



## DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

**Speaker: Honourable Danielle Barkhouse**

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

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

### First Session

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

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**HALIFAX, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

**Sixty-fifth General Assembly**

**First Session**

**9:00 A.M.**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Danielle Barkhouse

**DEPUTY SPEAKERS**

John White, Marco MacLeod, Tom Taggart

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

**PRESENTING AND READING PETITIONS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Richmond.

HON. TREVOR BOUDREAU: I beg leave to table a petition from the residents of Nova Scotia who live and visit St. Peter's in Richmond County. The operative clause of the petition reads:

Whereas the Village of St. Peter's is located on Route 4, a provincial route that has higher levels of traffic than many other rural routes, particularly in tourism season, and;

Whereas the section of Route 4 that runs through the Village of St. Peter's is approximately 4km long and has only one designated crosswalk in the commercial/retail district with the highest density in Richmond County,

Therefore we, the undersigned residents of Nova Scotia with an interest in improving safety for residents and visitors in the Village of St. Peter's call upon the Minister of Public Works to:

- Create a new crosswalk in the Village of St. Peter's located at 10054 Grenville Street (near The Farmer's Pantry and Subway/Robins area),
- Create a new crosswalk at the Argyle Street/Toulouse Street and Grenville Street intersection (near the Foodland and SM Service Station area), and
- Make adjustments to the existing crosswalk at the Pepperell Street and Grenville Street intersection to improve visibility and safety.

There are 475 signatures on the petition and I have affixed my signature, as per the rules of the House.

THE SPEAKER: The petition is tabled.

#### **PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Justice.

HON. BECKY DRUHAN: I beg leave to table the amendments to Civil Procedure Rule 90, from the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

LINA HAMID: I beg leave to table a document. It is relating to yesterday.

THE SPEAKER: The report is tabled.

#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

#### **GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 20**

HON. COLTON LEBLANC: Madame la présidente, à une date ultérieure je demanderai l'adoption de la résolution suivante :

Attendu que le mois de mars est désigné comme étant le Mois de la francophonie pour célébrer les cultures, le patrimoine et la diversité de plus de 300 millions de francophones à travers le monde; et

Attendu que la langue française est parlée en Nouvelle-Écosse depuis plus de quatre siècles, soit depuis le premier établissement du peuple acadien à Port-Royal en 1605; et

Attendu qu'aujourd'hui plus de 100,000 Néo-Écossais parlent le français, dont 35,000 Acadiens, francophones, et nouveaux arrivants pour qu'il s'agit de leur langue maternelle;

Par conséquent, qu'il soit résolu que tous les membres de l'Assemblée législative se joignent à moi pour souligner le Mois de la francophonie pour rendre hommage aux communautés acadiennes et francophones prospères de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Madame la présidente, je demande l'adoption de cette résolution sans préavis et sans débat.

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

Whereas March is Francophonie Month, which celebrates the cultures, heritage, and diversity of more than 300 million French speakers around the world; and

Whereas the French language has been spoken in Nova Scotia for over four centuries, since the first settlement of Acadians in Port-Royal in 1605; and

Whereas today, more than 100,000 Nova Scotians speak French, including 35,000 Acadians, Francophones, and newcomers who speak it as their first language;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of the House Assembly join me in recognizing Francophonie Month and in honouring the thriving Acadian and Francophone communities in Nova Scotia.



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**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Speaker, may I make an introduction first?

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

IAIN RANKIN: In the gallery opposite, we have with us no stranger to this House, our town crier, Will Brewer, and his mother Allison is with him. Will has been involved with many boards. He's a fellow Mount Saint Vincent University Alumni and a good friend. Great to see Will. I'd ask him to rise and get the ovation of the House. (Applause)

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

**Bill No. 56 - An Act Respecting Down Syndrome. (Hon. Iain Rankin)**

**Bill No. 57 - An Act to Establish Down Syndrome Day. (Hon. Iain Rankin)**

**Bill No. 58 - An Act to Establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ Bill of Rights. (Lisa Lachance)**

**Bill No. 59 - An Act Respecting Physician Recruitment. (Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin)**

**Bill No. 60 - An Act to Provide for a Maritime Health Network. (Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin)**

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

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

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

Whereas for more than 200 years, Africville was home to a community of African Nova Scotians located on the shores of the Bedford Basin until the 1960s, when the City of Halifax obtained the Africville lands, causing residents to be relocated, resulting in the loss of community;

Whereas according to a 1973 *Africville Relocation Report Supplement* conducted by Donald H. Clairmont and Dennis W. Magill of the Institute of Public Affairs at Dalhousie University, “there was no organized Africville presence during the” mechanics “phase of relocation” and “Powerlessness and community strains characterized relocatee orientation at the community level”;

Whereas Section 3 of the Africville Act in 2005 stated: “The Government of the Province shall issue a public apology to former residents of Africville and their descendants for the destruction of Africville,” yet no such apology was issued by the provincial government on its own behalf, instead being left to Mayor Peter Kelly following the February 20<sup>th</sup> settlement in the case of Africville Genealogy Society et al. versus City of Halifax.

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly call on the government to immediately honour Section 3 of the Africville Act 2005 by issuing a public apology to former residents of Africville and their descendants for the destruction of Africville, and in said apology, recognize Africville for its aforementioned significance to Haligonian and Nova Scotian history.

I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

THE SPEAKER: It’s not an order to be read orally. It’s to be passed in to the Clerk’s table. I ask that you pass it to the Clerk’s table.

The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 21**

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

Whereas there are systems and policies in place that are prolonging gender gaps in Nova Scotia's health care system, effectively reducing women's and gender-diverse individuals' access to timely and appropriate care; and

Whereas there are clear solutions to many of the gender gaps that we face, such as making contraception and PrEP free, making additional screening available for those with dense breasts, and making HPV screening more accessible through an at-home testing approach; and

[9:15 a.m.]

Whereas there are elements in place that can be built upon to ensure equitable access, such as the Endometriosis and Chronic Pelvic Pain Clinic.

Therefore be it resolved that on a future day the House shall devote a period of no less than 40 minutes to debate the need to devote more energy to creating gender equity in our health care system by closing persistent gender gaps.

I request waiver of notice and passage without debate.

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed? I hear several Noes.

The notice is tabled.

The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 22**

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

Whereas the cost of rent across the province is increasing beyond what Nova Scotians can afford, in part because the current rent cap is set too high and in part because the current rent cap is riddled with loopholes that landlords abuse, such as the fixed-term lease loophole; and

Whereas the current Residential Tenancies Program offers little support for tenants who have abusive landlords demanding such

things as unlawful security deposits and application fees while also refusing to complete necessary repairs and building upkeep; and

Whereas it is expected that an expedited eviction timeline for non-payment of rent will soon be in place, which will allow landlords to begin the eviction process after three days of non-payment instead of 15 days and deny tenants the time that is needed to catch up on their rent;

Therefore be it resolved that on a future date, the House shall devote a period of no less than 40 minutes to debate the importance of reversing the current policy approach being taken and instead pursue policies that would enhance housing security for renters across Nova Scotia.

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

THE SPEAKER: There has been a request for waiver.

Is it agreed? I hear several Noes.

The notice is tabled.

#### **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

BARBARA ADAMS: I would draw everyone's attention to introduce my constituent Courtney Sherlock, Ally Pedvis, and Marilyn Burke from the Halifax Tides Football Club. I would ask them to rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

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

The honourable member for Eastern Passage.

#### **SHERLOCK, DR. COURTNEY: HFX. TIDES FOOTBALL CLUB - RECOG.**

HON. BARBARA ADAMS: I rise today to introduce an amazing new Nova Scotian named Jawslyn. She is the new mascot for the Halifax Tides Football Club, only

the second professional sports franchise in our capital city. The Tides are making history as one of six founding clubs in Canada's first-ever professional women's soccer league.

I am so very proud of my constituent, Dr. Courtney Sherlock, the co-founder and CEO of the Halifax Tides. I loved meeting Jawslyn and the team, which includes Sarah Taylor, Eva Frémeaux, Megumi Nakamura, Milly Clegg, Daphnée Blouin, Kiley Norkus, Syd Kennedy, Erin McLeod, Saorla Miller, Gianna Creighton, and Cristabel Oduro. Four of the players are right here from Nova Scotia.

I ask all Nova Scotians to join me in congratulating Courtney Sherlock and the Halifax Tides, and I encourage everyone to come out and join me on April 26<sup>th</sup> to cheer the team on to their first victory.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

KRISTA GALLAGHER: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction before reading my statement.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

KRISTA GALLAGHER: In the gallery this morning, I'm pleased to welcome Dr. Ahmad Hussein, representing the Ummah Mosque and Society. Dr. Hussein is the Vice Chairman of the Ummah Society and a three-time alumnus of Dalhousie University. I invite him to stand and received a warm welcome from the House this morning. (Applause)

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

The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

### **UMMAH MOSQUE: MUSLIM HUB - RECOG.**

KRISTA GALLAGHER: As the crescent moon has graced our skies and we welcome the month of Ramadan, I want to acknowledge a community heart in Halifax Chebucto: Ummah Mosque and Community Centre. Ummah Mosque is more than a place of worship. It is a pivotal hub of knowledge, refuge, charity, and celebration. An interfaith cornerstone in the area, Ummah Mosque offers a place where hearts come together, where friendships are forged, and where the spirit of togetherness is nurtured.

Ummah Society aims to educate, connect, and empower community members, with an emphasis on humanitarian aid and youth development. Ummah Mosque's membership of over 15,000 Muslims services 150,000 people per year with community centres across the province, including Antigonish and Wolfville.

I would like to thank the guest for his leadership that extends beyond religious duties, and I invite the House to rise in celebration of Ummah Mosque. Ramadan Kareem.

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

BRAD MCGOWAN: Speaker, before I read my statement, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

BRAD MCGOWAN: In the gallery today, I am honoured to introduce Patrick Cody from Row Nova Scotia. Pat, I would ask you to please stand and accept a warm welcome from the members of the Legislature. (Applause)

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

The honourable member for Cole Harbour-Dartmouth.

**CODY, PATRICK: PROVINCIAL ROWING COACH - THANKS**

BRAD MCGOWAN: Today I would like to recognize Patrick Cody, Row Nova Scotia's provincial rowing coach.

Operating locally out of Lake Banook, Pat has helped transform Nova Scotia's provincial rowing team into a nationally respected program. Row Nova Scotia now consistently produces medalists at the RCA National Championships and the Canada Games. As well, rowers from Nova Scotia now regularly represent Canada internationally, including three world champions and several international medalists.

Patrick has been the provincial rowing coach since 2011 and over the past 14 years he has done so much to help rowing grow and be integrated into the culture and identity of the Dartmouth community. Patrick also coached Minister Martin in the Row to Podium program. I know she's grateful for that.

I would ask members of this Legislature to please join me in thanking Patrick Cody for his exceptional work with Row Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

SUSAN LEBLANC: Speaker, may I make a quick introduction?

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I would like to draw the House's attention to the gallery opposite, where we have Jay Fisher, who last night cut the ribbon on his new photography studio in Dartmouth North, and I would love to ask Jay to rise and receive the warm welcome of the House. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Congratulations and welcome to the House. We hope that you enjoy your time here.

The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**FISHER, JAY: CAPTURE IT PHOTOGRAPHY - RECOG.**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success and community impact of Capture It Photography, founded by Jay Fisher after moving to Nova Scotia in 2020 with his partner, Ashley Groves. What began as a small business in Jay's living room has grown into one of HRM's go-to headshot studios, serving clients of all backgrounds with a welcoming and empowering approach.

