

HANSARD



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Speaker: Hon. Greg Deighan

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS	330
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	331
WINSLOE-WEST ROYALTY (Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame)	331
BELFAST-POWNAL BAY (Vernon River Community School)	332
CHARLOTTETOWN-KINGS SQUARE (Graduated Driving Licences)	332
ORAL QUESTIONS	333
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Notice of Absence of House Members)	333
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Blackjack on PEI)	333
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Assessment of New Games)	334
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Agriculture Representative at Summerside Access Centre) .	336
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (New Montague High School)	337
WINSLOE-WEST ROYALTY (Graduated Driver Licencing System)	341
ALBERTON-MIMINEGASH (Montrose Bridge)	342
CRAPAUD-HAZEL GROVE (Visitor Tax Rebate Program)	342
CRAPAUD-HAZEL GROVE (Jobs at GST Centre)	345
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	347
EDUCATION AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (Chinese Delegation Visit)	347
TOURISM (2006 TIAC Award-The Great George)	348
INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILLS	349
BILL 9 (An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2))	349
BILL 5 (An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act)	350
BILL 10 (Police Act)	350

ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT)	350
BILL 6 (Hairdressers Act-Second Reading and Committee)	351
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	376
MOTION 17 (Improving Safety on Island Roads)	376
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS	377
WEST POINT-BLOOMFIELD	381
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	384
TOURISM	386
MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT	387
MOTION 20 (Gambling Advertising in Prince Edward Island)	388
CHARLOTTETOWN-KINGS SQUARE	388
CRAPAUD-HAZEL GROVE	393
PROVINCIAL TREASURER	396
TOURISM	402
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	406
WINSLOE-WEST ROYALTY	408
SOURIS-ELMIRA	410
CHARLOTTETOWN-KINGS SQUARE	411
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	413
MOTION 5 (Scouts Canada Centennial)	413
CHARLOTTETOWN-SPRING PARK	414
ADJOURNED	415

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to welcome visitors to the public gallery today. It's a pretty nice day on PEI considering it's the 28th of November. I look across the rest of the country, I realize that they're having a lot of snowstorms and cold weather. So we are fortunate to be here on PEI.

I want to recognize some of the people who are in the gallery. I can't recognize them all. I see the Leader of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Constable, is in the gallery this afternoon. I hope he enjoys the session. Also see Frank Lewis, a distinguished Islander, who was recently recognized for his national contribution to the broadcasting industry out in Vancouver. It's good to see you here, Frank.

To all the other visitors, I hope they enjoy the day. Those who are home watching this session on cable television, I hope they enjoy the proceedings.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition : Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I too would like to welcome everyone to the gallery today, especially Mr. Frank Lewis who, as the Premier mentioned, has received numerous awards. Most recently he received a national broadcasting award out in Vancouver. We wish Mr. Lewis all the best.

We know he'll be involved in the broadcasting industry for most likely many years to come. It's great to see him in the House today.

I'd also like to say congratulations and welcome to the newest member of our caucus. At a nomination meeting last night, Doug Currie is our new nominated candidate in District 11. We're glad to have him on the team. I know that he'll make a great contribution to the Province of Prince Edward Island in the future.

For all those who are at home watching today on Cable 10, especially those who are perhaps at home feeling a little bit under the weather, we hope that they enjoy the proceedings and we hope that everyone will be feeling better soon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Mr. Mooney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd just like to welcome all the viewing public, especially my parents, that are home watching today. I also want to welcome Frank Lewis here. He's an avid fisherman and hunter and just the very type that environment like to see. He catches few fish and few geese.

While I'm on my feet I'd just like to thank the hundreds of people that came up to view the Wind Farm East. There were people there young and young of heart. It was tremendous to see. People take great pride in this project. I was just glad they turned out in droves. Have a great day.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

Mr. MacAleer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to welcome all those who are viewing the proceedings on Eastlink Cable, particularly those seniors who live at 501 Queen. We have a great following there. The Legislature is followed with great interest.

I'd like to also recognize in the gallery Frank Lewis. Frank has been an outstanding citizen. I don't know what he's here for today, but I do know that he's been involved in so many organizations. I particularly want to thank him for accepting the role as chairman of the Junior Achievement directors. He's now going to be raising funds for that particular organization. Frank has always been very active in the Chamber of Commerce. He's almost a legend here in Charlottetown.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome everybody to the gallery, especially Frank Lewis, I want to welcome him here.

He must be reading the paper quite a bit nowadays and seeing all those Tory appointments being given out. He's here looking for one, maybe. Welcome, Frank, and have a good time. Thanks.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Winsloe-

West Royalty.

Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

As has been noted here this afternoon, Mr. Frank Lewis is indeed in our public gallery and gracing us by his presence today. It is my great privilege to have the opportunity here to speak to members today about the wonderful recent induction of Mr. Lewis into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.

Mr. Lewis is certainly one of Atlantic Canada's best known broadcast executives. He is the retired vice-president and general manager of radio station CFCY and he was one of only nine Canadians singled out for this honour this year.

The hall of fame recognizes Canadians in private broadcasting or related industries who have achieved outstanding success in helping to raise industry standards from a material or humanitarian standpoint.

To quote Canadian Broadcasters' Association president, Glenn O'Farrell: "This year's inductees are innovators and leaders in the field of broadcasting and have contributed immensely to their industry and to their communities."

After 38 years in the industry, Frank Lewis truly lives up to these words, but perhaps even more impressive is the respect that his staff has held for him over those years. He has always been known for his fair and caring treatment of his employees and his willingness to give of his time and energy for a project.

Through his efforts, CFCY was selected as one of the *National Post's* "100 Best

Companies to Work for in Canada” back in 1996.

I know I speak on behalf of all members in this Chamber when I congratulate Mr. Lewis on this well-deserved recognition and to extend best wishes to him and his wife, Dorothy.

Mr. Lewis retired, as I mentioned, from CFCY but, you know, the broadcasting bug runs deep and courses through his veins, and he’s back at work these days as a consultant for NewCap Radio. Certainly, it’s great to see him keeping an active hand in this wonderful industry that serves Canadians so well.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay.

Vernon River Community School

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On December 14, 1966, a group of 25 people met in the Vernon River Parish Hall to discuss starting a community school. Little did they know that they would create something that would last for 40 years and is still going strong.

As Islanders, we value strong communities where we are close to family and friends, where we can share our talents and learn from each other.

Since this community school began 40 years ago, neighbours have participated in a large variety of programs at the community level where they learn with friends and neighbours from people they know and trust.

Islanders value the many traditions we have

been able to hand down from one generation to the next, and what better way could we find to preserve Island traditions than by creating widely accessible opportunities through a community school to learn music, crafts, home improvements, gardening, wellness and so many other activities?

For the past 40 years, the Vernon River Community School has been a tradition. The programs offered have been instrumental in bringing neighbours together to share skills and knowledge, companionship and a light lunch.

Many people who might normally be housebound during the fall and winter months attend a community school course which brings them a great deal of enjoyment.

I congratulate the many organizers, instructors, and students who have helped to make the Vernon River Community School such a success over the last 40 years, and I wish them continued success in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Graduated driving licences

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My speech is going to be about graduated licenses and the need for it in Prince Edward Island.

I just want to quote from this year’s Mothers Against Drunk Driving report: The minimum age of licensed drivers in Prince Edward Island is 15½. Prince Edward Island does not have a formal graduated license system. New drivers are subject to

passenger's restrictions but there are no time of day or high speed roadway restrictions. There is no requirement that new drivers have a BAC of zero percent. New drivers must hold an instruction permit for a minimum of 180 days and are then newly licensed drivers for a further two years.

Mr. Speaker, in this report, we are 10th in Canada. We have a D+.

I'm up here today to say I notice the minister has been in the news saying that changes to the graduated license drivers are coming. Her quote is: Legislation that applies 20 years ago is not necessarily cutting it today.

