award is given for publication, instruction, and research in the Earth sciences that have conspicuously contributed to the public understanding and appreciation of the subject.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Sandra Barr on this prestigious award and wish her continued success in her research, teaching, and academic endeavours.

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

HORIZON ACHIEV. CTR.: GRAND OPENING - CONGRATS.

KENDRA COOMBES: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Horizon Achievement Centre, now located at Harbourside Commercial Park. Designed and built with the clients' needs in mind, the building will help create and improve the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities by providing vocational training and employment opportunities.

On October 17th the member for Sydney-Membertou and I had the distinct pleasure and honour to be at Horizon Achievement Centre's grand opening. It was an emotional day for everyone, myself included. On November 4th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., they will have an open house.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this House to join me in welcoming the clients and staff of Horizon Achievement Centre home.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg West.

BAGLOLE, RICHARD: EMS EXEMPL. SERV. MEDAL RECIP. - RECOG.

HON. BECKY DRUHAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Baglole of Conquerall Bank, who is one of 23 Nova Scotia paramedics awarded the Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal in 2022 for dedication to the health and safety of all Nova Scotians. The award recognizes professionals who perform their duties in an exemplary manner.

Richard is a primary care paramedic who is in his fortieth year of service. He started in 1983 with Mahone Funeral and Ambulance Service for summer employment and never left. The Emergency Medical Care district operations supervisor, Greg Bayers, says that Richard is a wealth of knowledge in paramedicine, a mentor to younger paramedics, and helps his peers manage their stress after a tough call. He personifies the reason why this award was created.

Richard has been a senior operations paramedic and a platoon supervisor since 2000. He has also been a member of the EMC peer and family support team since 2011 and volunteers on various committees.

I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in thanking Richard Baglole for his dedication to his profession and community.

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

DIWALI: HINDU FESTIVAL - RECOG.

HON. BEN JESSOME: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to wish all Nova Scotians a happy Diwali. I was pleased this weekend to attend an event held at the Halifax Exhibition Centre put on by the Nova Multifest Society, Utsav Events, and the Maritime Multicultural Society. There were literally hundreds of people there.

It was a wonderful celebration supporting family, sharing food, drinks, music, culture. It was lovely. My wonderful colleague from Clayton Park West was there as well, amongst a couple of other notable people.

Again, I just wanted to take this moment to extend my happiness and wish everybody happy Diwali.

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

TREATY DAY: PEACE & FRIENDSHIP TREATIES - RECOG.

LISA LACHANCE: Mr. Speaker, as Mi'kmaq History Month draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the Treaty Day celebrations being held here at Kjiptuk. While we would normally mark this occasion on the first day of October, Hurricane Fiona led to it being held today.

In 1986, Grand Chief Donald Marshall, Sr. proclaimed every October 1st as Treaty Day to recognize the signing of the peace and friendship treaties between settlers and Mi'kmaw people. To this day we all share a duty to uphold the treaties in our consideration of the land we live on and use.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in reflecting on the meaning of Treaty Day and our roles in this long-standing agreement and encouraging anyone who is able to attend to go to the celebration taking place tonight at Pier 21 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

FRIENDS OF THE PUG. EST. GRP.: HURR. CLEANUP - RECOG.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Friends of the Pugwash Estuary group for getting together and cleaning up the trails after Hurricane Fiona made them unrecognizable and not accessible. They have already made significant headway, but it will take some people helping to get the trails back for people to enjoy them.

I am proud to have this group, who are passionate about these trails, in my constituency of Cumberland North. They take much pride and joy in the Pugwash Estuary and its environment and care for this special place to make it look beautiful again.

Today, join me in thanking the Friends of the Pugwash Estuary for their continued care of the land.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants West.

SHIELDS, TAYA: TERRY FOX RUN ORG. - THANKS

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Taya Shields on her role as the organizer for our community's annual Terry Fox Run. Every year in September citizens of West Hants and beyond gather at King's-Edgehill School, where Taya is both a teacher and an administrator, to partake in the run. Taya has been devoted and dedicated to this cause for over 30 years. Many volunteers are required to make the event a successful one, but she really is the glue that holds it all together.