Jay is known as the headshot photographer "for people who hate having their photo taken," making professional photography accessible and comfortable for all. His work supports not only individuals and businesses but also community organizations and charitable causes. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Capture It Photography, alongside the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, celebrated the opening of its expanded studio in Burnside, a place that will also make much-needed creative space available for other photographers and artists.

Capture It Photography is proudly Rainbow Registered and a certified diverse supplier, reinforcing its commitment to inclusion. I ask all members of this House to join me in congratulating Jay and Capture It Photography on this exciting milestone.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**RAMADAN: MUSLIM CELEBRATION - RECOG.**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Speaker, I also want to rise to recognize the holy month of Ramadan, as it is about to begin this evening: a sacred month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims in Nova Scotia and around the world.

Ramadan is an opportunity to strengthen faith, build community, and support those in need. I want to add my voice to my colleagues in this House in marking the beginning of Ramadan and in wishing our province's Muslim community a month of meaningful reflection, connection, and unity.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Lunenburg.

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MO.: ACHIEVEMENTS - RECOG.**

HON. SUSAN CORKUM-GREEK: Tomorrow marks the start of Women's History Month. I rise to celebrate the remarkable achievements of women in Nova Scotia and reflect on the progress made toward gender equality. It's a time to remember the

strength, resilience and leadership of women who have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations.

Here in Nova Scotia, PCs have been proud to support women and make history in the process. In 1960, Gladys Porter became the first woman elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and in 1985, Maxine Cochran - who represented the same riding that I do today - became the first female Cabinet Minister. In 2023, Karla MacFarlane made history as the first female Speaker of the House. We have now chosen our second female Speaker. In 2023, Twila Grosse became Nova Scotia's first female African Nova Scotian Cabinet Minister.

These women remind us that representation matters. Their achievements inspire us to continue working toward a future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. As we mark Women's History Month, let us honour their contributions and commit to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

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

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction relative to my Member Statement.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

LISA LACHANCE: Joining us in the gallery today, I am thrilled to welcome my brother-in-law and my sister-in-law, Tom Brosky and Michelle Riley. Please stand and accept a warm welcome from the House. (Applause)

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

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

**RILEY, MICHELLE: MUSIC TEACHER - RECOG.**

LISA LACHANCE: Michelle Riley was born and raised in Shelburne, and in 2024, she established Michelle Riley Music in Liverpool. Michelle's goal is to bring quality music education to rural Nova Scotia. She teaches music privately for all ages, in piano and voice, out of her main studio at her home Milton and a satellite studio in Shelburne.

She holds a Bachelor of Music from Mount Allison University and a Master of Music and Voice Performance from Western University. She has performed in over a dozen opera and musical theatre productions across the country, including with the Halifax Summer Opera Festival. Michelle is committed to supporting musical expression throughout her community. She vocal-coached *Seussical the Musical* with the Astor Theatre Academy, performed in *A Homeland Christmas*, and in March, her students are performing for the residents of Queens Manor.



I ask all members to join me in recognizing Michelle's contribution to music in Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: Before I recognize the member for Halifax Atlantic - and it wasn't this member statement, but the member statement before - somebody had named a member by name. I ask them to watch that and not do it.

The honourable member for Halifax Atlantic.

### **RAMADAN: MUSLIM CELEBRATION - RECOG.**

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: I rise today to recognize the holy month of Ramadan, a time of fasting, reflection, and community observed by Muslims across Nova Scotia and around the world. Ramadan is a time of spiritual renewal, emphasizing compassion, gratitude, and generosity.

Here in Nova Scotia, our Muslim community enriches our province in countless ways: contributing to our economy, culture, and social fabric, from local businesses to community organizations, from health care workers to educators. Their dedication strengthens our province every day. During this special month, Muslims across Nova Scotia come together in prayer, break their fast with family and friends, and give back through acts of kindness and charity. It's a time that highlights the values of unity, empathy, and resilience - values that benefit us all.

To all those observing Ramadan, I extend my warmest wishes for a peaceful, meaningful, and blessed month.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

PAUL WOZNEY: I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

PAUL WOZNEY: I'm thrilled today to introduce the Sackville Kraft Hockeyville committee that is present with us in the gallery. I'll ask them to stand and be recognized. With us today are Chris Fraser, a.k.a. Coach Fraser, Kim Gray, Angela Gray, Robert Nurnber, and Allison Deveau. (Applause)

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

The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

**LAKE DIST. REC. ASSOC.: HOCKEYVILLE CAMPAIGN - RECOG.**

PAUL WOZNEY: Kraft Hockeyville season has generated a torrent of activity in the Sackville area. This annual contest gives towns the opportunity to win \$250,000 for arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL pre-season game. I rise to recognize the Lake District Recreation Association for encouraging this outpouring of enthusiasm, in-person and online, proving without a doubt that Sackville is Kraft Hockeyville.

[9:30 a.m.]

The team has proven its dedication to the community outside the rink, too, especially by turning its attention to the support of a Sackville family that recently suffered a devastating tragedy. In late January, they raised over \$6,000 for this family. By so selflessly dedicating their energy and time to their hometown, these organizers have channelled Sackville's pride into real tangible benefits for our community. I rise today in hopes that all present will join me in recognizing the Kraft Hockeyville committee and the Lake District Recreation Association and head online to cast a vote to support this bid.

THE SPEAKER: Before I recognize the next member: The member for Sackville-Cobequid tried his hardest to wear the jersey today, but we're not allowed props, so I was mean and said no.

The honourable member for Cumberland North.

**AMHERST CURLING CLUB: HOSTING CH'SHIP - RECOG.**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to members of the Amherst Curling Club, which is currently hosting the Nova Scotia Curling Association Women's and Men's Masters Curling Championship. Play is under way now, with the championship game scheduled for 2:00 p.m. this Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The winners will go on to represent our province at the Canadian Masters Curling Championships in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario later this year.

I would also like to wish good luck to the team from Amherst, who are competing in the men's section of the event: Skip Paul Hawkes, Third Robin Keith, Second Tim Lawrence, and Lead Jim Prince. The Amherst Curling Club has hosted many other provincial championships and competitive bonspiels, and feedback from visiting curlers is always positive. The ice is fantastic and the hospitality first-class. That is clear recognition of the club's dedicated staff and volunteers who have a true passion for the game, and for maintaining the club as an important part and fabric of our community.

Please join me in congratulating the Amherst Curling Club in hosting this important event and wish all the curlers good luck.

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

**HUSBAND, BRIAN: 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - BEST WISHES**

DIANNE TIMMINS: Speaker, maybe it is a vision, maybe it is a coincidence, maybe it is faith that you come across your soulmate for life, and just because you identify your person doesn't mean you can sustain that love and commitment. It takes a partnership and strength to beat all odds. Well, I am blessed to say I found that relationship and commitment on March 3, 1990.

I want to express my deepest love and appreciation to my person who has stood by me and my family, and together we defeated all challenges that were presented. Happy 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to the love of my life, Brian. I look forward to many more adventures together as we go forward in life and eternity.

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

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I beg leave to make an introduction.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

LISA LACHANCE: Joining us in the gallery today are Shannon Landovskis and Karly Wurnig from Urban Jars, and they have some friends with them: Jerry Wurnig, Evie and Evan, Maggie -Jane, and Dorothy. (Applause)

THE SPEAKER: Hello. Welcome to the House. We hope you enjoy your time here.

The honourable member for Halifax Citadel-Sable Island.

**URBAN JARS HALIFAX: MEAL SERVICE - RECOG.**

LISA LACHANCE: Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Urban Jars Halifax. Sisters Karly and Shannon have brought the innovative Urban Jars concept to the East Coast, offering Halifax residents a convenient, nutritious, and environmentally friendly meal solution. Their meal solution provides fresh, locally sourced nutrition in reusable Mason jars, aligning perfectly with the growing demand for sustainable food options in our city.

Their commitment to sustainability through zero waste practices and local ingredient sourcing provides convenient, customizable meals that stay fresh for up to a week. Their service particularly stands out for accommodating various dietary needs while maintaining high standards for quality, taste, and customer service. The numerous positive impacts on local community because of Karly's and Shannon's kindness and entrepreneurial spirit cannot be overstated.

Here's to Urban Jars Halifax's continued growth and success in nourishing our city one jar at a time.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland South.

**U18 A RAMBLERS HOCKEY TEAM: GREAT SEASON - CONGRATS.**

HON. TORY RUSHTON: Speaker, I rise today to recognize the U18 A Ramblers hockey team that I coached this season. I have coached some of these players since novice, and I can't think of a better group of kids to coach in what's probably going to be my last year of coaching.

As we head into the end of our season, I want to rise and recognize all of them. Starting in nets, our goalie wanted his name put on the floor of the Legislature, so we are going to do it here today: Austin "Murman" Murray and the rest of the players: Carter Blenkhorn, Evan Bird, Markus Dulenty, Ryan Rushton, Colton Hachey, Nick Black, and the rest of the coaching staff with me who started coaching this year: Ty Ingraham, Scott Clark, Phil Scott, Darren Rushton, and our manager Taralee Terris. Also, our graduating players who are going to see their last home game this weekend for their final season in Minor Hockey: Tucker Legere, Braxton McCulley, Will Allen, Mackie Paris, Ben Scott, Austin Dickie, Lucas Clark, Logan Boudreau, and my oldest son Bayley.

I want to wish all these players the best of luck. They still have a lot to offer the sport of hockey, and I wish they'd continue dedicating their time to the Cumberland Minor Hockey group.

The honourable member for Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

**VOL. FIRE DEPTS.: HOLIDAY EVENTS - RECOG.**

KENDRA COOMBES: Speaker, I rise to recognize the volunteer fire departments in my community and their members who made the holiday special for so many children with visits from Santa. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, members of the Scotchtown Fire Department accompanied Santa around River Ryan, Lingan, and Scotchtown meeting all the children.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the New Waterford Fire Department members drove Santa through the town of New Waterford. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, Santa was escorted by the New Victoria Volunteer Fire Department to see all the kiddos living in New Victoria and Victoria Mines. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the South Bar Volunteer Fire Department took Santa on a tour of South Bar to greet the children living in the area.

I want to thank all those who helped Santa on his very busy tour schedule. They truly did make Christmas holidays very special for all the kiddos in the riding of Cape Breton Centre-Whitney Pier.

THE SPEAKER: The honorable member for Cumberland North.

**ORGANIZERS: AMHERST COM. CHRISTMAS DINNER - RECOG.**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Today I rise to recognize and thank the organizers of the annual Amherst Community Christmas Dinner. This event has been held for the last number of years and continues to grow in popularity.

The original idea for the dinner was primarily to support the homeless and anyone who might be on their own at Christmas. Initially, they welcomed a small group. However, the dinner has very quickly become a huge event. This past Christmas, they served 527 meals on Christmas Day. The community dinner is supported by a very long list of volunteers and donations from both private citizens and businesses. In addition to serving meals to those who stopped by, they now offer a delivery service for those who are unable to attend in person or leave their home, and also ensure that any first responder who is working on Christmas Day receives a hot turkey dinner.

Speaker, please join me in thanking all those in Cumberland who go above and beyond to bring a little Christmas joy to their friends and neighbours through the Amherst Community Christmas Dinner.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Queens.