I want to inform this House we will be supporting changes to the graduated license driving act. We, on this side of the House, have tried several times to do it but we were accused of being anti-rural or rural. But I can assure this government and the members over here, we will support this legislation because we are for the children of Prince Edward Island and the necessity of this act. The faster the minister can bring this in, we'll support it, and we are not anti-rural PEI, Mr. Speaker. We are for Island children.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Notice of absence of House members

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

My first question today is more of a protocol question. I notice today that there's a couple of different members out of the House, the minister of health and the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. I'm wondering could I just ask the Premier if he could perhaps provide our office with advance notice of perhaps any ministers' trips that might be taking place while the House is going to be in session, so that we can plan around which ministers are going to be here and which aren't?

Of course, we understand that some ministers might be called out due to sickness or something, or an emergency, something along those lines, and we will expect to be notified the day of. But I'm wondering: In advance, can you make sure that your house leader lets our house leader know in plenty of time in advance, Mr. Premier?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is my understanding that the Government House Leader has in fact informed the Opposition House Leader each and every day of who will be in the House. I think I understand the Leader of the Opposition is looking for, perhaps, notice if a minister is scheduled to be out at a minister's meeting somewhere else in the country. We know of that in advance. I think it's a good question. I won't just take it under consideration. We'll try and provide that information to the opposition.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Blackjack on PEI

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, that's probably the best answer I've had in three years in this House.

My next question's for the Premier. There is now talk that his government may introduce games like blackjack into Prince Edward Island. Is this question under active review by your government, Mr. Premier?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

Yes, we're having a look. I've asked ALC who's requested - I guess earlier this year, they had requested back in the spring of the year, to move in this direction. During our conversation over the last month or so I've asked them to prepare a business case that I could have a look at, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Assessment of new games

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to try to keep asking the Premier and we'll see if he answers any of these questions. But an assessment should have been done prior to the introduction of slot machines, yet this government failed to do so. I'm wondering: Will the government conduct a full assessment prior to any moves to introduce any new games to the Province of Prince Edward Island?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, ALC continually conducts assessment on an ongoing basis, as do all the lottery corporations across Canada when they're looking at introducing new products.

A broad spectrum of things are looked at when they're conducting their assessment.

So yes, ALC would certainly have that information before - obviously, they would have it, and it was one of the things that we talked about in the spring, that that would be something that we would be interested in having that information provided to us before a final decision was made in this area.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The gambling report, which was hidden from the public view, makes it very clear, and to quote from the report: Before introducing new forms of gambling in the province, it is recommended that the potential impact of the new forms of gambling and the overall health and well-being of the population be assessed.

When will this assessment be conducted as, hopefully, the minister has indicated that it will be? I'm wondering: Will the assessment be tabled here in the Legislature?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: A couple of things, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, we reject the premise of the hon. Leader of the Opposition's question. The gambling report wasn't hidden from anybody. In fact, it was tabled. It's a public document, it's been a public document for quite some time. Introducing a new form of gambling in the province? I would submit that there are card games being played in a number of establishments right across the province. I think we could all - when you're driving across the province, you see the signs of the Legions or other establishments, Texas Hold'em tournaments and others. So I don't necessarily agree that this is

introducing a new form of gambling on Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Texas Hold'em is probably not a new form of gambling but it is something that should be regulated here in the province. Just so the minister knows, to my knowledge there is no legal blackjack taking place anywhere on Prince Edward Island.

My next question goes back to the minister and it says here: The impact assessment should attempt to gain an understanding of the relationship between the particular form of gambling being considered and problem gambling.

Clearly, the report's author is cautioning our province against blindly moving into new areas. I'm wondering: Will the Premier please tell the House who is the driving force behind this? Is it himself, is it the Provincial Treasurer or is it ALC?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, as I answered at an earlier response, Atlantic Lotto Corporation is given permission, I guess, on behalf of the province, to conduct those operations in the province, whether it be at the racetrack or at the retail sector where scratch tickets are sold.

So if you will, there's a relationship between ALC and the province where they conduct those activities, not only here, but in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and New Brunswick as well. The hon. Leader of the Opposition in his preface to the question is referring to the study. It's almost as if you're implying that there's an absence of information on

this area. In fact, quite the opposite is true. There's a preponderance of information in this area. We've taken the position, and the research certainly indicates and supports this, that gaming activity is best conducted when it's done in a destination, when it's done in an area where it's regulated, and where supports can be provided for those people who do not game responsibly. So that's the background from where we come at this.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It was just last Friday that we heard these new revelations about new forms of gambling coming to the Province of Prince Edward Island. I'm wondering, since the minister's indicated that he has been having discussions with ALC now for quite some time, if he can list off? I notice there was some comments wondering whether or not craps, roulette, all these other games were being introduced. Can the minister please list off the new games that are currently being considered?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: My discussions, Mr. Speaker, with the Atlantic Lottery Corporation have centred around what they refer to as table games.

I believe their interest is mainly in the area of Texas Hold'em, and we also talked about blackjack. Those were the two table games that we had talked about.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously, Texas Hold'em is something that's been across Prince Edward Island for quite awhile now in Legions and bars, and I know blackjack would be a new game. Is there going to be a specific assessment done on these games before they will be introduced, a specific assessment?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: I agree, Mr. Speaker, that Texas Hold'em has been played for quite some time, it's a game common in the province.

With the exit surveys that were conducted with the patrons of the racetrack to see what type of table games or what type of other games they would like to have available there, certainly the overwhelming response to them was that they would like to see a table or tables for Texas Hold'em. Because that's what they were used to playing in other establishments in the province. That's where the big drive and demand was. So I think (Indistinct) say that we have a level of comfort with that. We were looking at other new products in the area of blackjack, etc. We would obviously want to look at the research and stuff that has been done in that area.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'm wondering: Can the minister advise this House if he can please inform Islanders that blackjack, roulette, craps - I don't know what other games there are - baccarat, will not be introduced here in Prince Edward Island, so no new forms of gambling will be introduced?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that roulette is not necessarily a table game, I don't think it's classified as a table game.

I'm not sure of baccarat but that hasn't been part of the conversation. The conversation we've had around introducing table games has centred around Texas Hold'em mainly. The Atlantic Lottery Corporation has also inquired about the possibility of blackjack tables.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Agriculture representative at Summerside access centre

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We'll come back to the minister at another point, hopefully once he tables some of that information in the House.

But I've got a quick question now for the minister of agriculture. I've received some calls from, especially, people in the East Prince and West Prince area who are quite concerned - especially our farmers here on Prince Edward Island - that there used to be a representative of your department stationed at the access centre in Summerside. Currently, there is no agriculture position at that access centre now. Has the minister eliminated that position, and when will someone be there to be put in place?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you very much for that question.

No, the member is right. There is nobody there at the present time. We went through a hiring process through the public service just last week. Right now I'm waiting for a name or names to come forward from the public service to our department. As soon as that comes forward, there'll be a person put in position. So the hiring interviews have been done and we're just waiting for the names to come back from the public service to deal with that issue.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

New Montague High School

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

That's good to hear, because as you well know, agriculture is our main industry here on Prince Edward Island and there should be a representative there in the Summerside area.

I've got a question now for the minister of education. The Friends of Montague High School were upset by this minister of education's refusal to attend a public meeting in September of this year. They wanted to hear firsthand from the minister why the decision was made to renovate the existing Montague High School rather than move it to a new location. Minister, why did you not have the courage to attend the public meeting, and will you please offer an explanation?

Leader of the Opposition: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The request came in asking for the information in relation to why the school

was not going to be relocated to another location. I want the hon. member and the general public to know that I, along with a number of my colleagues, did attend a public meeting in Montague where we outlined the reasons and heard their concerns, and then we issued a press release outlining the reasons. There were statements made in the newspaper about the reasons.

I think the people who were involved were well aware. I know the Premier wrote a letter to the newspapers outlining the reasons again. So I indicated to them that that information had already been provided. We had already attended a public meeting and so the information was re-sent. But I didn't think there was any new information because the information had already been provided, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

A clear sign of a tired, arrogant government is when they no longer want to meet with the public. I was at that first meeting with the minister of education with the Premier where they heard the passionate pleas from students, from parents, from teachers about the need to relocate a school and the things that they were looking for. I think it only would have been courteous on the part of the minister and the Premier to go back into that community and explain why they decided not to move the high school like all those parents, teachers, and students wanted them to do instead of just sending out a press release or writing a letter to the editor.