This year on September 23rd, our run made history by breaking all previous records for funds raised for the cause. Taya and her team of volunteers, along with everyone who participated in the event, raised over \$50,000. Taya's dedication and her ability to pull the community together and raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation is remarkable.

Taya is a true role model who dedicates her time selflessly to the event year after year, showing strong leadership, and making the run a success for our community. I ask that all members of the Legislature going me in thanking Taya for her commitment to not only this event, but to our community.

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

CROMWELL, CHELEE: NEWBIA PUBLICATION - CONGRATS.

LORELEI NICOLL: Mr. Speaker, today I stand to recognize an independent and noble author. Chelee Cromwell is the first Black woman from Nova Scotia to have published a sci-fi fantasy romance book series.

Newbia is a science fiction fantasy romance story rated 18+ that she dreamed up from two continuous months in the year of 2009. Ten years later, Chelee published *Newbia*. Two weeks after publication, *Newbia* went worldwide, selling as far away as Norway and in three third-world countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Bahamas.

After receiving her very own copy of *Newbia*, she was once again inspired and began to dream again, creating *Newbia 2: The Chronicles Continue*. Fortunately, she is still dreaming Book No. 3 and it is on its way. Chelee's books are available worldwide through Amazon, Chapters, Indigo, and locally in stores including Cole Harbour-Dartmouth's Dartmouth Book Exchange and Selby's Bunker Coffee & Gifts.

I'm looking forward to more of Chelee's dreams coming to fruition.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

KERR, ANN-MARIE: SIMINOVITCH PRIZE NOM. - CONGRATS.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my very excellent friend and artistic colleague Ann-Marie Kerr on being short-listed for the prestigious Siminovitch Prize in theatre directing.

The Siminovitch Prize "celebrates a professional mid-career director, playwright, or designer whose work is transformative and influential. The Prize also recognizes the importance of mentorship to support emerging talent: the Laureate receives \$75,000 and selects a Protégé who receives \$25,000."

This year, Ann-Marie is nominated along with Vancouver's Sherry Yoon, Quebec's Marie Brassard, and Toronto's Ravi Jain. She is indeed in excellent company.

Ann-Marie is very deserving of this honour. She's generous, inventive, driven, and funny. She fosters true collaboration with the teams that she works with. She's been the creative lead on many award-winning and popular shows with 2b, Heist, the Theatre Centre in Toronto, Crow's Theatre, and Zuppa Theatre with *The Debacle*, which I had the great pleasure of co-creating with her.

She's toured around the world and it's impossible to know how many people have been touched by her theatrical magic. Everyone please wish her a huge congratulations.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

LOCAL ATHLETES: SUMMER GAMES PARTIC. - CONGRATS.

HON. STEVE CRAIG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the athletes who attended the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

These games bring together more than 2,000 young developing athletes from across Canada to compete in the nation's largest multi-sport event. They provide the opportunity for all participants to showcase their athleticism, dedication, and commitment to their sport.

I would like to personally congratulate those who attended from Lower Sackville. In the sport of wrestling, Myah Jackson, Julian Briand, Akwaima Akpan, and Breton Maloney; in rugby, Lauren Maye; softball, Maddy Rogers; soccer, Jamie Provo, and in box lacrosse, Maddi Hamilton and Madison Rossong.

I would like to ask that all Members of the House of Assembly join me in congratulating the athletes on a job well done, along with their coaches and families for their continued support and encouragement.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

EHSAN, MOHAMMAD: BANGL. FEST. CONTRIBS. - RECOG.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mohammad Ehsan for his contributions to the Bangladesh Festival.

In August of this year, the Bangladesh Festival took place in Nova Scotia for the first time. I was happy to attend and speak at this event and many of my colleagues were there as well. Mohammad Ehsan helped ensure its success. It was a grand celebration of the rich culture of Bangladesh through music, dance, art, and food.

I would ask that the House join me in recognizing Mr. Ehsan for his great contributions to the Bangladesh Festival and I look forward to next year's festival. Thank you, Mohammad.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

E. HANTS SOCCER TEAMS: CH'SHIP MEDALS - CONGRATS.

JOHN A. MACDONALD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate both the East Hants Boys and Girls Under 18 soccer teams for hosting the Nova Scotia Soccer Championships at the East Hants Sportsplex fieldhouse in Lantz from August 26th to 28th.