**WARRIORS BASK. TEAM: TOURN. PARTIC. - CONGRATS.**

HON. KIM MASLAND: Speaker, for the first time in 30 years, the Liverpool Regional High School Warriors boys basketball team has earned a spot at the Division 2 Provincial Tournament, which will be held in Brookfield this weekend.

With the support and leadership of Head Coach Amanda Fisher, Assistant Coach Andy Dixon and Manager Lindsay Lowe, a 14-player roster placed third in the Western Region with a recorded 21 wins. In addition to making it to provincials, this hard-working and talented team also captured first place in the Warrior Winter Classic for the second consecutive season.

This group of young athletes exemplifies teamwork, sportsmanship, resilience and community. Please join me in congratulating them on a very successful season so far and in wishing them a very successful provincial competition. Go Warriors.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**AFRICVILLE: UNESCO DESIGNATION - CONGRATS.**

SUZY HANSEN: I rise today to congratulate Africville in receiving the UNESCO designation as a Place of History and Memory linked to Enslavement and the Slave Trade. The history of Africville demonstrates how the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade lives on, and paved the way for the anti-Black racism experienced by Africville residents. Even

though they paid city taxes, they never had paved roads, running water or sewers. They were forcefully displaced from their homes in a dehumanizing way. Now their story, thanks to the UNESCO designation, will be known by all Canadians and the world.

Speaker, I'd like to thank my legacy in Africville for never giving up the fight, and showing the world that the spirit of Africville will live on forever.

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

**HINTON, CATHY: TRURO'S 1<sup>ST</sup> FEMALE MAYOR - CONGRATS.**

HON. DAVE RITCEY: I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to Cathy Hinton on making history as Truro's first female mayor. This is a groundbreaking achievement and a proud moment for our entire community. Mayor Hinton's dedication, leadership and vision has paved the way for change and inspired others to aim high. As she steps into this important role, we are confident that her passion for Truro and commitment to its growth and well-being will continue to drive progress for everyone. This milestone not only highlights Mayor Hinton's remarkable accomplishments, but also serves as a beacon of hope and empowerment for future generations. Wishing you great success as you lead Truro into an exciting new chapter. Congratulations, Mayor Hinton. The community is behind you every step of the way.

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

**RAMADAN: MUSLIM CELEBRATION - RECOG.**

LINA HAMID: Assalamo alaikum wa rahmatullahe wa barakatohu. Peace and the mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you. I'm deeply honoured to mark the start of Ramadan. The holy month is observed by two billion people worldwide, or 24 per cent of the global population. It's a time of reflection and spiritual growth, a time for neighbours and loved ones to gather and break bread together, a time for generosity and giving back to strengthen communities and fostering a sense of mutual support and care.

Muslims around the world fast during Ramadan to fulfill one of the Five Pillars of Islam: sawm is the Arabic term for fasting, the third of the five pillars. The act of fasting or abstaining from food and drink from dawn until dusk is a way to cultivate discipline, empathy, and gratitude. Even those who aren't Muslim can participate in the spirit of Ramadan by practicing mindfulness, generosity, and self-discipline.

I wish everyone a blessed and fulfilling Ramadan. Ramadan Kareem.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Digby-Annapolis.

**MCCLUSKY, BILLY: CONTRIB. TO CELEB. OF LIFE - THANKS**

HON. JILL BALSER: Speaker, I rise today to give a truly heartfelt thank you to an incredible student and lifelong friend of both my mom and dad: Billy McClusky. A celebration of life for my dad held on May 4, 2024 was a dream come true for my family and me. It was the best day we could have ever asked for, and Billy moved the crowd to tears with the memories and stories he shared. He made us laugh, and he even threw in a few surprises for us, and one that was meant just for me.

My mom and I knew that Billy needed to be a part of the celebration in a big way, not only because of his relationship with my dad, but because of his genuine kindness and love for our family. Billy, your words that day were beautiful and perfect. I'm so proud to have you on my team, and Billy, I know that the Premier is too. Thank you for being the big brother my sisters and I needed when we truly needed a big brother to lean on. Billy, this one's for you.

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

**GILLIS, SIMON: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

KENDRA COOMBES: Speaker, I rise to recognize Simon Gillis. In December, Sydney Mazda celebrated Mazda Legend Simon Gillis of Whitney Pier for continuing to give back to the community.

Over the years, he has supported numerous causes and has been recognized both locally and nationally for his contributions. He began volunteering in the Each One Teach One program, Holy Redeemer Parish, Whitney Pier's interfaith committee, Habitat for Humanity, the Whitney Pier Historical Society, and much more.

In December, Mazda presented Simon with a \$2,500 cheque for the impact of his decades of volunteering within the community. This amazing man has in return donated the money to local charities. He has donated to the Whitney Pier Historical Society, the Whitney Pier Youth Club, Feed Nova Scotia, Saint Michael's Polish Society in Whitney Pier, and many more. When asked why he donated all the money, he said: "Others need it more than I do." Please help me in thanking Simon for his generosity.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**WHALEN, DIANA: CORONATION MEDAL RECIP. - CONGRATS.**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Today, I want to recognize Diana Whalen, a former colleague of many of us. She served between 2013 and 2017 with me, and then before that, in 2000, she was elected as a Halifax city councillor.

Today she is going to be recognized with the King Charles III's Coronation Medal for her work as an elected official. I want to recognize her work as not only an MLA but a strong advocate for the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove area, where she pushed for protection while being an MLA and getting Crown land protected. She campaigned for the adoption of a February holiday, which now exists because of her. She had legislation passed for the mandatory use of booster seats for children's safety, and she lobbied for the Canada Games Centre built in Clayton Park in 2011.

Diana was the first woman to hold the position of Deputy Premier in Nova Scotia. She was also appointed as the Finance Minister and later as Justice Minister and Attorney General. She chaired the Treasury Board and saw the introduction of that Heritage Day, and brought in the Accessibility Act to Nova Scotia to make us fully accessible by 2030. I want to thank Diana for her work and congratulate her for getting the medal.

[9:45 a.m.]

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Kings South.

#### **PARENT, MARK: GUIDANCE - THANKS**

JULIE VANEXAN: I rise today to express my heartfelt appreciation for the guidance, mentorship, and unwavering support from Mark Parent. Mark served as the MLA for Kings North from 1999 to 2009, dedicating himself to public service in roles such as Minister of Environment and Labour. His leadership and integrity have left a lasting impact on our communities and on our province.

After leaving office, Mark remained a steadfast supporter of the PC Party. Mark was one of the strongest encouraging forces to put my name forward. He stood by my nomination, and then he took me under his wing and led our team as my campaign manager. For those of you who know Mark, you know he brings with him a wealth of experience and an incredible work ethic. His encouragement, wisdom, and belief in our team pushed us forward through long days of door knocking, strategy sessions, and the challenges that come with a campaign. His mentorship was invaluable, and I am grateful for his continued support. Please join me in thanking Mark Parent for his leadership, generosity, and his commitment to our province.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

#### **PARTICS.: AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN HISTORY CHALLENGE - RECOG.**

SUZY HANSEN: I rise today to recognize all the schools participating in the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute's African Nova Scotian History Challenges. Every year, students from across the province work really hard to create, imagine, and learn about pieces and create pieces related to African Nova Scotian history. The creations include artwork, stories, presentations, dioramas, and anything that can be created by our



brilliant children's minds. The history challenges recognize the artists and creatives of our future. They will be the dreamers of our future generations.

I want to give a shout-out before I ask us to join, but I want to give a shout-out to Madam North's class. My daughter's in that class, and I can't be there today to see the amazing piece that they've created - it's a huge mosaic of the continent of Africa - but I know that it's amazing. I'd like to ask all members to help me in wishing all the students participating in the challenges the very best and celebrating DBDLI and the students for their Black excellence today and every day.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Hants East.

### **RECIPIENTS: 2025 DESIGN AWARDS - RECOG.**

JOHN A. MACDONALD: I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2025 Design Awards presented by the Municipality of East Hants. These awards celebrate excellence in design, innovation, and community impact.

The Certificate of Excellence was awarded to Shea Investments and 4324108 Nova Scotia Limited for their outstanding contributions. The Certificate of Merit was presented to Uniacke Lakes Animal Hospital, Bondi Developments, Sheep Dog Developments, and the Walton & Area Development Association for their dedication to quality and sustainability. Additionally, an Honourable Mention was given to Wingate Properties, Dr. Reena Kapadia Dentistry, Maple Mews, and the Lions Memorial Park Society for their commendable efforts.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating these winners on their well-deserved recognition.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Antigonish.

### **ORGANIZERS: COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YR. EVENT - THANKS**

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: On February 22, 2025, my team and I participated in the first annual walk for Coldest Night of the Year in Antigonish. It is a fundraising event that brings people together to walk in support of people who face homelessness, hunger, and the difficulty of life on the streets during the coldest months of the year.

The walk in Antigonish was in support of the Naomi Society. The Naomi Society is a vital organization dedicated to supporting women, children, and all genders in our community through trauma-informed community prevention, outreach, support, and advocacy. They provide services to those who have experienced domestic, family, intimate partner, and sexual violence in Antigonish and Guysborough counties. Funds raised will

go to creating a new facility for women and children fleeing violence, including the development of second stage housing units. The event raised close to \$60,000.

I ask all members of this House to thank all of the organizers, staff at the Naomi Society, volunteers, and those who participated in this important community event.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Uniacke.

**ROWLANDS, DEACON RODERICK: DEATH OF - TRIBUTE**

HON. BRAD JOHNS: I would like to recognize the passing of Deacon Roderick Rowlands on September 25, 2024, at the age of 67.

Deacon Rod served as a permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth since 2015 and was a part of the pastoral team at the Holy Trinity Parish since his ordination. He was also CEO of Beacon House food and clothing bank in Lower Sackville, which is where I first met him. Rod's sense of humour will never be forgotten, along with his love of cats and playing his guitar. He was a fountain of knowledge and a great storyteller, whose genuine kindness, tender love and care for others, and commitment to our community will never be forgotten.

Left to mourn his sudden passing with loving memories are his devoted wife of 45 years, Leslie Ann; his children; his grandchildren; and a large circle of extended family members, colleagues, and friends. Rod was an amazing human being who changed the lives of many people whom he met. He will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Shelburne.

**SCOTT, FRAN: LOCKEPORT REC. DIRECTOR - RECOG.**

HON. NOLAN YOUNG: I rise today to recognize Fran Scott, the recreation director for the town of Lockeport.

Well known in the county, not only for her role as recreation director, Fran has a deep dedication to youth sports, where she spent many years coaching basketball and softball. In her role as the recreation director, Fran has secured numerous grants for our community which have helped create a more active lifestyle for many residents. Due to her love of sports and importance of inclusivity, she started the Special Olympics program in Shelburne County a number of years ago and spent many years there as a coach as well.

Speaker, I respectfully ask all members to join me in thanking Fran for her ongoing support to the residents of Lockeport and beyond.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Annapolis.

**GOODLAD, KEVIN & BRENDA: COM. SERV. - THANKS**

DAVID BOWLBY: Speaker, today I rise to thank Kevin and Brenda Goodlad for their outstanding contributions to the town of Middleton and the surrounding Annapolis community.

Through their tireless efforts, they have provided critical support to those experiencing homelessness, offering compassion and assistance to some of our most vulnerable citizens. In addition, their work with Neighbourhood Watch has helped strengthen community safety and foster a sense of security for residents. Kevin rode shotgun with me on many days through the campaign.

Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join me in thanking Kevin and Brenda Goodlad for their dedication, kindness and commitment to making our community a better place for all.

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

**GLACE BAY HS PANTHERS: COM. SERV. - RECOG.**

JOHN WHITE: Speaker, I am extremely proud to recognize the Glace Bay Panthers, who continue to demonstrate that true champions shine both on and off the ice. The incredible team of young men recently delivered much-needed Winter supplies, including hats and mittens, to several of our local schools and to the Glace Bay Food Bank Society, ensuring that all stay warm this season. Their generosity, team spirit, and leadership set a powerful example for young hockey players and other athletes. They are proving that being part of a team is about more than just the game; it's about supporting the community.

A skilled hockey organization, the Glace Bay Panthers continue to inspire both on and off the ice. These athletes are demonstrating that a winning spirit includes kindness, teamwork, compassion and a commitment to the greater community. Congratulations, Team Panthers.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Clare.

**FESTIVAL ACADIEN DE CLARE: 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - RECOG.**

RYAN ROBICHEAU: Speaker, this year marks an important milestone for the Acadian community of Clare: the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival acadien de Clare. Founded in 1955, this festival is the oldest Acadian festival in the world and remains a flagship cultural event for southwestern Nova Scotia.

Every Summer, the Festival acadien de Clare brings together thousands of visitors and proud Acadians to celebrate our culture, language and traditions. Through music,

dance, and performances, and, of course, the great Tintamarre, this festival preserves a vibrant legacy and strengthens the sense of belonging for the entire community.

Over the decades, many volunteers and organizers have helped make this event a must-see celebration. Festival acadien de Clare is a living testament to the resilience and pride of Acadie Nova Scotia.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Yarmouth.

### **THIRD CUP: NEW COFFEE SHOP - RECOG.**

NICK HILTON: Speaker, I rise today to highlight the success of Jasmin Endaya and Almira Jaudal, the owners of Yarmouth's newest coffee shop, the Third Cup Cafe.

Their journey to opening the Third Cup is a story of dedication, hard work, and unwavering focus on customer satisfaction. With experience in coffee shops ranging from the Philippines, Kuwait, Calgary, and here in Yarmouth, Jasmin took careful note of what customers value in a coffee shop. Whether it was the menu, the food quality, or the layout and furniture, she paid careful attention to every detail that would create a comfortable, welcoming environment that keeps her customers coming back. When Jasmin opened the Third Cup, she applied this knowledge to create a space that truly resonates with our community. The response has been overwhelming, with the shop quickly becoming a favorite in Yarmouth, only one year after opening.

Jasmin's success is a testament to her sharp business instincts and commitment to quality. We are fortunate to have entrepreneurs like Jasmin leading the way and welcome her to our community.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Richmond.

### **FARMER'S PANTRY: COM. SERV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. TREVOR BOUDREAU: Speaker, I would like to recognize The Farmer's Pantry, a family-owned small business in Richmond County. Jennifer Snowden, the owner and operator, has created fair trade coffee shop that provides homemade treats and a cozy atmosphere for our community. The Pantry, as it is affectionately known around Richmond, is becoming a popular stop for locals and tourists alike. They regularly host local musicians, giving them a place to showcase their talent, including well-known artists such as Ashley MacIsaac and Adam Baldwin, to name a couple.

The Farmer's Pantry also gives back to our community, regularly hosting family skate parties at our local arena, as well as opening their doors and raising awareness for fundraisers in our community. Please join me in congratulating the Farmer's Pantry for their delicious coffee, their commitment to local talent, and their continued support of the economic growth of our community and Richmond County.

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

**MCDANIEL, MEGAN: CAUCUS WORK - CONGRATS.**

HON. BRIAN WONG: I rise today to recognize Megan McDaniel, a fundamental member of our communications team at the caucus office, who happens to hail from Fall River.

Megan has been supporting our caucus through the creation of many graphics and social media posts, digital materials, and video content that highlight the important work our government is doing. Last month, Megan celebrated her one-year anniversary at the caucus office and was recently acclaimed as the new president of the NS Young PCs. Megan's passion for politics and supporting our MLAs is truly remarkable, and we are so happy that she is a part of our team that's making it happen for Nova Scotians.

Speaker, I ask all members to please join me as we congratulate Megan on the work anniversary and on her new volunteer role.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cape Breton East.

**MIRA GALA: 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV. - CONGRATS.**

HON. BRIAN COMER: This July, the Mira Gala will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year. Originally a one-day event in 1975, the Mira Gala has since evolved into a 10-day community festival celebrating residents, organizations, and businesses in Marion Bridge and surrounding areas. The Mira Gala showcases the very best of community spirit and is the main event of the Summer in the constituency. It includes the Canada Day breakfast and parade, the boat parade, and fireworks, drawing crowds from all over Cape Breton.

There were several years when the Mira Gala was in decline, but thanks to dedicated community council members and community involvement, the gala is experiencing a resurgence. I would like to thank the volunteers and organizations involved and I hope that the 2025 Mira Gala will be the best yet.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Pictou Centre.

**EL-HADDAD, FRED: PICTOU CTR. BUSINESSPERSON - RECOG.**

DANNY MACGILLIVRAY: Speaker, it is my honor to stand today and recognize Fred El-Haddad, a well-known businessperson in Pictou Centre. Fred's birth country is Lebanon and as a young man he worked with the Lebanese government's Ministry of Interior in multiple business roles. At the same time, he was managing more than 250 employees for a security firm.

Fred and family moved to Canada in 2005, and in 2009 he became involved in the real estate business. In 2017, an opportunity came to purchase a restaurant. Fred opened the Maple Cedar - Syrian Kitchen, serving Canadian and Lebanese cuisine. At the same time, two newcomer families struggled to find jobs, so Fred offered employment at the restaurant. Two years later, Fred sold the restaurant to those families, who have since purchased houses and are loving life in Pictou Centre. In November of 2022, Fred and family purchased Blinkhorn Real Estate Ltd., a very successful real estate firm in the town of Stellarton. Fred became the broker/owner and the team at Blinkhorn grew from 7 to 11 realtors.

Speaker, I ask that we all take a moment to recognize Fred El-Haddad and his entrepreneurial contributions to Pictou Centre.

[10:00 a.m.]

THE SPEAKER: Order. The time allotted for member statements has expired.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **ORAL QUESTIONS PUT BY MEMBERS TO MINISTERS**

THE SPEAKER: The time is now 10:00 a.m. We will finish at 10:50 a.m.

### **PREM.: EXTRACTION BAN REMOVAL - EXPLAIN**

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Nova Scotians were clear about their priorities in the last election - homes they can afford, attachment to primary care, and relief from the high cost of living - but this government has put forward a very different legislative agenda. Nova Scotians are voicing their concerns about this government's plan to remove the bans on uranium mining and fracking with no warning, no consultation, and no debate. Why didn't this government tell Nova Scotians about their plan to drop these bans at any point during the election?

HON. TIM HOUSTON (Premier): Nova Scotians had a chance to have their say on how they wanted to be governed and who they wanted to govern them, and I think they spoke pretty loud and pretty clear about their thoughts on the job we did in our first mandate - a mandate where we attached almost 100,000 people to primary care, a mandate where we delivered more doctors and more nurses. More homes are being built in this province. We know that at this point in time, we need to really focus on and understand how we can provide the services that we need to provide to Nova Scotians. That means growing the economy. That means focusing on natural resources.

THE SPEAKER: Before I recognize you, just to remind people that the clock's on the TV. (Interruptions)

The Leader of the Official Opposition.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Yet nothing in the last term of this government or in the campaign was said about this policy, which can impact Nova Scotians' health, their environment - and, yes, their economy - in a variety of ways. The Premier didn't campaign on this and didn't explain that they would vilify anyone who stands in the way of their agenda - media, public servants, the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and all those currently labelled special interest groups. As the upswell of opposition to removing these bans rises, will the Premier level with Nova Scotians and let us know: Is anyone who opposes government policy now a special interest group?

THE PREMIER: I think Nova Scotians - they saw what we did in government, and they said, Do more, keep going. We've shown that we work with Nova Scotians. We've shown that we listen to Nova Scotians, and we know that there is an absolute opportunity for this province. We can change the economy of this province for generations to come. Day after day, the Opposition will stand in this Chamber and say, You should spend on this, you should invest in that. Why aren't you doing this? Do more, do more. Well, the only way we can deliver on all those things - because of course we want to; of course we want to do more for Nova Scotians - the only way we can actually do it is when we handle the economy and grow the economy, and we will do that.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: It's great to finally hear a word about economic development. This government didn't campaign on mining, uranium, or fracking, but these policies have consequences for people in our province. Nova Scotians are worried about the potential impacts on their drinking water, on their property rights, and they're frustrated that this policy has been sprung on them. Protests are being organized by Nova Scotians who are fed up with the secrecy and impunity that they are seeing from this government, and so again I want to ask the question: Who are the special interest groups that the Premier is referring to?

THE PREMIER: We just urge all Nova Scotians to get on board with moving the province forward. That's what we want to do. That's what Nova Scotians want us to do. Nova Scotians know that they can count on us to do what's right, and if we get it wrong, we'll fix it. What they also know is a little bit of history: The NDP, in their one time in government, broke every promise they made. They promised no new taxes; they increased the HST. They promised better services. What did they do? They cut health care. They cut education. They failed to invest a single dollar in affordable housing. We won't do that. We're here for Nova Scotians. We're going to move this province forward.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect:

**PREM.: TARIFF SCENARIO - DIVULGE**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Alberta has announced that its \$5.2 billion deficit could soar to \$8.7 billion under a worst-case tariff scenario. We are at risk of seeing similar

consequences here in Nova Scotia. Our export-dependent industries like tire manufacturing, forestry and fishing could be hit hard by these tariffs, putting jobs and communities at risk. My question to the Premier: With Nova Scotia's economy so vulnerable to these kinds of external shocks, what is the government's worst-case scenario for a deficit if this happens?

THE PREMIER: Nobody knows what is going to happen. It's changing very quickly. What the President decides on the Trump tariffs, we don't know; but we know that if they are implemented, there will be an impact on Nova Scotians, on Canadians, on Americans. There will be a negative impact on every single one. As Canadians, and the Team Canada approach, we're focused on making sure that the President and people close to him understand that this will be negative for Americans and negative for North America.

We're still pushing for a no-tariff approach, but, of course, we're planning for other scenarios. That's why we're focused on interprovincial trade, removing those barriers. That's a really good thing. We're going to continue to push forward on that. It's also why we need to develop our natural resources to make sure our economy is strong.

IAIN RANKIN: Over the past several years the government has spent over \$1 billion in overspending annually, impacting our financial position to absorb any economic shock. Given these circumstances, does the government believe that only a \$200 million contingency fund that is set aside is truly enough to cover all the possible scenarios? Will he ensure that his departments not overspend on matters that are not related to the tariff situation?

THE PREMIER: I believe if you look at our track record - yes, we tabled deficit budgets; budget is what you think is going to happen - but at the end of each of those years we recorded a small surplus. What the Opposition members refer to as overspending or additional appropriations - do you know what they are, Speaker? They are investments in Nova Scotians, every single dollar. Do you know why we had to make those additional investments in Nova Scotians? I can tell you: because after two terms of the Liberals - they didn't invest in health care - we had to catch up. We're proud we were able to. Before them, we know the NDP cut education . . .