I think that the people of Prince Edward Island deserve more than that, and I'm wondering: Why was the minister scared to go back to that community and explain her position?

Mr. R. Brown: Losing touch.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for everybody to understand that it's this government who has had the courage over the years to face people who had problems with decisions that were made.

No one can ever accuse our government of refusing to meet with people. In fact, when I was minister of health, I went to a meeting up west and people were actually surprised that the minister had appeared because that hadn't been the practice of the previous administration.

But I do want it to be well understood that the information, that the reasons why the school was going to remain where it was, were well known. They were well publicized. My staff met with people to explain what the reasons were. There was no question as to what the supporting evidence was in relation to the decision to keep the school where it was. The reasons were well outlined and well explained. I don't think there was anybody who should have been unaware of why the school was going to stay where it was. There were many reasons related to safety, relating to finance. We told the people who were concerned that we would take the issues back, we would look at it. We did that and, as I say, the reasons were well outlined. They had to do with finances, safety, the existing facility and its relation to the intermediate school. All those reasons were well outlined, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I guess now the answer will be they no longer have to attend public meetings if they believe that they've already explained it well enough without attending public meetings. It's really quite unfortunate, but it's a clear indication of a government that's been in power for too long.

I've got a question for the Premier. I'll direct this question to the Premier because the minister's failure to address the issues surrounding the new Montague High School is quite unfortunate. Mr. Premier, for some time your government has been stating publicly that five options were considered for the location of the Montague High School. As recently as November 8th you weighed in on this issue, defending the government's choice. Mr. Premier, what were the five locations that were considered before the decision to renovate the existing structure?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I find it surprising that the hon. member would try to somehow paint this story as a bad news story.

The thing is that this is a good news story. The government is spending \$14 million to build a new school. I know that the majority of the people in the area are very pleased that they're getting a new school. Fourteen million dollars is certainly not a sum to be sneezed at. This is a good news story. We made the decision to keep the school where it was for legitimate reasons and those have been well outlined. So I want to assure the people of Prince Edward Island that their tax dollars are being well spent in Montague, very carefully spent, \$14 million of them.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very

much, Mr. Speaker.

That's enough from the minister. We know how she feels on that. But I'm wondering, to the Premier, as recently as November 8th you weighed in on this issue defending the government's choice. Mr. Premier, what were the five locations that were considered before the decision to renovate the school?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Mr. R. Brown: No answers today.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, there weren't five specific locations that were pointed out in any report such as the hon. member is suggesting.

The thing is we looked at the justification to leave the school where it was. We looked at the justification there might be to move the school to another location. There were people who did contact us and say: Would you consider our property? So there wasn't a set number of locations that we were asked to look at. We did look at a number of different locations, but at the end of the day, we felt that there was certainly justification to leave the school where it was. The night of the meeting down there, there were points that were made. We looked at those, we considered those, and at the end of the day, government had to make a decision, and the decision was that, for a number of reasons, the school would stay where it was.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'll go back to the Premier again. The issue of where the new Montague School is located is an issue that touches not only the residents of Montague but in the many

communities that this school serves. Parents have been overwhelmingly in favour of building a new school at a new location. Mr. Premier, will you table the report, the analysis, that shows that your government's decision to renovate the existing school is in fact the best option for those students?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to understand that not only were there discussions between the members of Cabinet, but there were discussions within Cabinet itself.

There were discussions with Transportation and public works as to how costs would be derived at in relation to the building of the new school, the amount of money it would cost to relocate the school, the economic impact on Montague. So there were a number of discussions. Did we write everything down into an official report? No, we didn't, but there certainly were different papers that came to Cabinet, which are confidential papers, of course.

But the justification for why the school was going to stay where it is were very well known. It had to do, as I say, with its co-location with the intermediate school and the use that the intermediate school makes of the current facility. It had to do with the economic impact on the town, with the extra costs for busing if the school was moved to a new location. So all of those became part of the discussions that took place and we did talk about it very seriously. It wasn't as though we just with a wink of an eye or a blink of an eyelid made a decision. There were justifiable reasons for it. The decision was made after a lot of discussion.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the

Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

You can tell when a government's been around too long when parents, students and educators are all wrong but the government's right.

I've got a new question now for the Premier. Your decision to renovate the existing Montague school raises a number of environmental concerns as well. Concerns have been raised about asbestos in the school. There are also concerns about possibility of lead paint in the support beams. I understand an environmental assessment of the renovations has been completed. I'm wondering: Will the Premier please table in this Legislature the results of the environmental assessment?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that the public understand that this is not the first time that a school has been renovated on Prince Edward Island.

There are a number of different schools where Department of Transportation and Public Works officials, because of their expertise, are called in to assess the school. If asbestos or any other substances are found, there are safety controls in place where the workers work under certain regulations. They're certainly aware not only of the need for safety for the staff and the students at the school, but also, of course, their own personal safety is involved.

But these are people who are professionals. They're well trained in handling asbestos or any other (Indistinct). The intention is that the portion of the school that is going to be

torn down will be done during the summertime, but I think we have to credit the workers at Transportation and public works, the officials, with the knowledge. They've done it before. They're well trained. They're very concerned about safety. They'll certainly take whatever safety measures are needed in relation to Montague.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

My question for the Premier is direct. Will you table the environmental assessment that has been done?

Mr. R. Brown: Premier, Premier, Premier.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, the report that was done for Transportation and public works is very technical, I understand that.

But the point is that these officials, these workers in Transportation and public works, are well trained with safety measures. They certainly have done this before. I think the assurance of the public servant, the workers in my colleague's department, have to have - people have to have confidence in it. There's been no indication that these people would in any way, shape or form allow measures to be taken that were not safe for not only the staff and students but for themselves as well.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Very simple yes or no from the Premier:
Will you table that assessment?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I have talked to members of Transportation and public works and they assure me that the proper safety precautions are going to be followed.

They're well aware of the environmental issues. Certainly, they know how to do this kind of work. They're well trained. I have every assurance in the staff of transportation and public works that they will follow whatever safety procedures have been recommended.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

Graduated driver licencing system

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. In the recent Speech From the Throne, government announced its intentions to strengthen the graduated license program for young Island drivers. I'm wondering if the minister could expound a little bit on her commitment in this regard and, specifically, what areas does she anticipate will indeed be strengthened?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the hon. member for that question. I know that having served as chair of the standing committee that produced the report on impaired driving last spring that this issue is very important to the Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

We do plan to strengthen our graduated drivers' licensing system and, first of all, we're going to start by actually naming it, or renaming it, from newly licensed driver to the graduated driver licensing system.

Now there's just one thing that I want to say about the remarks of the Member from Charlottetown-Rochford Square when he read from the MADD report that said: PEI currently has no high speed highway restrictions. The reason for that is because we have no high speed highways.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Speaker: All right, hon. member.

Ms. Shea: That's what the report said but, you know, I just want to point out -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Speaker: All right, hon. member.

Ms. Shea: Anyway, we are going to look at strengthening the graduated drivers' licensing system in several areas, and one will be in seatbelt usage, the use of personal communications devices while driving, time restrictions around when young drivers are allowed to operate a vehicle, and blood alcohol content. We know that all drivers, but young drivers, are faced with many demands for their attention. We're going to try to reduce driver distraction and help improve our road safety by strengthening these regulations.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if the minister could be a little more detailed when it comes to the driving time restrictions here. Could you give us a

clearer indication of what particular part of the day young drivers may be restricted from being behind the wheel?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Shea: As in many other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, I believe that our legislation will come to the House to be debated as restrictions between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Speaker: Hon. member, you'll have your chance at Question Period, please.

Montrose bridge

Mr. Dunn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm asking a question to the minister of transportation regarding the number of people who travel highway 152 between Alberton and Tignish. We have a bridge there called the Montrose bridge which has been under disrepair for a number of years. I'd like to know if the minister can inform this House and inform the residents of the Montrose area and those people who use that highway 152 if any repairs or replacements specifically will be done to the Montrose Bridge.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That's a very good question. We hope to set aside some of our capital budget for planning to replace the Montrose bridge. The planning should take place in 2007. Hopefully, the bridge will get replaced in 2008. I would like to say for the hon.