Both teams had a successful season, which prepared them for the challenges faced in the championship tournament. Both teams won their tournaments to capture gold; however, it wasn't easy. The teams both had an intense five-player penalty shootout to determine the winner of the final games.

I'd like to extend my congratulations to both the boys and girls Under-18 soccer teams on their gold medals, and as well thank all of the volunteers who made the tournament possible. Events like this take a lot of support from the volunteers who work countless hours to ensure everything runs smoothly.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Northside-Westmount.

RCL LADIES AUX. BRANCH 8: 95TH ANNIV. - CONGRATS.

FRED TILLEY: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday evening I had the honour and privilege to be the guest speaker at the 95th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 8 in Sydney Mines.

This is the oldest active Ladies Auxiliary in Canada. It was a wonderful event, and I would like to send my congratulations to the co-chairs, Debbie Milly and Wendy Fraser, for putting on an amazing evening in celebration of the members of the Ladies Auxiliary of Branch 8 Legion in Sydney Mines.

Congratulations, and I can't wait for another five years and the 100th anniversary.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Colchester North.

AMERO, ALEX: CAN. GAMES PARTIC. - CONGRATS.

TOM TAGGART: I must say, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a theme here tonight, congratulating great young athletes from Nova Scotia.

The Canada Games bring together more than 2,000 athletes for the largest amateur multi-sport event in the country. Residents of Colchester North are very proud of the athletes from our communities who participated in the Games this past August in Niagara.

Alex Amero, a 21-year-old athlete from Valley, competed in the 2022 Canada Games in the areas of javelin and discus. Alex also competed in the 2019 Canadian national championships in Montreal.

I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in letting Alex know how impressed we are with his accomplishments.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

COMEAU, NADINE: MUN. COUNC. ELECTION - CONGRATS.

RONNIE LEBLANC: Mr. Speaker, last November the Municipality of Clare held a by-election to fill the seat left empty after the last provincial election. The new member of council is Nadine Comeau, a financial services officer at the Caisse populaire de Clare who lives in Meteghan with her husband Carl and her son Nathan.

Nadine has always been involved in her community and is presently the treasurer of the organizing committee and the president of the Saulnier Family Reunion for the Congrès mondial acadien 2024 and the president of the Clare Curling Club. Currently, Nadine is the only female member of council.

I ask that all members join me in congratulating Nadine Comeau for her recent election to the Municipal Council of Clare, a result that will hopefully encourage more women to run for elected office. Merci.

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

PEITZSCHE, REECE: QMJHL DRAFT PICK - CONGRATS.

HON. BRIAN WONG: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a young hockey player for being the 29th overall draft pick during the QMJHL draft. Reece Peitzsche was the first Nova Scotian to be chosen.

Not only was Reece selected in the second round by the Halifax Mooseheads, but he also fought through training camp to make the 2022-23 roster.

Reece finished seventh in scoring in the Nova Scotia Under-18 league for the Cole Harbour Wolfpack, which is a great accomplishment. The Mooseheads general manager is already excited about this Beaver Bank native.

Reece will be joined by fellow Beaver Banker Jake Todd on the Halifax Mooseheads' roster for the 2022-23 season.

Please help me congratulate Reece on his hockey talents and wish him the best of luck in his bright future.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Annapolis.

TOWNSEND, EMILIE: MIDD. SPORTS WALL OF FAME IND. - CONGRATS.

CARMAN KERR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Happy Birthday on behalf of everyone in Annapolis.

Last month the Middleton Sports Heritage Wall of Fame held their 23rd annual induction ceremony. One of these very deserving inductees was Emilie Christine Townsend.

Emilie began participating in judo when she was just six years old and started taking home medals from significant competitions when she was nine. As she continued with the sport, she consistently achieved tremendous success at very high-level competitions. Some of the highlights include gold at the Nova Scotia Provincials and bronze at the Atlantic Open in 2016; gold in the Eastern Champions and silver at the Atlantic Open in 2017; and gold at the Atlantic Championships and fifth place at the National Championships in 2018.

In 2021-22, she placed fourth at the National Open Championship, and in 2022, she received the Sport Nova Scotia Judo Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

I invite all members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Emilie on being inducted into the Middleton Sports Heritage Wall of Fame.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Guysborough-Tracadie.