The honourable Leader of the Official Opposition.

#### **ACSW: THANS FUNDING - CONTINUE**

CLAUDIA CHENDER: Let's talk about an important investment. Member organizations of the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia provide life-saving services to Nova Scotians experiencing violence and abuse. Despite a meeting with the Premier last month, these organizations have received no assurance that their funding will continue at the end of the current fiscal year, which is just one month away. This is a budget session. Why is this government creating doubt about continued funding for member organizations of the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia?



HON. LEAH MARTIN: Thank you to the member opposite for the question. We agree on something: The transition houses are an incredibly important and valued part of our service-provider organizations. We value the life-saving work they do. Transition houses provide shelter, security, food, and support at a time when it is needed most. This is a regular part of the budgeting process and we will have more to say very soon.

CLAUDIA CHENDER: With respect, the budgeting process takes place months before that budget is tabled in the House. There is no excuse for this uncertainty. This uncertainty is not new. We've heard time and time again that organizations specialized in responding to and preventing gender-based violence are stuck in endless cycles of funding applications, never knowing how much support or how many services they can offer next year or even next month. Why does this government believe that patchwork funding is an appropriate response to our province's epidemic of intimate partner violence?

LEAH MARTIN: This government does not support patchwork funding. In fact, we supported a historic investment in the 2024-25 budget. That was the biggest infusion for operating costs to transition houses in over two decades. It goes into the Status of Women budget, which is \$26.8 million, but there are even bigger cross-governmental supports of \$103 million to support this work. We know there is more work to be done, and it doesn't simply boil down to a singular budget line item. It's far more complex and much bigger than that. It's a cross-governmental approach, and we hope the Opposition can get on board.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

### **DHW: HEALTH DATA REMOVAL - EXPLAIN**

ROD WILSON: When we saw that Nova Scotia's dashboard was updated yesterday to reflect new primary health care data, our excitement was quickly replaced with disbelief. More than 100,000 Nova Scotians without a family doctor have been waiting months or years for updated data on the Need a Family Practice registry. This was not there. In fact, there was no data on the registry related to the wait times. Can the minister tell us why the data on the Need a Family Practice Registry has been erased from the dashboard?

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: The information for the Need a Family Practice Registry has been coming out regularly from the Nova Scotia Health Authority over the last number of months. It's part of the validation effort. There are a number of things that are happening. We see that there's a steady and consistent decline in the number of people who are on the Need a Family Practice Registry. That's a result of the incredible work that's happening across this province recruiting and training new health care providers to provide primary care. There's no need to worry; those numbers will be out shortly. I'm confident we'll continue to see that they will continue to drop as a result of the investment and the work that's happening across the province.

ROD WILSON: Nova Scotians remain worried about access to a family doctor or emergency service, particularly in rural areas. They deserve to know if and when progress on health care is being made in this province, especially related to rural health care. In the last week, the government has declared it has a plan to do away with the *Annual Accountability Report on Emergency Departments* and has allowed the public data on the Need a Family Practice Registry to be erased. If the government is truly moving the needle on health care, why not post and celebrate it? Why not post it and make it transparent?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: We're celebrating. We just can't get the Opposition to come to the party. That's the problem. We are celebrating. There is a lot to talk about in this province about health care. I know the member opposite has so many years of experience; he must admit that, for the first time in his career, there has been monumental investment in health care. Listening to health care workers, changing the way we're doing things, modernizing our health care system - we are open for a party, so come on over here and celebrate with us.

[10:15 a.m.]

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

#### **FTB: HELP FOR FAMILIES - PROVIDE**

KENDRA COOMBES: The Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre has seen an increase in the number of families reaching out for help covering the cost of all basic necessities. The stopgap measures in the budget this government tabled are not going to fix the problems the Resource Centre is seeing because they are not addressing the root causes of the problem in Cape Breton. Can the Minister of Finance explain why this government is using band-aid solutions instead of long-term strategies?

HON. JOHN LOHR: We have introduced a historic budget that includes a \$500 million tax break for Nova Scotians - for Cape Bretoners. It's \$1,000 per family. I'll remind the member that when her government was in power previously, they increased HST by 2 per cent. We are decreasing it by 1 per cent. I'll remind the member that the Opposition voted against our school lunch program last year, and I'll ask them to vote for it this year. I'll remind the member that they voted against indexing the income assistance for people on income assistance. I ask the member to support all the great initiatives we are doing.

KENDRA COOMBES: Speaker, I didn't hear a comprehensive strategy in the minister's response, and a 1 per cent change to HST is not going to help the pocketbooks of those in Cape Breton. (Laughter) The government side can laugh all they want, but in reality, only high-cost items are going to really see a difference. If folks could work themselves into a position of economic security, they would. The reality is that the unemployment rate in Cape Breton is double the provincial rate. My question is: Why is the government neglecting to address the several root causes that are preventing Cape Bretoners from getting ahead?

JOHN LOHR: I would disagree. I think we do have a plan. We do have a plan to make life more affordable for Nova Scotians - for Cape Bretoners. We are working hard in Cape Breton. We are investing in many different types of things: affordable housing in Cape Breton, rebuilding the affordable housing we do have there. We are investing in a medical school, we are investing in the hospital, and we are investing in infrastructure in Cape Breton. We are investing in many different ways, and I hope the member will support our budget.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

### **DHW: NEW ER POLICY - REVIEW**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Twice here in the Legislature, I've tabled a new Nova Scotia Health Authority policy that the staff are referring to as "auto-pull" or "dump-and-dash" policy, where patients are to be removed from the emergency department within 12 hours and can be placed in non-traditional bed areas. There was no consultation with physicians, there was no consultation with nurses at either Colchester or Cumberland hospitals, and we are told that they are being the pilot sites for this policy to be rolled out throughout the entire province. There is a general feeling among my staff that this is very unsafe for the patients. I am wondering if the minister can let us know if she's had a chance to review this policy I've tabled twice.

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: The overcapacity that we see in the hospital does require us to look at things in a different way. There has been a lot of consultation with clinicians in order to support how we best move patients through the system. Usually, the emergency department handles all of the overcapacity, which puts people in a difficult position. Based on clinical assessment, people are moved into in-patient areas, their clinical acuity is looked at, and there are times when people do have to - we are in an overcapacity situation.

We are doing a number of things. There's C-3, SAFER-f, and mobility teams. We are investing in seniors and long-term care, community care, and staffing. We are underbedded in this province as a result of no investment in health care over the years, and this is the position we find ourselves in.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I encourage the minister to speak with physicians and nurses on the front line, not physicians who might be working here in Halifax in an office. The clinicians working on the front line have clearly stated that this is not safe. They do not feel they can provide safe clinical care to their patients in areas where there is no equipment, often not even an electrical outlet. The fact that this is now becoming an actual policy is very scary - that this is what's happening. I'm wondering if the Minister of Health and Wellness can let us know: Does the minister believe this will pass accreditation standards for our hospitals?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: As I said in the first part of my answer, it is important that we look at supporting people to move through the system in a timely fashion. If there are people who have to be looked after in non-traditional care areas, the clinical acuity of those individuals is looked after. We understand it's not ideal - we have invested - but to suggest that we would not admit sick patients to hospital because they are in an overcapacity situation is not responsible. We need to make sure that people who need to be in hospital are there. Our teams are very, very credible. They're excellent clinicians. We appreciate that right now we're in respiratory season. Our whole system is overcapacity. Those policies are put in place to support staff and support patients.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

### **DOJ: LIMITATION OF INFORMATION - EXPLAIN**

PAUL WOZNEY: This sitting has been marked by moves from this government that seek to limit transparency and suppress information. They've deleted the Need a Family Practice Registry wait-list dashboard, they've dismantled the non-partisan public communications arm of government, and there's legislation before this House that seeks to be able to pick and choose which freedom of information requests get answered. How does this government square its commitment to transparency while it's taking so many steps to limit public information during this sitting?

HON. BECKY DRUHAN: We are committed to accountability. We are committed to transparency. We value the institutions that establish and support those in Nova Scotia. We value the Auditor General. We value the Information and Privacy Commissioner. It is incumbent on us to make improvements to these systems. We do that through the legislative process by tabling amendments, by debating in the House, by receiving feedback from the public, and making adjustments where necessary. That's the process we have followed. We have demonstrated that we listen to Nova Scotians, and we will continue to do so.

PAUL WOZNEY: Yet despite the "Heys" and the pre-set talking points we hear over and over again, Nova Scotians know what's up, and they are not assured. Thanks to public outcry, this government has rightly changed course in its plan to strip the Auditor General's powers, and after more outcry, we have since learned that it might change its plans to restrict freedom of information requests. My question is: Why doesn't this government consult with Nova Scotians before making controversial changes that the public did not ask for or vote for?

BECKY DRUHAN: We seem to be in a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" situation. When we go fast, we're criticized for going fast and told to slow down by the Opposition, but when we take our time, they tell us to go, go go. There are all sorts of examples of the ways in which we continuously connect with Nova Scotians and seek consultation and move forward. Sometimes it goes quickly, sometimes it goes slowly, but regardless of how we approach it, we value and need the input of Nova Scotians. We will take it, we will continue to listen, and we will move this province forward.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

**PSC: PUBLIC SERVICE PLAN - REVEAL**

SUZY HANSEN: I love that the government is cheering on valuing and needing Nova Scotians, yet first this government introduces legislation to make it easier to fire senior public servants without cause. Then the budget shows a net loss of 159 full-time positions in the public service. We need those folks. Now, we find out that in bargaining with the unionized members of the public service, this government is trying to strip away the job security of those Nova Scotians. So keep cheering. Keep cheering. My question is: Why is this government threatening the job security for literally thousands of Nova Scotians working all over this province? Cheer for that. Show me.

THE SPEAKER: Order, order, order, order. A little aggressive. A little aggressive. A little aggressive. (Interruption)

The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

SUZY HANSEN: Why is this government . . .

THE SPEAKER: No, no, no, no. May I ask who your question was for? Which minister?

SUZY HANSEN: My question is to the Public Service Commission.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

The honourable Minister of the Public Service Commission.

HON. TWILA GROSSE: The government is not stripping the Public Service Commission. The government did not decrease the Public Service Commission by 159 positions. As I noted yesterday, those positions were through positions that were already empty and not filled, and also through attrition. With regard to the public service, the whole idea is to provide flexibility. We need to be able to put resources where they are needed.

SUZY HANSEN: Not filling is a loss of jobs. It says so in your budget - in the government's budget, excuse me. Cutting the public service doesn't get us more doctors. Cutting the public service doesn't build more homes that people can afford. Cutting the public service doesn't make life more affordable. Funny enough, it also did not come up in any of the unnecessary snap-election information that was called a few short months ago. My question to the minister is: When will this government be transparent with Nova Scotians about its plan for the public service?

TWILA GROSSE: Number 1, cutting whatever in terms of more doctors - doctors are not through the Public Service Commission. They are through the Health Authority.

Flexibility is important. We want to be able to put those resources where they are needed as we build up Nova Scotia.

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

### **AMH: MENTAL HEALTH CARE - IMPROVE**

LISA LACHANCE: My question is for the Minister of Addictions and Mental Health. The rate of suicide in our province remains heartbreakingly high. Progress to date on wait times for mental health care has not been consistent. We've seen wait times actually increase in some areas, like Guysborough. There remain delays for hundreds and thousands of children's assessments. Little progress has been made on the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy. Can the minister tell Nova Scotians how those with serious mental illness are being supported in Nova Scotia?