Member from North River-Rice Point, who is probably home watching today, that we still have Dunedin on the list.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

Mr. Dunn: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The minister understands, as well as all residents of that area, that there's quite a bit of risk when crossing the bridge. The approach to the bridge is quite treacherous and dangerous. I'm wondering: Will the minister consider re-engineering that approach so it would make it safe for all the travelling public?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Safety, of course, is first and foremost in the minds of our engineers when they design roads and bridges. I have talked to several farmers in that area who are quite concerned that the bridge was not wide enough to accommodate the wide farm machinery that we have now, and the combination of turns and hills makes it very dangerous. So we will do our very best to improve the safety on that bridge.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Visitor tax rebate program

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to revisit some questions and responses from last week from the Minister of Tourism related to the changes to the federal *Excise Tax Act* related to the visitor tax rebate on the GST for foreign visitors to Canada.

I would just like, at the onset of questioning, just to clarify: Does the Minister of Tourism support the GST program as it presently was before this presentation by the federal government to cut it? Do you support the program, or are you supporting your federal friends in Ottawa by cutting this program, Mr. Minister?

An Hon. Member: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think what - was it the VST program or the GST program that the -

Mr. R. Brown: G.

Mr. P. Brown: The GST program.

Mr. R. Brown: What is the VST?

Mr. P. Brown: The visitor rebate program. But the GST program, as we all know, was decreased by the present Conservative government from 7% to 6% as part of their election promises, a promise they kept.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question.

I was contacted by members in the tourism industry concerned with the minister's statements from last week. He did not answer the question. Do you support the old GST rebate program and are you supporting it as the Minister of Tourism on Prince Edward Island, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

As I informed the House last week, I was the first Minister of Tourism in the country to present this as a concern. I continue to raise it as a concern. I told the hon. member that last week, and the tourism industry of Prince Edward Island is well aware of our concerns around it. So my position on that is not new. It's been clear from the first.

This weekend the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of tourism are meeting and this issue is going to be discussed, and my position is clear.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: What is his position, Mr. Speaker?

He says he's concerned. Last week it was a complex issue. Yes or no. On December 3rd and 4th when you meet with the other territorial and provincial ministers, will you be at the table saying PEI does not support this? Are you, yes or no, going to say that, Mr. Minister?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Mr. Speaker, I was asked this last week.

I said I was concerned about this issue. For the hon. member to suggest that this is not a complex issue is not accurate. It indeed is. We have the position that this is a marketing tool that is used by tourism, especially the convention and the tour operators, to promote their activities. Now we have to discuss that. It was a federal initiative and we have to allow the federal government - we can't dictate their policy, but we lobby for changes that benefit the industry.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: We can't dictate policy, Mr. Speaker.

Tourism, an important component to the Canadian economy here in our great country. I have the correspondence that TIAPEI wrote to Minister Flaherty concerning this cut to the GST program. I would like to, first of all, ask the minister: Does he have correspondence with the minister responsible for this from your department or from you, Mr. Minister?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: The correspondence that TAIPEI wrote was copied to me as well, and we corresponded with the minister responsible, as well as the other ministers across the country.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: What's in it, Mr. Minister?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. R. Brown: Words.

Mr. P. Brown: You were listening to the political panel last week. Our position was with the minister that we were concerned that this would impact tourism travel, especially international travel in the country.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Mr. Speaker, TAIPEI's letter that was written to Minister Flaherty is completely against the decision to eliminate this program.

I guess I would like to go back to some of the other comments made by the minister last week in this Legislature where he talked about it being a very complex issue, and relative to saying that there was only 3% of visitors taking into account this program, and that we do not have to see if the energy and the efforts spent on this particular initiative is where we should be directing our efforts.

So Mr. Minister, do you feel that jobs in Summerside are directly impacted by the decision of the federal government to cut this program?

Mr. R. Brown: Great question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier has already indicated, and I have indicated, and many have indicated, that we are concerned about the service jobs at the GST centre in Summerside. We've received assurances from the hon. Peter MacKay that there will be no job loss as a result of this decision. Now we can take the federal government on their commitments and the hon. minister has assured us of that.

The issue is one that has to be researched and our position developed. It is true that only 3% of international visitors who would potentially have had the ability to access the visitor rebate program exercise that right. So, therefore, we have to look into it and see what sectors does it specifically impact. We're aware that it impacts greatest the convention and the touring sector. So can there be accommodation accomplished relative to those sectors? Is that the best position for the tourism industry to take? That's the position that's being developed at the present time.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-

Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Meeting professionals can (Indistinct). The 3% takeup rate may be misleading. When we make the plausible assumption that each claim is filed on behalf of a travel party rather than an individual, the percentage claimant rate is likely to increase.

So in fact using a 3% statistic is not correct, Mr. Speaker. There are many others that are utilizing this: travel groups, packages, that all comes into account. So Mr. Minister, how can you justify 3% being your answer?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member confirms what I just said. I did say that the sector that is most impacted by this is the convention and the touring group sector. We're working with - and I made comments to that regard in a conference call with the federal minister responsible for tourism last week, that this is where this particular program impacts the greatest and we have to raise that. Where the impact is the greatest, that is where the greatest concern is, and it's from that point from which we'll be lobbying.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Mr. Speaker, impact.

Last week the minister stated 10% visitors being affected internationally. We have over 22% of visitors coming to our province here that are either US or international-based tourists. This is a very important program for them. I'm going to go back to the minister's statement where he called the Member from Egmont grandstanding. He

stated that he was grandstanding as part of this committee looking into this issue. My questioning was: Why didn't the minister here on Prince Edward Island for tourism go to the committee and present to the committee the case here on Prince Edward Island? So Mr. Minister, maybe you went back to your department and consulted a little bit more. Why didn't you go and present to this committee?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's funny that the hon. member would bring up that point. The Member from Egmont reminded me of that statement the next day. So, obviously, someone ran out and made sure that he was informed of my statement, which is quite interesting.

But anyway, the committee hearing was a time when the workers from Summerside, along with the Member from Egmont, presented to the hearing. I am working through the federal Minister of Industry, Maxime Bernier, who is the minister responsible for tourism, and also we've made our feelings well known to Minister MacKay as well as Minister Flaherty.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Jobs at GST centre

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Going back to this issue of grandstanding, Don Harding, who is the union president for the employees at the GST centre, went and presented. As well, the Mayor of Summerside went and presented to the committee. So where was the Minister of

Tourism from Prince Edward Island at these committee hearings, Mr. Minister?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We are concerned about the jobs in Summerside. We've always been concerned about the jobs in Summerside. I might remind the hon. member that it was the federal Conservative government that built the GST centre in Summerside.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. P. Brown: It was the federal Conservative government that made sure that there was offset for the loss of the air force base in Summerside. It was the federal Conservative government that insured the development of Slemon Park and increased the jobs in the Summerside area by tenfold.

So there's been a lot done. There will be a lot continued to be done, and we support the Summerside area. We support the jobs there. This is a very important part of the economy. That's why we talked to Minister MacKay, sought the assurances that there would be no job loss, and received those assurances.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: So now it's what's done outside, Mr. Speaker.

Here we have a parliamentary committee looking at this issue. It's a very important industry in Canada and important on Prince Edward Island. Let's just look at the name of the GST centre up there. What's the name of it? But if you want to go into what Peter MacKay is doing and what not, well, why didn't you as minister of Prince Edward

Island go and fight? So answer that question. Why didn't you present to the committee, Mr. Minister? Answer the question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Mr. Speaker, we sought and received assurances prior to those hearings that there wouldn't be job loss.

That's what the minister responsible, the hon. Peter MacKay, assured us. Why did we have to go when we already received that assurance? But there was maybe some value in the union presenting to the committee hearing, and I'm not disputing that. But as the minister responsible for national revenue said, Mayor Basil Stewart went up and met with her and received the assurances, while others didn't bother to darken her door but went to the committees and made claims that they couldn't substantiate. Like the fact they were saying there was a job loss of 120 people and there were 53 people involved in the program. Where they came up with those numbers I'm not sure.