**RYAN, URSULA: GUYS. & AREA DEM. SUPP. GRP. CREATION -
CONGRATS.**

HON. GREG MORROW: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker. As a fellow Leafs fan, we know it takes more than a cheap, tired, lazy shot from the member for Cumberland South to hurt us. Our team can do that for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ursula Ryan of Guysborough. In Spring, Ursula started the Guysborough and Area Dementia Support Group.

Ursula saw a need in her community for supports for caregivers, family, and friends who care and help support loved ones who are living with dementia and dementia-related illness. What started as a group of caregivers gathering to chat and share their stories and challenges in a safe and understanding environment, has now, seven months later, grown to having guest speakers from various networks within the community who can offer advice and additional supports for this large group.

Ursula's goal is to make Guysborough and area a dementia-friendly community. She hosted a dementia café this past September which provided a fun, positive, and safe gathering place with music and entertainment. Another is scheduled for December.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ursula Ryan on her passion for helping her community and her caring for those who may often suffer in isolation while trying to care for a loved one of their own.

[5:45 p.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

ROACH, PEYTON: ADVOCACY FOR DISABLED - RECOG.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peyton Roach. I first met Peyton back in 2014, when he was 10 years old, and I was a very young MLA. Even as a youth Peyton was full of positive energy and optimism as he worked with the assistance of his family, and we all worked together to improve the accessibility of the BLT Elementary School in Timberlea.

With his activism, Peyton was able to open doors, making sure persons with disabilities had the same chances and access as everyone else. His call for change resulted in the installation of an automatic door opener, an asphalt ramp to the sports field, and a temporary track system designed for Peyton to be able to get to the second level of the school to join his classmates. Eventually, his advocacy for improvements in accessibility also resulted in a chair lift being installed at the school.

It's hard to believe that this past June, Peyton graduated from Bayview High School. With that accomplishment, some scholarships went his way in recognition of the many barriers he has overcome to achieve this milestone event.

I would like the members of the House of Assembly to join me in congratulating Peyton for championing inclusive features and accessible designs that will benefit everyone.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Shelburne.

ORGANIZERS: BARR. AXE THROWING CH'SHIP - CONGRATS.

NOLAN YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the organizers of the World Double-bit Axe Throwing Championship held recently in Barrington, the Lobster Capital of Canada

This event, which hosted double-bit axe throwers from 10 countries around the world, was a huge success in large part due to the efforts of our local world champion throwers, Darren Hudson and Suzy Atwood. Special thanks as well to the Nova Scotia Lumberjack Society who, since their founding in 2016, have had an impact of over three quarters of a million dollars to the Nova Scotia economy.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask all members of this House to join me in congratulating and thanking all organizers and participants in this successful event in Barrington.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sydney-Membertou.

DIWALI: HINDU FESTIVAL - RECOG.

HON. DEREK MOMBOURQUETTE: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker, from the Montreal Canadiens.

Mr. Speaker, last night I had the opportunity to participate in Diwali events in Sydney, which saw well over 800 participants, students, and members from the community come together and celebrate. It was a great night for many students at Cape Breton University to showcase their culture and their talent and the story of the international students at home.

They have really changed our community. Their generosity has been amazing. They are just as much Cape Bretoners as the rest of us. We owe them a debt of gratitude not only for the support that they provided during Hurricane Fiona to their fellow students but also to the community at large. It was a great night to celebrate with everyone. As I said, it was a big event; there were over 800 there. To all of them, thank you so much for inviting me. Happy Diwali.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

SYDNEY, ERIN: SKATE PARK FUNDRAISER ORG. - RECOG.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to community member Erin Sydney for her hard work and devotion to upgrading our Eastern Passage skate park. Erin, family, and volunteers organized a fundraiser event at the skate park that included music, face painting, skateboard and scooter tricks, pizza, cold drinks, and more.

She was very proud to announce that through kind donations the event was a great success, raising \$1,580.25. These funds will go directly toward the much-needed upgrades that the skate park needs in order to remain safe.