HON. BRIAN COMER: Nova Scotia is working hard with the federal government on being part of the National Suicide Prevention and Reduction Framework that just launched in 2024. We always meet our crisis and urgent care wait times in the province of Nova Scotia. There's always help if someone needs help in a crisis situation. There's also a three-digit crisis line, 988, which is a really important resource for folks to reach out to when they need help. I think it's important to spread accurate information. There's always help for someone who is in crisis or needs help urgently.

LISA LACHANCE: We need more mental health clinicians with specialized training and expertise to address the increasing number of high-risk and complex cases that are in our province. For 10 years, the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology, Mount Saint Vincent University and Acadia University have proposed the need for Doctor of Psychology programs in Nova Scotia to provide the clinical training necessary and to meet the needs of complex clients. I have tabled that. Will the minister commit to working with his colleagues in the Department of Advanced Education and the Department of Health and Wellness to advance this proposal?

BRIAN COMER: Since we've come into government, we've launched a number of new and innovative programs. If you look at the Centre for Psychological Health at Dalhousie, the new Bachelor of Social Work at Cape Breton University. When I started this job, we had four psychiatrists in Eastern Zone. We now have a full complement for the first time in over 15 years. Conversations are certainly under way with my colleague in Advanced Education on that specific proposal. We're always looking at ways to increase capacity in the system and in post-secondary institutions. They're certainly a valuable part of that conversation.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

**DHW: DOWN SYNDROME RESOURCES - IMPROVE**

HON. IAIN RANKIN: My question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. People with Down syndrome are incredible people living in our province, doing exceptional things. As a province, over time we have become more inclusive and have supports specifically for people with Down syndrome, but when you look at prenatal information on the Nova Scotia Health Authority website, there is no information for families who receive a positive prenatal test for Down syndrome. The concern here is that there is a lack of resources available for families to make choices. Is the minister aware of the current protocol for families who receive a positive screening test for Down syndrome in Nova Scotia?

[10:30 a.m.]

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: I want to thank the member opposite for taking the question to the floor of the Legislature. We had an opportunity to speak briefly about it yesterday. I am not entirely sure of what the protocol is, but I do appreciate the point. I am committed to working with the IWK Health Centre and making sure that from that place of excellence, we will look at the current protocols, how we can best support families who learn that they have a child with Down syndrome on the way, and the supports that are in place to make sure that people who live with Down syndrome have the most resources that they can for a great start. I will commit to meeting with the IWK Health Centre and understanding how we can move some of the things that were tabled earlier forward.

IAIN RANKIN: I appreciate the answer. My understanding is that there is no protocol. Advocates are looking for consistency of information so that every family has access to the same up-to-date information on Down syndrome so that families can make an informed choice and not have to rely on Google.

On the IWK Health Centre's website, under prenatal screening, it says, "Some questions to ask yourself could be: . . . would you want to continue the pregnancy?" without offering any additional links or information around chromosomal difference, specifically Down syndrome and what that even means. Will the minister mandate that all appropriate information on what the diagnosis means and what the resources are are provided and made available to all Nova Scotians?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: The commitment that I have is that I'll work with the IWK Health Centre and others - people in pediatric specialties throughout the province - to understand the best path forward. I think there are a lot of opportunities to make this space - make this education better through continuous medical education programs, et cetera. I also want to be clear on who the staff are who are working in some of these clinics, which professional skill set, et cetera. I absolutely will commit to looking into it further and understanding how we can better serve people who have an unexpected diagnosis - not just of Down syndrome but other issues that come up prenatally.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Chebucto.

**LSI: CLEARWATER JOB LOSSES - COMMENT**

KRISTA GALLAGHER: Speaker, sad news yesterday when workers in Lockeport were notified by their employer, Clearwater Seafoods, that their jobs were being terminated. The reason that Clearwater gave these workers for their termination was, "Clearwater has made the strategic decision to exit the lobster business." Does the minister agree that for a small town like Lockeport, these job losses are devastating?

HON. NOLAN YOUNG: Any time there are job losses in the province, it's a hard day for Nova Scotia, especially with the announcement in Lockeport yesterday. I want them to know - the employees, in particular - we're here to help. We've already contacted the employers. We can get supports and a rapid response team in there to deal with the employees and to help them transition to a new job force.

KRISTA GALLAGHER: Excellent. Thank you, minister. Nova Scotia exports \$1 billion worth of lobster on an annual basis with 60 per cent of them going directly to the United States. With Trump's on-again, off-again tariffs, this will be devastating to the industry. Now it's time to work with the fishers and the sector leaders to put a concrete plan in place to ensure that no more jobs are lost. Can the minister offer assurances to the lobster industry with the threat of incoming tariffs?

HON. KENT SMITH: Of course, seafood is our largest industry - \$2.5 billion in exports. About half of that goes to the States. Protecting that industry is something that my department and I are very conscious of, which is why we've recently led a trade mission to Europe. We've led previous trade missions to Southeast Asia. It's also why we sent a letter to industry advising them how to connect with Invest Nova Scotia and learn how to export to new markets. It's on top of the fact that we've led - the Premier tabled a bill to break down interprovincial trade barriers. It's on top of the fact that we've invested \$200 million in a contingency in this budget. It's on top of the fact that there's \$200,000 extra in this budget for marketing in my department. We are aware of the threat and we're taking strong action.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Dartmouth North.

**DHW: FREE BIRTH CONTROL - COMMIT**

SUSAN LEBLANC: Manitoba has made history as the first province to sign the federal pharmacare agreement. Manitoba will now get \$219 million over the next four years to cover medications like birth control. Providing free birth control would save Nova Scotians money. It would help address the gender-based violence epidemic. We have reminded this government about this opportunity countless times but we have yet to see any action. Why is Nova Scotia dragging its feet on signing this deal and giving Nova Scotians access to the medications they need?



HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: Again, I'll answer the question that we are in active negotiations with the federal government regarding the deal. We need to make sure that this is a financially sustainable approach. We appreciate the opportunity that is before us, but we also have economic realities here that we need to ensure that if that money sunsets - and we expect that after three to five years it will - that we are going to have the capacity to continue to provide the same amount of coverage. In order to do that, we need to look at how we look at the natural resources in this province, how we generate economic development, how we do all of these things; but the Opposition have had nothing good to say about it since we started. I am very committed to looking at this deal and negotiating, but we need to look at the economic opportunities in this province.

SUSAN LEBLANC: I know the minister knows this, but reproductive health is an economic opportunity for Nova Scotians. It's all connected. Manitoba didn't wait for the federal money to come in. The province started covering birth control in the Fall because it knew it was the right thing to do, and it was economically sound. We are telling the government that there is money for them on the table right now and every day they delay, Nova Scotians are forced to spend more of their own money to cover this medication. My question is: Will the government ensure that Nova Scotians will have access to the medications they need?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: Again, there are a number of ways that people can access birth control through this province. We've talked about them before. Certainly if there is a financial barrier, through the Department of Opportunities and Social Development people have access to birth control. We have the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program. Some people have private insurance - all these different ways to support people who require birth control.

We are actively negotiating with the federal government. We cannot rush this negotiation. We cannot get a bad deal for Nova Scotians. We've seen that in the past with other deals when they've been rushed. We need to take our time. We need to ensure that we're doing the right things, that there is economic stability moving forward when and if that money sunsets, which we expect it will.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Armdale.

#### **DHW: DIABETES CARE COSTS - REDUCE**

ROD WILSON: The out-of-pocket costs for individuals with diabetes in this province are high and inconsistent and contradict the spirit of universal health care. As a percentage of income out of pocket, diabetes costs represent between 1 per cent and 9 per cent, with higher-earning households better able to absorb these costs. I tabled the document supporting this. Given this heavy burden of diabetes in a population, what is the minister advocating for our diabetes care in the universal pharmacare negotiations?

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: We certainly know that the financial burden associated with chronic disease is significant, particularly for people living with diabetes. That's why last year we covered the Sensor-based Glucose Monitoring Program. That's why we expanded the Nova Scotia Insulin Pump Program, took the age cap off that, and continue to look at ways we can support people living with diabetes. We are very proud of that program. There are a number of individuals now who are eligible for coverage who never were before. Similarly, we need to ensure that the things that are covered in the federal program align with our program. We're leveraging every opportunity for Nova Scotians to get the care they need.

ROD WILSON: Given what we know of the urgent need for contraception and diabetes medication, and I also suggest chronic mental health medications, when will this government reach a deal with the federal government on pharmacare?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: The departments, as I have said on numerous occasions in the House, are under active negotiations, not only for this but also for rare diseases as well. We know that there is urgency around this because we do expect things to change in the federal government, in the landscape. We also have to do what's right for financial and economic viability. I would never want to do anything that would jeopardize our ability to provide other services in this province. We are going to continue to negotiate. We have had great conversations with the federal government about our concerns with what's on the table. They have been very willing partners. We'll continue to work with them and find a path forward.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Cumberland North.

#### **DHW: CUMB. CO. PALLIATIVE CARE - PROVIDE**

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Cumberland County has an aging population, also a very high rate of chronic disease. Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre has no designated palliative care beds. As well, Cumberland County has no hospice. The Cumberland County Hospice & Palliative Care Society has been committed to building a stand-alone hospice facility. They have a lot of money in the bank, and they're ready to go. The society is seeking endorsement for the project and a commitment to fund operations once the facility is constructed. Despite persistence on their part, they have been unable to receive any kind of answer from the Nova Scotia Health Authority or the Department of Health and Wellness. Can the minister let us know what her position is on the provision of hospice and palliative care in Cumberland?

HON. MICHELLE THOMPSON: There are a number of proposals that are in front of the Department of Health and Wellness and the Nova Scotia Health Authority now for a variety of communities across the province. We recognize that end-of-life care is essential care. We also know that hospice organizations do require some supportive funding. What I would suggest is that the individuals in the hospice society continue to work with folks at

the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Department of Health and Wellness to better understand the needs. It is one thing to build a facility, but it is important that we understand the operational requirements, like staffing, like supplies, et cetera. Nothing is being held back. This is an important conversation, but it is to be had with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the Department of Health and Wellness.

ELIZABETH SMITH-MCCROSSIN: I'll let the minister know that the society has actually been requesting a meeting with the department and with the Nova Scotia Health Authority for a long time. They're not getting any response. There's just silence on the other end. About four years ago, I had a meeting on their behalf with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and was told at that time that there was no money for operations. Despite that, this society is dedicated to ensuring that there is proper palliative care and hospice in our community. Of course, this would go a long way to help address the capacity issues as well in our hospitals. Will the minister commit to ensuring her department will have a meeting with the Cumberland County Hospice & Palliative Care Society and identify and address palliative care needs?

MICHELLE THOMPSON: As I mentioned before, there are a number of proposals that are in front of the Department of Health and Wellness and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. I'm not aware of that one particularly. I will have a look at it, and I will find out the status of that. Certainly, I'm interested in understanding how best to support palliative care and hospice services across the province and will continue to do that.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Halifax Needham.

### **PSC: ELIMINATION OF JOBS - EXPLAIN**

SUZY HANSEN: Speaker, today we heard this government double down on its belief that eliminating jobs upon the retirement of existing civil servants is somehow different from reducing the number of good-paying full-time jobs for Nova Scotians actively searching for work. To me, reducing the number of civil service jobs by 159 is taking away 159 jobs that would otherwise have been there. Can the Minister of the Public Service Commission explain why she disagrees with this basic logic?