Speaker: Final question.

The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Here is the minister attacking the union, the representative who took time to go up and present to the committee. Let's be under the understanding, Mr. Speaker, that what is said in a parliamentary committee is recorded.

So if Peter MacKay wants to go and present to a parliamentary committee and say the jobs aren't lost here on PEI, it's recorded as public information. But if he says that outside the legislature, outside Parliament, who's to say that's not going to happen? Are

you going to fight on December 3rd and 4th for PEI industry here in PEI and say: No, we do not support this cut, we will not support this cut, Mr. Minister?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Mr. Speaker, to correct the record - and it is terrible when people make claims that they can't support - I did not attack the union. I clearly said there may have been value for the union to go before the committee. I said that. If I'm not speaking loud enough, I don't think - I apologize for that. But I see the value in what the union did. I read the letter to the editor today from the union on this matter.

We're working to ensure those jobs stay in Summerside and that the tax centre continues to benefit the economy of the Prince County area and all of Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: End of Question Period.

Statements by Ministers.

The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member was asking about the environmental assessment report for Montague high. I want to make it known to the House and to the parents in the Montague area that there is a meeting planned with staff and parents for this week to present the report and to answer questions and concerns. The report will be accompanied by a background document which will provide information about asbestos and how it is dealt with in an existing building without exposing occupants to the hazards.

I will check with the department. I really think that maybe when I get back and check I can end up tabling the report. But I know that there is a meeting planned for this week in relation to the report with the staff and parents of Montague High School.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's a shame that the minister has to be so defensive during Question Period. If she would have given that answer during Question Period we could have moved on to even more questions. But I hope that the minister will please be tabling that information here in the House like we requested. I believe Islanders deserve to know that information and I hope that the minister will be attending that meeting, as well as any other meeting that the Friends of Montague Regional High School wish to put on.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I would like to welcome some very special guests to our gallery. Visiting Province House today are staff from the Holland College early childhood education program, along with our colleagues from Sichuan Province in China. Specifically, I would like to welcome - and all apologies for my mispronunciation - but specifically I

would like to welcome Ms. Liu Jing, Ms. Yang Rong, Ms. Huang Xiaotao, Ms. Wang Fang, Ms. Liu Min, Ms. Xie Lisha, Ms. Wang Yan, and Chrystyna Holman from Holland College.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is working collaboratively with Holland College and Sichuan Province on a project to improve teacher training for kindergarten and primary teachers in Wenchuan and Chengdu, Sichuan Province. They, too, have a community-based kindergarten program which is similar to ours.

They are now working to increase student success through enhanced teacher training using our Holland College competency-based DACUM teacher training model.

Through this five-year project, which is funded by CIDA, we have had an excellent exchange of knowledge with our friends in China. The project has encouraged us to carefully examine how we can deliver early learning programs and how we can continuously improve in this area.

This international cooperation and cultural exchange has also allowed us to provide incredible international learning experiences for our students and teachers.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in extending to our friends, once again, a warm PEI welcome and best wishes for continued success.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to, on behalf of the opposition caucus, extend as well our best wishes and welcome to those members in the gallery from Holland College early childcare program and from those in that program from the Sichuan Province in China.

It's wonderful to see this pairing happening. We have a lot to learn and I think certainly they're learning about the teaching practice here on Prince Edward Island and Canadian teaching practice. But certainly, it's two-fold, and the learning experience, the cultural experience that Holland College students will have, and Holland College itself, is a wonderful experience too.

So I extend best wishes to them in their time on Prince Edward Island and hope they enjoy it and are learning a lot.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As Minister of Tourism, I'd like to rise to inform members of the House that congratulations are in order for one of our outstanding tourism operations here on Prince Edward Island.

That operation is The Great George, formally known as the Inns of Great George, which was presented the Award for Excellence in Human Resource Development at the 2006 Tourism Industry Association of Canada National Awards for Tourism Excellence.

The Great George utilizes the emerit program which is based on industry-defined standards, recognized across Canada. The

range of emerit training is very diverse, encompassing many professional positions. They are created by professionals for professionals, making emerit the finest training resource available in Canada.

The national award noted that The Great George in Charlottetown recognized that employee development and satisfaction are key to delivering its exceptional personalized service. The owners of The Great George cover the cost of professional certification programs and 100% of eligible employees are now emerit-certified.

Employees of The Great George who become graduates of the program are rewarded with pay raises and promotions, further encouraging the ongoing training and lifelong learning essential for job satisfaction and professional service in the tourism industry.

It is also noted that the two-way communications at The Great George strengthen the team-building which is so important to the operations success.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Mike Murphy and Mr. Paul Smith on their progressive management style which has empowered their staff and garnered them the 2006 Award for Excellence in Human Resources Development.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to congratulate Michael Murphy and Paul Smith. Great George happens to be almost bordering on the

ridings of myself and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. Will now be under the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. We know that they do great service and I want to really congratulate them on this award.

It really is a testament to the first-class service that Islanders are able to deliver here in our province. I think that when we really put our minds to it and when we really work at it like these two people have done, Mr. Smith and Mr. Murphy, it shows that in the tourism industry, Prince Edward Island is at the top of the heap and we can compete with anywhere in the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2)* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that the same be now received and read a First Time.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk Assistant: Bill No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No.2)*, read a First Time.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I know that we've done one version of this but since that time we've had a request - (Indistinct) it came from Rotary and the house that they're auctioning off. Under the act we presently cannot provide them an exemption. We put this amendment through which will allow non-profits such as that to be exempted from this (Indistinct).

Speaker: Another bill?

The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that the same be now received and read a First Time.

Clerk Assistant: *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, Bill No. 5, read a First Time.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of changes to this act.

In fact there are changes made to 34 different sections in the act. Some range from correcting some grammar and spelling mistakes to other, more substantial changes, which I'm sure members will have lots of questions about when we introduce it for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *Police Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the same be now received and read a First Time.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk Assistant: *Police Act*, Bill No. 10, read a First Time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, this is quite a lengthy bill.

It has come about after a lot of discussions. The current *Police Act* is in need of updating and modernizing. So the bill, after much consultation and much rewriting, is being presented here today. I want to inform the opposition that I will be contacting or my staff will be contacting your office to give you a full briefing and answer any questions you have because it is such a lengthy bill. So we will be moving this forward, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

Do you have any more bills?

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 5th Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk Assistant: Order No. 5, *Hairdressers Act*, Bill No. 6, ordered for Second Reading.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that the said Bill be read a Second Time.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk Assistant: *Hairdressers Act*, Bill No. 6, read a Second Time.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said Bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay, Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Chair (Crane): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a Bill to be intituled *Hairdressers Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Committee that the Bill be now read clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: Can we have an overview?

Chair: An overview, please.

Ms. Dover: This is a bill that was asked for by industry. The hairdressers association of Prince Edward Island came forward. The last time their act was revamped was back in 1959, and so a lot of things have happened with techniques and lotions and so on. So

they asked if they could modernize their act. So the act is here at their request.

Could I have permission to bring my staff person, Susan Graham, onto the floor, please?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Ms. Dover: Thank you.