I ask all members of the Nova Scotia legislature to join me in recognizing Erin Sidney and her team of volunteers for their efforts and time donated to giving back to our community. For this, we thank you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

BARB'S BENCH WALK: DOM. VIOL. AWAR. - RECOG.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: This past Sunday saw the annual Barb's Bench Walk. Barb Baillie tragically lost her life decades ago to domestic violence, an incident that rocked the community of Spryfield.

Barb's children never let her memory fade and worked to bring forward Barb's Benches in remembrance of Barb. To the Ballies, the community loves you, and your mom is so proud of each and every one of you. Your mom is looking down on you and we all love you.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Digby-Annapolis.

DIG. FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET: 5 YRS. OF SUCCESS - CONGRATS.

HON. JILL BALSER: I rise today to bring recognition to Digby's Local Farmers' and Artisans' Market.

The market is located on Admiral Walk, overlooking the beautiful Annapolis Basin in downtown Digby. It operates throughout the Summer months and early Fall. Every Friday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., local residents and tourists visit the market to support local businesses.

The Digby Farmers' and Artisans' Market is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has been running for the last five years. Since its opening, Market President Nancy Mackin manages its operations. Over the years she has devoted her time to making the market a success. From starting out small to expanding its boundaries, Nancy and the board members have certainly provided a safe, affordable, and positive environment for everyone.

I would like to congratulate the Digby Farmers and Artisans Market on five years of success. I am extremely happy and proud to see the market continue to grow, and I can't wait to see what next year brings.

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

MSVU: 2022 GRADUATES - CONGRATS.

HON. PATRICIA ARAB: I rise today to congratulate the 475 new graduates from 16 countries who crossed the stage at Mount Saint Vincent University's Fall convocation over the weekend.

Students from four faculties were awarded certificates, diplomas, and degrees from the arts, science, education, and professional programs, and a network of more than 36,000

Mount alumni worldwide. Dr. Joël Dickinson, President and Vice-Chancellor, gave her first address to graduating students, reminding them that as leaders and changemakers, the world has never needed them more.

I'm excited to see how these new alumni are going to change the world around them, and I ask all members of this House to join me in congratulating this tremendous achievement and welcome these graduates into the best alumni group around.

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

STEPS ON ARTHUR: OPENING DELANEY HOUSE - CONGRATS.

DAVE RITCEY: Mr. Speaker, Happy Birthday to you. I won't comment on the Toronto Maple Leafs. The Boston Bruins are a pretty good team too.

I am proud to bring attention to an amazing community organization, STEPs on Arthur, and to congratulate them on their expansion, Delaney House.

STEPS supports training employment programs and offers vocational programs designed to promote independence and employability skills to adults with intellectual disabilities. Delaney House utilizes a revitalized neighbouring property to expand the New To You Thrift Store and Café and create six residential apartments for clients.

These safe and affordable apartments are offered exclusively to STEPs clients, and present a unique social support system to alleviate some of the significant social isolation commonly felt by many with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you, STEPs on Arthur, for the important work you do in our community and congratulations on the opening of Delaney House.

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

BHARHWAJ, VISHAL: COM. SERV. - THANKS

LORELEI NICOLL: I rise today to speak about committed community volunteer: Vishal Bharhwaj. He has served our community through the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, Portland Estates and Hills Residents Association, Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and HRM's Special Events Advisory Committee.

Vishal founded the Nova Multifest Society and brought back the Multicultural Festival to HRM. Leading many initiatives and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars, Vishal supports fellow Canadians in need and celebrates diversity and culture. He raised

\$27,000 for the Heal India campaign to help Indian Red Cross to support COVID-19 efforts in India.

He raised \$53,000, donating free groceries to people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, raised \$120,000 for a new playground for Dartmouth Academy, raised \$20,000 for Fort McMurray fire relief, raised \$20,000 for Nepal earthquake relief, helped collect clothes and shoes for Haiti earthquake relief, helped raise \$200,000 for Vedanta Ashram Society.

I wish to thank Vishal Bhardwaj for his valuable contributions in supporting people and communities near and far.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou West on an introduction.

HON. KARLA MACFARLANE: Mr. Speaker, if I can draw your attention to the West Gallery here, we have a wonderful international student here, 17 years old - Francesca Torta from Italy. I am sure I am pronouncing her last name wrong, but she is with her mom host, Pam Osborne, who many of us know.