HON. TWILA GROSSE: With regard to these 159 positions that are talked about in terms of the reduction of the Public Service Commission: Recognizing that our Public Service Commission has over 11,500 employees, we recognize that efficiencies have to happen. We've got to get more efficient, working more collaboratively, and also putting those positions where they need to be. It's in terms of flexibility. Those reductions . . .

SUZY HANSEN: It's been harder for folks across the province to meet their basic needs on a day-to-day basis. The cost of transportation, groceries, and housing are all rising, and now we know that Trump's tariffs are only going to make this worse. Nova Scotians are relying on members of the Public Service to help them through these tough

times. I'm curious: Why is this government reducing jobs when the demand for government services is increasing?

[10:45 a.m.]

TWILA GROSSE: As noted before, we are not reducing jobs.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member for Sackville-Cobequid.

### **DAE: STUDENT HOUSING STRATEGY - RELEASE**

PAUL WOZNEY: In 2021, the government announced it would create a student housing strategy. This was welcome news. Consultations were completed with many key stakeholders and everything seemed to be on track for the strategy to be released in Spring 2023. Yet as of today, this strategy has not been released, and students, post-secondary institutions, and families have not received an updated timeline for this important guiding document. Can the Minister of Advanced Education please tell us where the student housing strategy is?

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: We have made historic investments in housing right across this province. We have great partners, like our universities and NSCC, that have invested in students in this province. We see this as a top priority. It was in the last bilateral agreement. Our universities stepped up, and NSCC stepped up to the challenge. We're going to continue to work with them to make sure all our students have a safe, affordable place to study.

PAUL WOZNEY: We know that the department rightly spent years working on the strategy but students have waited years for it. Students want to know specifically, not as part of the larger budget picture, what their government's doing to ensure they'll have a safe and affordable place to live while they work to complete their degrees and certificates. They deserve to have the findings of this strategy. My question is: Will the Minister agree to release the student housing strategy?

BRENDAN MAGUIRE: You don't have to go too far to see the investment in housing in this province. Just go to Sydney and see the student housing that's been built at NSCC. We're working with our universities; we know that some of that student housing is empty. We're working with them to make sure they're filled. We're working with them to make sure we understand and they understand why those places are empty. We're going to continue to work with them. We're about to sign a bilateral agreement that will emphasize our universities but also the housing. I'm proud of the work of NSCC. I'm proud of the work of all our universities. We'll continue to support them, and we'll continue to support our students.

THE SPEAKER: We have 10 seconds left.

The honourable member for Timberlea-Prospect.

HON. IAIN RANKIN: Will you pave the new . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order. (Laughs) Order, please. The time allotted for Oral Questions put by Members to Ministers has expired.

### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Speaker, pursuant to Rule 5C, I rule that the hours for March 3<sup>rd</sup> be 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule 5C, the hours for March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Speaker, would you please call Public Bills for Second Reading.

### **PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Speaker, would you please call Bill No. 1.

#### **Bill No. 1 - Government Organization and Administration Act.**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Premier.

THE PREMIER: I move that Bill No. 1, An Act Respecting Government Organization and Administration, be now read a second time.

Nova Scotians have given us a strong second mandate, and with that comes a responsibility to take action decisively and to deliver for Nova Scotians. We feel that responsibility. As we start out our second mandate, I can't help but congratulate my friend and a friend to Nova Scotia, Premier Doug Ford, on his third majority mandate. It's absolutely incredible - three majority mandates. I think the people of Ontario have spoken

very clearly and very loudly about how they feel about their government. We should all strive to that.

I think in our first mandate, we proved that we can work with anyone to get things done. We know that working with anyone is exactly what's required right now, in this moment, in these times that we live in. We feel the urgency and we feel the obligation to deliver for Nova Scotians. When faced with action or inaction, we will always choose action. We know that when you choose action and you move fast, sometimes you don't get it exactly perfect, but I still think it's in the best interest of Nova Scotians to move.

Inaction is not an option. Nova Scotians feel the urgency on the matters of the day, and as their government, we feel that too. We'll move quickly. When we move quickly, we know that sometimes you have to readjust the course a little bit. On Bill No. 1, an Act Respecting Government Organization and Administration - we will be making amendments to this bill. We will also, in the course of this legislative session, make amendments to other bills.

There will be some who say amending bills is a failure. There will be some who say any bill introduced at first reading should be the exact bill that's passed at third reading, that you should just go right through, and it shouldn't be amended. I don't believe that. There will be others who say the government should have done more work before they brought it to the House. They will say that the government should have been perfect. I don't believe that, and I don't think Nova Scotians believe that, either.

The only place where perfect is the standard is in this Chamber, and it's the standard that the Opposition attempts to hold the government to. Nova Scotians don't. What Nova Scotians do expect is when you get something wrong, that you have the courage to fix it. We will do that every single time. Because more than perfection, they demand action. They're seeing that action from us. What's the alternative? The inaction that we've seen from prior governments on a number of significant files is why we are where we are. It's exactly why we are.

We are where we are because the governments didn't have the courage to tackle the issues of the day. Banning industries outright is just poor government policy. We're not into that type of thing. We're into action. We feel the obligation to act, and I feel that oftentimes we say that as a government with this collective, amazing caucus we have from across the province of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. We have a very deep caucus.

I think with that type of depth and insight and knowledge, we can move. We can make 99 decisions in the time that another group of people might make five, but when you make 99 decisions in the time some other person might make five, you don't get them all perfect, and that's okay too. We'll continue to acknowledge when we've been imperfect - that's the Bluenoser way - and that's what we'll continue to do.

We know when we introduce a bill in this Chamber, there is a process that the bill follows. That process is actually designed to catch and correct imperfections, and it's not a bad thing. I believe in and respect that process. Of course, a bill would get introduced at first reading, then there would be a second reading, then we would go to what was traditionally the Law Amendments Committee, then we would go to Committee of the Whole House on Bills, and then third reading. This is a process, and the process is there for a reason, and it's to make sure that what comes out the end is the best possible legislation.

Many times, when a bill is introduced at first reading, it's called for second reading the very next day to start the process, and that's perfectly fine, and sometimes it's even necessary. It's even necessary sometimes to move quickly, but it's exactly why when you look through the Hansard over the years - I know there are a lot of scholars of Hansard in this room - but you'll often see at second reading: We'll wait and see what the public has to say, we'll wait and see at the next stages. There is a process and people are aware of that process.

If you look back historically, amendments to bills - when they happen, which is rare, but it's not rare under us; I hope it never is rare under us because it's part of the process that should be respected - those amendments would be at the Committee of the Whole House on Bills. Sometimes, it's obvious you need to make a change, and maybe you try to do it a bit earlier. We tried to do that this session - make a change - but the Opposition didn't want the change at that time. When we know it's time to act, we act, and we'll continue to do that.

Even though second reading is often the day after it's introduced at first reading, that's not the case for this bill. We've actually let this bill sit for, I don't know - it's almost a week now. There's been plenty of discussion about this bill. There's been plenty written about this bill. Some of it's even been accurate, but there's certainly been some that's written. There's been a lot of time to adjust this bill. In fact, in the face of seeing all of the commentary - and in the face of talking to the Auditor General, the commissioner for FOIPOP and stuff - we knew it was time to act, so there will be changes to this.

There will be changes to this bill around the Auditor General portions. We'll remove that and have those discussions later with the Auditor General and the team there. There will be changes to the FOIPOP section. The reason that FOIPOP is in this bill to begin with actually comes out of suggestions that were made from that office initially. We were being responsive to an ask of our government.

The record of this province - and certainly under our government on responding to requests from the public - is very good. It's the best in the country. Almost 80 per cent are responded to within 30 days. I mentioned the other day in the House that there are other jurisdictions at 44 per cent, 27 per cent and in the 60s and 70s, but we're the highest in the country, and we're the highest in the country in the face of an incredible increase in the volume of submissions. It's up over 400 per cent in the last few years.

[11:00 a.m.]

I think the reason that the Commissioner's Office asked us to look at this - the reason it's in this bill - is because they felt that they could do even better and we could, as a government, do even better if we would be more, let's say, reasonable and had some gates around the requests that come in.

I know why they asked that. Because in 3,500 requests, it's something like three entities. We don't know who they are - we never know - but three entities made almost 600 submissions. Think about that. Of the 3,500 total submissions, almost 600 came from just three entities. The Commissioner's Office said: Look, maybe you can put some controls around that. So that's what we're trying to do. When the rubber hit the road and the words were there, the Office came back and said thank you for moving on this, but we need you to - we would like you to make a few - we'll make those too.

We know there'll be changes to the Auditor General's portion. We know there'll be changes to the FOIPOP portions of that. The reason we moved so quickly on that is because it is my personal belief, and it is the belief of our government, that public policy that shakes the confidence of the public is not good policy. Even if it is well intentioned and even if it's maybe right in some sense, if it causes the public tremendous concern, then you need to take a look at that. That's what was happening with the Auditor General portion in the FOIPOP.

We'll address that. We will continue to listen. We will continue to respond and make the changes that are in the best interests of Nova Scotians. I think history shows that we will do that. We did that when we had a majority government. We'll do it when we have a supermajority government because it's just who we are as people - as Nova Scotians. We want what's best for this province.

Our commitment is that we'll continue to listen, we'll continue to respond, and we'll let the process formally unfold and go through. Through that process, who knows, there could be more amendments. Some of them might make sense, and some of them might be reasonable. We'll consider them. The next time for that would be at the Public Engagement Committee, formerly called the Law Amendments Committee. I wanted to call it the Public Engagements Committee, but I think it's called the Public Bills Committee. This is the process where Nova Scotians can come and have their say to elected representatives on legislation before the House. It's unique to Nova Scotia. It doesn't happen anywhere else, but we are modernizing that process too.

I don't believe it would be appropriate for an amendment - it was called the Law Amendments Committee. I don't know that a single bill was amended at that committee in history because it's not appropriate to amend that bill at that committee. It wouldn't be appropriate for eight or nine MLAs sitting around to amend a piece of legislation when across the hall there are 55 elected people. But bringing ideas forward to that committee is really important. If there's a member on that committee who says, I like that idea, then that



member can bring it to this floor and everyone can discuss it. This is an important part of the process. We'll listen, and we'll respond as appropriate.

The other parts of this bill are all about being able to manage the government in a responsible way in the best interests of the taxpayers. There are parts of this bill that amend the Executive Council Act and the Public Service Act to reflect government's updated view of the required structure of government so we can structure government - we can manage government - to best respond to the interests and needs of Nova Scotians. This bill does some of that. This bill also speaks to the ability of government to organize the workforce and make sure that is pointed in the best possible way at that point in time - the needs of the day - to service Nova Scotians.

Everything has to go back to Nova Scotians. We're all here to serve Nova Scotians. We have an incredible public service. They're dedicated, and they're committed, and we want to make sure they can have the tools that they need to do their jobs, too, so there are parts in there as well. This Bill No. 1 includes provisions around updating MLA compensation arrangements, so that will be in this bill.

We know that as we organize how MLAs are responsive to people through increased use and reliance on ministerial assistants to make sure we're moving projects forward, the bill speaks to the recognition of that.

There are a couple of amendments around the bill in defining what an outside member is to align with other legislation. There are some changes around aligning the pay periods for ministerial assistants and leaders of recognized political parties with the rest of government. It's all bringing it all together.