Chair: 1(1) In this Act

(a) "Association" means the Prince Edward Island Hairdressers' Association continued under this Act;

(b) "barbering services" includes

(i) shaving the face of a person, and

(ii) cutting, clipping, shaving or shampooing the hair or scalp of a person;

(c) "barbershop" means a place at which

(i) barbering services are offered to the public for fee, gain or reward, and

(ii) a sign or advertisement is posted indicating the offering of such services;

(d) "bylaws" means the bylaws of the Association made under section 26;

(e) "Council" means the Council of the Association established under subsection 4(1);

(f) "former Act" means *The Prince Edward Island Hairdressers' Association Act* Stats. P.E.I. 1959, Cap. 42;

(g) "hairdresser's licence" means a hairdresser's licence issued under subsection 12(2), (3) or (5);

(h) "hairdressing services" includes

(i) the cutting, clipping, shaving or shampooing, bleaching, cleansing, colouring, curling, dressing, neutralizing, styling, waving or permanent waving or the performance of similar work on the hair of a person by hand or by the use of a mechanical applicator or device,

(ii) the performance of a scalp treatment on a person, and

(iii) the preparation of wigs or artificial hairpieces for a person;

(i) “licensed hairdresser” means a person who holds a hairdresser’s licence issued under subsection 12(2) or (3), or conditional licence issued under subsection 12(5);

(j) “Minister” means the Minister of Education;

(k) “permit” means a permit to operate a salon issued under subsection 15(2);

(l) “Register” means the Register required to be maintained under section 9;

(m) “Registrar” means the Registrar of the Association elected by the members of the Council from its members under subsection 4(6);

(n) “salon” means a place of business at which

(i) hairdressing services are offered to the public for fee, gain or reward, and

(ii) a sign or advertisement is posted indicating the offering of such services;

(o) “salon operator” means the person who holds a permit to operate a salon;

(p) “student” means a person who is

(i) registered in a hairdressing program in a

public school, a registered private training school, or an equivalent private training school or similar institution in another province or territory of Canada, or

(ii) a recent graduate of a school described in subclause (I);

(q) “student licence” means a student licence issued to a student under subsection 12(6).

(2) Nothing in this Act prevents any person from

(a) providing hairdressing services as part of a school program offered by a school under the *School Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. S-2.1;

(b) providing hairdressing services as part of a training program offered by a private training school registered under the *Private Training Schools Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-20.1;

(c) providing hairdressing services while acting as an apprentice under the *Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. A-15.1;

(d) providing hairdressing services for fee, gain or reward where that person does so at a location other than a salon; or

(e) providing barbering services at a barbershop.

Any discussion?

Mr. Collins: (Indistinct) providing hairdressing services as part of the school program, under the *School Act*.

Is that being currently undertaken on Prince Edward Island?

Ms. Dover: There is a hairdressing course offered at West Isle and nothing in this act

would prevent that from occurring.

Mr. Collins: Thank you.

Chair: Any other - go ahead.

Mr. R. Brown: How many hairdressers are there on PEI right now?

Ms. Dover: They believe there are 723 hairdressers across PEI. They're fairly confident that number is close, but they can't guarantee it.

Mr. R. Brown: How many are registered under the current one?

Ms. Dover: That's the number that is registered.

Mr. R. Brown: Oh, that is registered, okay. Thank you.

Chair: Any other questions.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Association

2 The Prince Edward Island Hairdressers' Association established under the *Prince Edward Island Hairdresser's Association Act* Stats. P.E.I. 1959, Cap. 42 is continued as a body corporate and the membership is composed of any person who

(a) immediately before the date this section came into force, holds a licence issued under the former Act, unless the person subsequently ceases to hold a licence under this Act;

(b) is a licensed hairdresser, unless the person subsequently ceases to hold a licence under this Act; or

(c) is registered as a non-practising member under the bylaws.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 3(1) The Association has the power of purchasing or otherwise acquiring, holding or alienating property both real and personal, and performing all such acts and things a body corporate generally can do and perform under the *Companies Act R.S.P.E.I.* 1988, Cap. C-14.

(2) The objects of the Association are

(a) to promote and improve the education and training of its members;

(b) to encourage members to interact professionally in their interests, the interests of their clients and the interests of the hairdressing industry;

(c) to set standards for members to maintain efficient and safe hairdressing services and sanitary facilities in providing services to the public;

(d) to represent the members with respect to other provincial or national bodies; and

(e) to foster public awareness of the hairdressing industry.

Are there any questions?

Go ahead, sir.

Mr. R. Brown: A lot of barbershops now (Indistinct) hairdresser shops, there seems to be, like, these tanning booths and stuff like that. Are there any regulations for that or does that come under this or under another -

Ms. Dover: For the tanning salons?

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Ms. Dover: Doesn't come under this.

Mr. R. Brown: No?

Ms. Dover: No.

Mr. R. Brown: Is there a requirement for being certified under the other acts? Because I notice there's a lot.

Susan Graham Manager: Not that I'm aware of.

Mr. R. Brown: Okay.

Chair: Any other questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 4(1) There is established a council to be known as the Council of the Association which shall manage the affairs of the Association.

(2) The persons who, immediately before the date this section comes into force, were members of the Council established under the former Act are deemed to be members of the Council under this Act, until their successors are elected by the Association.

(3) The council of the Association shall be comprised of

(a) eight to 15 members elected from the membership of the Association in the number and manner established by the bylaws; and

(b) one member, appointed by the Minister, who shall be a layperson representing the interests of the general public.

(4) The term of office of a member of the Council shall be as determined by the bylaws.

(5) A member may, subject to the bylaws, serve additional terms of office.

Ms. Dover: The members of the Council, just for your information: the president is Shelley Bell; Dana Wigmore is the vice-president; Beryl Dennis, secretary-treasurer; Patty MacGuire is the registrar; and other members are Mike Deveaux, Pam MacFayden, Terry-Lynn MacKenzie, Melissa Gallant, Cathy MacGuirk and Lynn Smith.

Chair: Thank you, minister.

(6) The members of the Council shall elect the following executive of the Council from its members who are elected under clause (3)(a):

(a) the President;

(b) the Vice-president;

(c) the Secretary-treasurer;

(d) the Registrar.

(7) The Council may appoint any person to act as the Deputy Registrar who shall, where directed by the Council or the Registrar, perform the duties of the Registrar under this Act.

Go ahead with your questions.

Mr. R. Brown: Why do you make a requirement that the distribution of members be across Prince Edward Island? It could be seen if all the members were elected from Charlottetown or however they're going to make it. The Association may be looked as a Charlottetown (Indistinct) association. Why didn't you consider making some members

by county?

Ms. Dover: That would come in the bylaws. I know that when we tried to appoint laypeople we try to take that into consideration, but that would be under their bylaws.

Again, just for your information, the president is Shelley Bell; the vice-president of the executive is Dana Wigmore; the secretary-treasurer is Beryl Dennis; and the registrar is Patty MacGuire.

Chair: Any other questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 5(1) A person is eligible for election a member of the Council if the person

(a) is an individual who is at least 18 years of age;

(b) is a member in good standing of the Association;

(c) is a resident of the province;

(d) is not subject to guardianship or supervision by the order of a court;

(e) has not been charged or convicted, within the previous five years, of fraud, an offence under this Act or an offence related to the functions or duties of a corporate director, unless the person has been pardoned under the *Criminal Records Act* (Canada); and

(f) meets such other eligibility requirements as may be set out in the bylaws.

(2) A member of the Council ceases to hold office if the member

(a) is convicted of an offence described in clause (1)(e);

(b) dies, resigns or ceases to reside in the province;

(c) was elected to the Council under clause 4(3)(a) and ceases to hold a licence under the Act;

(d) misses three consecutive meetings of the Council, without reasonable excuse in the opinion of the Council, as determined by a majority vote of the other members of the Council;

(e) has committed an act that undermines the ability of the member to act credibly as a Council member, as determined by the unanimous resolution of the remaining Council members; or

(f) is more than three months in arrears of Association dues.

Are there any questions?

Mr. R. Brown: (Indistinct) this under the minister of education. Which division or section under your ministry is going to administer this act?

Ms. Dover: Which - I'm sorry, I missed your question.

Mr. R. Brown: The section.

Susan Graham Manager: Continuing Education and Training is responsible for this act.

Mr. R. Brown: Continuing Education and Training. Are you going to have inspectors to inspect these facilities?

Susan Graham Manager: That comes later (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: Okay, good.

Ms. Dover: They have the power to inspect.

Mr. R. Brown: Good.

Chair: Next question?

Mr. Murphy: In 5(1) it says: "A person is eligible for election as a member of the Council if the person" - and it has a bunch of conditions. Just a question about condition (e): "has not been charged or convicted, within the previous five years, of fraud, an offence under this Act or an offence related to the functions or duties of a corporate director, unless the person has been pardoned under the *Criminal Records Act* (Canada)..."