Francisca has been able to already sail on *Bluenose II*, she has been to lots of Victoria Park, and she even slept through her first hurricane here in Nova Scotia. If we could just welcome her, that would be lovely. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: On behalf of everyone here at the Legislature, we want to welcome you. You are so much of a part of living in Canada right now, it's unreal, maybe you should stay. Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening.

The honourable member for Dartmouth East.

DECKER, MARK: TERRY FOX RUN TEAM ORG. - THANKS

HON. TIMOTHY HALMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Happy Birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend Mark Decker. For the past five years, Mark has helped to organize a team for the Dartmouth Terry Fox Run. Since 2018 he has helped organize the Better Together team run and has helped with putting up signage, delivering flyers, and selling Terry Fox T-shirts.

When the pandemic hit, Mark and his housemates organized and promoted a COVID-19-safe neighbourhood run in the Woodlawn area. In addition to his volunteerism with Terry Fox, Mark is also very involved with the Centennial Legion poppy campaign and Remembrance Day services.

Last year a total of 81 volunteers joined Better Together for a poppy station shift, veterans' graveside decorating, poppy donation tins re-labelling, and a Remembrance Day service for Oakwood Terrace.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Mark for his dedication to the Terry Fox Run and the Centennial Legion.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Argyle.

LEBLANC, OLIVIA: SAVING A LIFE WITH CPR - THANKS

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: Happy Birthday, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commend 16-year-old Olivia LeBlanc, whose quick and heroic actions saved a life. On August 14, 2022, while at work she was alerted that an elderly gentleman was in distress. After finding the man unresponsive, she immediately started CPR and, with the help of his family members, continued until the West Pubnico Fire Department's medical first responders and paramedics arrived. He was then transported to the Yarmouth hospital and airlifted to Halifax, where he continued to improve.

I ask all members of this House to join me in thanking Olivia for her quick actions. Early CPR is a key link in the chain of survival and Olivia's quick intervention contributed to the positive outcome.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clayton Park West.

LEGER, PATRICIA: WALKING SCHOOL BUS INIT. - RECOG.

RAFAH DICOSTANZO: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia Leger for her community involvement. Ms. Leger has just recently become the Rockingham Elementary School's principal. I would like to express my appreciation for her enthusiastic support of the Walking School Bus initiative, an initiative that encourages children to walk to school for physical well-being and for alleviation of the traffic with the drop-off and pick-up at our school, which is a big issue around Rockingham School.

Recently, on World Teachers' Day, I dropped in during recess to thank the teachers at Rockingham Elementary School and to welcome Ms. Leger into her new role at this school.

I would ask that the House join me in recognizing Ms. Leger for her contributions to the Rockingham School community. Thank you, Patricia.

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

CELTIC COLOURS INTL. FEST.: CELEB. OF CULTURE - RECOG.

JOHN WHITE: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and celebrate the Celtic Colours International Festival. The 2022 festival opened on October 7th, only two weeks after Hurricane Fiona devastated much of Cape Breton Island. The first responders in the audience were recognized for their dedication in keeping people safe and helping us recover from Hurricane Fiona.

The festival is truly remarkable for the way it brings people together and celebrates our culture, cuisine, and beautiful landscapes. Celtic Colours brings the world to Cape Breton Island and our culture to the world.

Mr. Speaker, after the pandemic and then the hurricane, this year's event seemed to be just what the residents needed. Celtic Colours is an island-wide celebration, with activities happening in more than 60 communities, and takes many volunteers to make it possible. I'd like to thank everyone who put so much effort into bringing this year's festival to life.

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 a Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

THE SPEAKER: The House will now resolve into the Committee of the Whole House on Bills. We'll take a short recess.

[6:00 p.m. The House recessed.]

[6:05 p.m. The House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on Bills with Deputy Speaker Lisa Lachance in the Chair.]

[11:59 p.m. CWH on Bills 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 Bills reports:

THE CLERK: That the Committee of the Whole House on Bills has made most significant progress on Bill No. 196 and begs leave to sit another day.

THE SPEAKER: The hour of adjournment has arrived.

The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 25th at 11:00 a.m.

[The House rose at 11:59 p.m.]