There's a portion in this bill that speaks to the Private Ways Act. This is an Act that was put in place at the end of the 1800s. It's time to update that Act.

Speaker, I also reached the conclusion - and it's incorporated in this bill - that the fixed election Act that we passed last time is not going to work, so we're taking that out. Someday along the line, some Leader of the Opposition will campaign on returning that, and maybe somebody will return it, and maybe it will work at that point in time, but it doesn't work today.

The world is changing very fast, and I believe in the right of Nova Scotians to have their say. I don't think that we should determine four years in advance exactly when that is. I think we should be responsive to what's happening in the world.

We did that and Nova Scotians did respond. I think for this point in time, we'll move forward with the traditions that have existed in this House for decades and decades before we made that attempt.

Speaker, I think this is an important piece of legislation. There is other legislation before the House that speaks to the economy very directly and speaks to all kinds of ways that we're going to support Nova Scotians, through the Financial Measures Act and the budget - investments we'll make in Nova Scotians.

This bill is around the organization and structure of government and the impacts on people impacted by it. I think we'll continue to focus on that, and we'll move this bill through the process.

Speaker, with those few words, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 1.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is to adjourn debate on Bill No. 1.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

The honourable Government House Leader.

HON. BRENDAN MAGUIRE: Speaker, would you please call the order of business Government Motions.

### **GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Government House Leader.

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

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

LINA HAMID: Today I rise to address the vital importance of the non-profit sector in Nova Scotia, and to speak frankly about the critical challenge they are facing, which is the persistent lack of adequate funding. This challenge is made even worse by the fact that they are increasingly being called upon to address the housing crisis that many Nova Scotians are facing, food insecurity, as well as supporting people in recovering from natural disasters. They are the bedrock of support for community members living in poverty, providing essential services and advocating for system change.

These organizations are stretched thin, far past their capacity, and they are severely strained. Their very existence is threatened by the chronic underfunding, even as they step up to address some of the biggest threats that Nova Scotians have faced and continue to face. They are crucially the driving force behind advocating for system change needed to address the root causes of these challenges.

Having worked in the non-profit sector, I am very aware of this issue and have seen the impact that this can have on such vital organizations. Many times, we weren't sure if we would be able . . .

THE SPEAKER: Order. There's a lot of talk in the Chamber. Please respect the person speaking.

The honourable member for Fairview-Clayton Park.

LINA HAMID: Having worked in the non-profit sector myself, I see that these organizations are the driving force behind advocating for system change and needed to address root causes of challenges - things such as the housing crisis and recovering from natural disasters.

Many times, we weren't sure if we would be able to proceed with certain programming, because we weren't sure if the funding was going to continue or if one of us was going to have a job within a month. While some of these forms of funding are multi-year, many of them are one-year funding. The multi-year funding, even then, has to be reapplied for or reports must be submitted every year. Even in the case where the funding is basically guaranteed for the following year, anyone who hasn't worked in non-profit I don't think realizes the enormous strain that having to reapply for funding is on organizations. Having a grant writer is a luxury for many organizations. It's somebody who's delivering frontline services who usually has to take time off from delivering those essential services to be able to reapply for funding.

I'll talk about a few examples, particularly from my experience, the first one being the Halifax Refugee Clinic. It's the only organization with the mandate of providing free legal and settlement support to refugee claimants in the province. When 160-some refugee claimants were bused to Nova Scotia from Quebec, the Halifax Refugee Clinic was actually not called upon right away, which is really unfortunate. First of all, not only would that have provided them the opportunity to address that issue - because they're the only ones familiar with the issues that refugee claimants face - but it would have also given them the opportunity to show their value and be able to get more funding in the future. So there was actually a little bit of an issue with trying to be the organization that provided services to those people when they were brought here.

For the longest time, the biggest funder for the Halifax Refugee Clinic - it could have changed - was the Law Foundation of Ontario, which I thought was quite strange. The fact was that in every other province, their provincial legal aid provides immigration services, but the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission is not able to do that, as they don't have the appropriate lawyers on staff.

It was a huge issue for the Halifax Refugee Clinic because they're the only ones providing that service. There had to be a way that had to be figured out to funnel funding through the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission to the Halifax Refugee Clinic to be able

to provide them with funding after a long time - I think 20 years - of not having any funding for the legal supports from Nova Scotia.

For this one, I think a lot of the members in the Chamber probably have a family resource centre in their riding. Family resource centres are fundamental. Anybody who has one in their riding knows that everybody in the community, no matter what you need, you're going to go to that resource centre. If you need help filing your taxes, if you don't know how you're going to pay your rent, if you need food - literally anything - family resource centres do everything. Again, they do receive funding; I'm not going to say that they don't, but there are some issues with how that funding is - I don't want to say "dictated" - how it's used in the contracts.

[11:15 a.m.]

A really prominent example is last year, when there was \$2 million that came through to go to organizations throughout the province to address food insecurity. Family resource centres were not able to apply to that particular stream of funding that was going through the United Way. They were advised that they already were receiving funding from the province to address food insecurity. However, the funding that they receive can only be used for households that are "a family." A senior living alone or a single person who needs support is not able to access that support through family resource centres.

Again, they're vital for so many communities. Lots of communities don't have other organizations that would have received that funding that didn't have the limitations on who it could be used for. They only would have the resource centres, and they couldn't get that additional support from the resource centres during that time.

Another thing that I would like to talk about - and I do look forward to being able to talk about this with the Minister of Opportunities and Social Development - but it's the funding for the parenting journey, the home visits that go to these organizations. The impact and the outcome of this program is huge. The organizations realize that, and they love being able to provide this service, but there hasn't been an increase in that pot of funding, that particular program, in years. There was some back and forth in the last three years about how it's a priority, and then it wasn't a priority, and then it was a priority, and then it wasn't. I think now we're at the point where it's back to not being a priority.

I do look forward to being able to discuss how we're going to be able to address this issue. The reality is there are provincial government employees who provide those same services who are being funded for those organizations. A lot of times, too, because there are so many of these cases that need to be addressed, a lot of them are being referred to these family resource centres. Actually in the contract, as far as I understand - again, I look forward to getting some clarification about this - in the contract, the funding that goes to the employees of the resource centres that do these home visits is about \$15,000 less a year than what is being paid for the exact same position within the government. Again, I may be wrong, but this is what I understand from these organizations that I have spoken

with for years. I look forward to being able to discuss this further with the Minister of Opportunities and Social Development.

Another thing I did hear, and this is a positive, is that the thriving families - the one-year pilot that happened or is happening - they're very excited about that and are saying thank you.

We celebrate their dedication and their passion, their unwavering commitment to serving Nova Scotians. Is passion alone enough? Can we, in good conscience, continue to rely on their tireless efforts, these tireless efforts that are being put forward by underpaid staff and volunteers while failing to provide financial resources that are desperately needed to address the core service delivery, the escalating housing crisis, the persistent challenges of poverty, and the unpredictable demands of disaster relief?

These organizations are not just service providers; they're community builders, economic drivers. They are powerful advocates for system change. They foster a sense of belonging, creating spaces where Nova Scotians can connect, volunteer, and build lasting relationships. They are significant employers in the province, too. There are thousands of organizations in the non-profit sector that employ - I'm not going to throw a number out there, because I don't know for sure, but it's a huge employer in the province. And yet they struggle to secure stable long-term funding and often are forced to rely on short-term grants or precarious fundraising efforts.

Even as the demand for housing supports skyrockets, the folks living in poverty - they continue to suffer. The need for disaster relief continues to rise, with climate disasters looming at any given point. We need to acknowledge that the current funding model is simply not sustainable, and these non-profit organizations are being asked to shoulder an increased burden - a burden that now, again, includes having to respond to issues that could be addressed using more stable funding.

They bring lived experiences of the folks whom they serve, of folks living in poverty, and bring it to policy-makers. There are lots of great reports that are being released by non-profits every single year. I know sometimes it might seem like report fatigue, we'll call it. Lots of stuff is being released. I do urge all the members to at least look at the reports being released by the family resource centres in their constituencies, to see the impact that they're having, and the need for more stable funding.

I urge you to look at not just stable funding for programming, and for goods, whether it be food or what have you, being given to folks of the community, but administrative funding, because there need to be people on the other side to deliver those supports. You need folks who are competent, folks who are able to work in really high-stress environments. You can't really rely on volunteers all the time to do that. Obviously, volunteers are amazing to have and they do amazing work, but there needs to be paid staff. There needs to be funding provided for that to ensure that these services continue to be delivered.

In closing, I would urge the members to consider the unpredictability of the funding that these vital organizations get. I truly look forward to discussing that further with the Minister of Opportunities and Social Development.

THE SPEAKER: Seeing no more speakers, the motion is carried.

[11:32 a.m. The House resolved itself into CWH on Supply with Deputy Speaker John White in the Chair.]

[3:11 p.m. CWH on Supply rose and the House reconvened. The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

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

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

THE SPEAKER: The honourable Deputy Government House Leader.

MELISSA SHEEHY-RICHARD: This concludes government business for today. I move that the House do now rise to meet again on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

THE SPEAKER: The motion is that the House rise to meet again on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

All those in favour? Contrary minded? Thank you.

The motion is carried.

We stand adjourned.

[The House rose at 3:12 p.m.]

**NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER RULE 32(3)****RESOLUTION NO. 23**

By: Suzy Hansen (Halifax Needham)

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

Whereas for more than 200 years, Africville was home to a community of African Nova Scotians located on the shores of the Bedford Basin until the 1960s, when the City of Halifax obtained the Africville lands, causing residents to be relocated, resulting in the loss of community;

Whereas according to a 1973 Africville Relocation Report Supplement conducted by Donald H. Clairmont and Dennis W. Magill of the Institute of Public Affairs at Dalhousie University, “there was no organized Africville presence during the” mechanics “phase of relocation” and “Powerlessness and community strains characterized relocatee orientation at the community level”;

Whereas Section 3 of the Africville Act in 2005 stated: “The Government of the Province shall issue a public apology to former residents of Africville and their descendants for the destruction of Africville,” yet no such apology was issued by the provincial government on its own behalf, instead being left to Mayor Peter Kelly following the February 20th settlement in the case of Africville Genealogy Society et al. versus City of Halifax.

Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly call on the government to immediately honour Section 3 of the Africville Act 2005 by issuing a public apology to former residents of Africville and their descendants for the destruction of Africville, and in said apology, recognize Africville for its aforementioned significance to Haligonian and Nova Scotian history.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Austin Dickie is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Austin has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 25**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Bayley Rushton is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Bayley has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 26**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Ben Scott is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and



Whereas Ben has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 27**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Braxton McCulley is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Braxton has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 28**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Logan Boudreau is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Logan has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 29**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Lucas Clark is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Lucas has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 30**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Mackenzie Paris is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Mackenzie has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 31**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Tucker Legere is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Tucker has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness; and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 32**

By: Hon. Tory Rushton (Cumberland South)

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

Whereas Will Allen is currently playing his final season of minor hockey with the U18 A Cumberland County Ramblers; and

Whereas Will has played with determination, dedication, and full competitiveness;  
and

Whereas he is joined by eight other graduating players on his team that are being celebrated for their hockey career and encouraged to give back to the sport that has given them so much during their youth;

Therefore be it resolved that all members of this House of Assembly recognize the graduates of the U18 A Ramblers on their senior game on March 2, 2025, and wish them all the best on their future and thank them for their time as a Cumberland Minor Hockey Rambler.