Then, if you go down to (2) it says: "A member of the Council ceases to hold office if the member (a) is convicted..." I understand that. I guess my question is around 5(e). Let's say that there is a conviction. The person is sentenced. The time is served. They're back into society. I guess I'm asking the question of your official, Madame Minister. Could this legislation prevent them from holding a job or from sitting on the Council?

Ms. Dover: Did you say you were asking me or her?

Mr. Murphy: Yes. I'm asking your legal person.

Ms. Dover: Ms. Graham?

Susan Graham Manager: If they were convicted of fraud within the previous five years, yes, that prevents them from holding office as a member of the Council. Not as a member of the Association, but of the Council.

Mr. Murphy: Okay. (Indistinct).

Chair: Any other questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 6(1) Where there is a vacancy on the Council and there is a quorum of members remaining, the remaining members of the Council may continue to exercise all of the powers of the Council.

(2) Where there is a vacancy on the Council and there is not a quorum of members remaining, the remaining members of the Council shall call a general meeting of the Association for the purpose of holding an election to fill the vacancy on the Council.

(3) Where there are no sitting licensed hairdresser members of the Council, any ten members of the Association may, in writing, call a general meeting of the Association for the purpose of holding an election to fill the vacancies on the Council.

(4) Where a member of the Council appointed under clause 4(3)(b) ceases to hold office before completing his or her term, of which the remaining term is six months or more, the Minister may appoint a new member of the council under clause 4(3)(b) to serve the balance of that term.

Are there any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 7(1) The objects of the Council are

(a) to regulate the provision of hairdressing services by licensed hairdressers under this Act;

(b) to regulate the operation of salons;

(c) to establish and promote standards for the qualifications and safety of hairdressers; and

(d) to safeguard the welfare of the public with regard to hairdressing services provided by licensed hairdressers.

(2) The functions of the Council are to

(a) establish initial and continuing educational, proficiency and other qualifications or requirements for licences;

(b) approve applications for licences and permits, where appropriate;

(c) establish, or adopt from another regulating body in another jurisdiction, professional ethical guidelines and standards of practice respecting the provision of hairdressing services;

(d) monitor the adherence by licensed hairdressers and salon operators to the established guidelines and standards, investigate complaints regarding licensed hairdressers, salons and salon operators, and exercise disciplinary action by the suspension or revocation of a licence, imposition of conditions on a licence, or by reprimand or other means; and

(e) establish the fees payable for licences and permits and their renewals, including late fees and such other fees as the Council may consider reasonably necessary for the administration of the Association.

Are there any questions?

Go ahead.

Mr. R. Brown: You don't have any restrictions on what fees or licences shall be? The council will have an open and free hand in order to determine what they will be?

Ms. Dover: No. It's over a little further, hon. member, that we state - and you'll see it when we come to it - that the council does not want to be the body that decides the fees or decides the hours of operation. Those are up to the discretion of the hairdresser in his or her salon. There was never an intention to do that.

Mr. R. Brown: No, I'm talking about (Indistinct).

Ms. Dover: Oh, the licence fee.

Mr. R. Brown: Yes.

Ms. Dover: Oh, sorry. No, that would be up to them to decide that. That would be (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: Do other acts with agencies like this have it so open ended?

Susan Graham Manager: My understanding is that other professional acts do have the authority for fees of licences in the bylaws.

Mr. R. Brown: Thanks. Okay.

Chair: The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

Mr. Dunn: My question, looking at the objectives and functions of the Council, is this an attempt to eliminate the kitchen parlour hairdressers?

Ms. Dover: No. The current people who cut hair, or perform hairdressing services, will be grandfathered into the act. There will be a grandfathering of the people who have a licence and cut hair and have a sign and all that. If they don't have a sign, then they're not a salon as set out in the definitions. They can continue to cut hair, but they just can't call themselves hairdressing salons.

Mr. Dunn: So that doesn't eliminate them. Can they become a member of the association if they don't meet those requirements?

Susan Graham Manager: They can become members of the Association if they've been cutting hair for the previous two years. Two of the four years (indistinct) the act.

Mr. Dunn: They're grandfathered in.

Susan Graham Manager: Yes.

Ms. Dover: They're grandfathered in. This is coming later in the act as well.

Mr. Dunn: Oh, okay. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove.

Dr. McKenna: 7(1)(c), "to establish and promote standards for the qualifications and safety of hairdressers..." I'm not sure what you mean by safety of hairdressers. Are you talking safety of the public or safety of hairdressers?

Ms. Dover: Which one, sorry?

Dr. McKenna: 7(1)(c). What do you mean by that?

Ms. Dover: The symptoms, if you read the whole thing, "promote standards for the qualifications" and standards for the safety. So this would talk about things like the proper use of dyes and the use of utensils to do streaking when you pull the hair through the cap and so on.

Dr. McKenna: But would that be for the public?

Ms. Dover: That's down below. They're covered as well.

Susan Graham Manager: This reference is the safety of hairdressers where using chemicals and other types of equipment that may (Indistinct) for safety. There is reference to public safety later on.

Dr. McKenna: Okay, I assumed that would be under workers compensation, I guess, the safety of hairdressers.

Chair: The hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay.

Mr. MacDonald: Number (d), "to safeguard the welfare of the public" regarding hairdresser services. Is it true that some people have had problems by getting their hair washed when they sit backwards and put their head into the bowl or something like that? I know that on two occasions deaths have resulted shortly after going to the hairdressers. Is that a major problem or is it none?

Ms. Dover: It's certainly not one that I've heard about.

Susan Graham Manager: Not that I'm aware of either.

Ms. Dover: I know that if you're in a hospital, for example, and they come into wash your hair, they have a structure that goes behind your head that allows your hair to be washed. Taking into consideration your reason for being in the hospital. So there are structures that can be used by hairdressers to allow you to have your hair done in consideration (Indistinct).

Mr. MacDonald: I know of two occasions, not too far apart, one lady died right in the shop and the other lady died - she just walked home. She was next door and she walked home and she walked in the house. I attributed that to the fact that their head was back so far or something. I actually never saw it (Indistinct).

Ms. Dover: I haven't heard of that, no.

Mr. MacDonald: It does say here, to promote the safety of people.

Ms. Dover: The safety I think would have to do with making sure that the proper sanitary methods are used, that the proper dyes and chemicals are used. It has to do with the safety of the public. But I haven't heard of situations where, because the person leaned his or her head back, that a death resulted. But I suppose that's possible. But I don't think it would have to do with the hairdressing itself. It may be an inherent weakness in the client that brought about - like, it wouldn't have anything to do with the (Indistinct).

Mr. MacDonald: Could be. I shouldn't say unique. The two of them happened within a very short period of time.

Ms. Dover: I would say it was unique, yeah.

Mr. MacDonald: Were there no regulations before this act came into being?

Ms. Dover: They were but they weren't very comprehensive, when you considered that the last act revision was 1959. So that goes back quite a ways.

Their request had come forward on a number of different occasions, and after much consultation - you may remember that I tabled this in the House last spring and allowed it to lay on the table all summer and into the fall in case there were other considerations that the hairdressers wanted us to consider. I have to say that I didn't receive any comments or complaints from the hairdressers. This was done as a result of input from the industry.

Chair: Thank you.

Question, the hon. Member from

Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Mr. R. Brown: The board or the council is going to set the professional ethical guidelines of standards and practices. Will that be okayed by your department, the education skills and that?

Ms. Dover: Those are set by the council and this act gives them permission to do that.

Mr. R. Brown: Will you authorize them or will you verify that they're good or bad?

Ms. Dover: The industry will do that. No, it won't come back for final ratification by me.

Mr. R. Brown: Okay.

Chair: Thank you.

The hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove.

Dr. McKenna: I notice in some salons (Indistinct) hairdressers there is also an esthetician, whatever you call them, a variety of people working in them, sometimes even massage therapists, whatever. Is this *Hairdressers Act* going to govern all these individuals, or do they all have their separate acts?

Ms. Dover: No, this just refers to the hairdressers. Doesn't refer to the esthetician, for example.

Dr. McKenna: They have a separate act for them?

Ms. Dover: They are talking about coming forward with a separate - at the present time the estheticians do not have their own act.

Dr. McKenna: So there are certain procedures that some people can do in a shop that there are no laws saying they can or cannot do them? Is that the way it stands

now?

Ms. Dover: There are modern health and safety regulations across different acts. The *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, for example, would probably cover them. But there isn't any specific act that's peculiar to estheticians, for example.

Dr. McKenna: So we have nothing here that says that they can't be prohibited from doing certain things? We can't say: You cannot do this, you cannot do that?

Ms. Dover: The estheticians, no.

Dr. McKenna: Or even in this hairdressing act?

Susan Graham Manager: A hairdresser can also provide esthetician services. There's nothing stopping them from doing that. This legislation does not pertain to the esthetician services.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Susan Graham Manager: I don't have a definition.

Ms. Dover: An esthetician would be the ones who might tint your eyelashes or do some kind of hair removal, if you have hair on your chin, or pluck your eye brows or -

Dr. McKenna: Bikini waxing.

Ms. Dover: Yeah, wax your bikini line or whatever.

Dr. McKenna: There is a variety of tasks they do.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 8(1) The Council

(a) shall meet at least six times per year; and

(b) may determine its rules of procedure.

(2) The quorum for a meeting of the Council is one-half of the elected members of the Council, including at least one member of the executive.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 9 The Registrar shall

(a) maintain a Register in which shall be entered

(i) the names of licensed hairdressers,

(ii) the names of persons who are registered under the bylaws as non-practising members of the Association,

(iii) the names of persons who hold a student license; and

(iv) such other information as may be required by this Act or the bylaws;

(b) remove from the Register the names of any person whose license is cancelled or whose license expires without renewal;

(c) make such other entries to the Register as may be required by the bylaws; and

(d) perform such other duties as may be required by this Act, the regulations or the Council.

Are there any questions?

You're not in your seat. Go ahead.

The hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay.

Mr. MacDonald: Number (b), “remove from the Register the names of any person whose licence is cancelled or whose licence expires without renewal.” What does that mean for a lady, say, who is gone home and raising her family and wants to come back into the system and it’s a period of time, it could be ten years. How does she get back in?

Ms. Dover: She would have to take a training course. The training course -

Susan Graham Manager: If she already meets the requirements she could just reapply for a license.

Mr. MacDonald: What would the requirements be?

Ms. Dover: She has to have performed hairdressing services in two of the last four years. If it’s longer than that, then she would have to take an upgrading course where she learns about the modern solutions and perms and so on.

Mr. MacDonald: How long would that be?

Susan Graham Manager: I’m not sure how long the programs are.

Ms. Dover: I suspect it’s a year, Holland College.

Mr. MacDonald: You expect a year? A person who probably spent ten years at it has to go back for a year?

Ms. Dover: I’m guessing, I really don’t know. But I would suspect if you’ve been out of it for ten years, I would suspect you would have to take a hairdressers course again. I don’t know if they have upgrading courses, but I would suspect you would go back and take an upgrading course, which would probably be at least a year. That’s my guess.

Mr. MacDonald: Could you find that out for sure?

Ms. Dover: Yeah, we can get that information back to you.

Mr. Bagnall: I notice in that last section, did you make any reference to members that would be grandfathered under the act? Why wouldn’t it make reference in that act? Because there is nowhere said there -

Ms. Dover: There is a section that we dealt with that -

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, but it doesn’t say in this section here where - and I guess that’s where I was asking.

Susan Graham Manager: It’s saying that the Register will contain names of licensed hairdressers. If they’re grandfathered in they’re licensed hairdressers.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. They are licensed although they never had a license? I know they’re grandfathered -

Susan Graham Manager: They never applied for the license but they would be grandfathered in.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, that’s all I want to know.

Ms. Dover: Then they become a licensed hairdresser.

Chair: Okay.

Shall it carry?

Mr. MacDonald: I’m just a bit concerned about people who spent a long time as a hairdresser and went and perhaps raised their family and why they would have to take such a long - could they not be grandfathered in for a short period of time?

But they are not practising when this bill comes into effect.

When this bill comes into effect (Indistinct) person grandfathered in will be the people who grandfather at that particular time.

After that you got to do - we're setting up something here that almost - we've done it before, probably do it again, for example, the medical society. They're set it up that they do all these duties the same as we're doing here.

How does that person get in there? We should know that. I think that should be part of -

Ms. Dover: I think a person who, let's say, has removed himself or herself from doing any hairdressing because they're raising their family, like you say, they can continue to cut hair. They can continue to do that kind of thing as long as they don't report to be a hairdresser, a licensed hairdresser, when they are not. Now if they want to become a licenced hairdresser, the safety of the customer is the prime concern, because of the new solutions and the new devices that have come into operation.

I would suspect that the person who wants to get back into hairdressing, who wants to be a licenced hairdresser, would also be concerned about safety of their clientele, because she doesn't want to get sued at the end of the day. So I would suspect that a person who wants to just cut hair, I know they can do that, but if they want to become a professional licensed hairdresser, then it would certainly be to that person's advantage - and would be good advice for that person - to go back and learn about the modern chemicals and solutions and bleaches and so on. At the end of the day the safety of the customer is the prime concern.

Mr. MacDonald: So I guess what you're saying, and probably what I don't

understand - it's a lot more complicated than I would think. I know there's a barber who is here with his two ladies who cut men's hair and women's hair. They would not be considered hairdressers.

Ms. Dover: No.

Mr. MacDonald: But they can go ahead and cut hair.

Ms. Dover: They're governed by their own regulations.

Mr. MacDonald: Okay, but they have an act?

Ms. Dover: Pardon me?

Mr. MacDonald: Your barber, you have an act?

Susan Graham Manager: They have an association.

Ms. Dover: They have an association with their own regulations, but they are not hairdressers.

Mr. MacDonald: Okay.

Ms. Dover: You could end up losing your hair. You could end up being poisoned. There are significant chemicals and bleaches that are used today.

Chair: Any further questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 10(1) The Council may appoint an Executive Director who shall

(a) be employed on the terms and conditions of employment as agreed by the Council; and

(b) perform such duties as may be assigned by the Council.

(2) The Executive Director may be appointed as the Deputy Registrar under subsection 4(7).

Any questions?

Ms. Dover: Just for your information, the current executive director is Gerard Dougan. The ad went out, he obviously applied, and he got the job.

Mr. R. Brown: Minister? Just one quick - so is there a barbershop act?

Susan Graham Manager: Not a barbershop act. There's an association.

Mr. R. Brown: So is this going to administer barbershops, just the person who cuts hair? How do you distinguish the (Indistinct)?

Susan Graham Manager: This act does not apply to barbers. The distinguishing feature between a barber and a hairdresser is the use of chemicals.

Mr. R. Brown: But when I used to go to Danny's he'd throw some stuff on after (Indistinct). Motor oil or something, I don't know what it (Indistinct).

Chair: Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 11 The Council shall make an annual report to the Minister and to the Association concerning its general operation and the performance of its duties, and shall provide such information to the Minister as the Minister may request.

Any questions?

Mr. MacDonald: Yes. Would the minister then table in the Legislature each year, or just -

Ms. Dover: It could be tabled, it doesn't say that it has to be.

Mr. MacDonald: I noticed that. Some acts do say that -

Ms. Dover: Some do and there won't be a problem with doing it, but it's not mandated by the act. It would make sure that council and the association are maintaining their business, keeping an eye on the bottom line. Making sure that their financial statements are in order. It would indicate how many permits were issued, how many members there are, and that kind of information.

Mr. MacDonald: But the authority of the minister is very limited here in this act. It's really to report back to the minister. I suppose if you're not satisfied you would then ask for correction?

Ms. Dover: Ask for clarification of some point.

Mr. MacDonald: It would be nice if the minister would table it every year for a few years until everybody got used to the act.

Ms. Dover: Do you want to make an amendment to the act?

Mr. MacDonald: No, I'll not make an amendment. I'll just let you -

Ms. Dover: But I wouldn't have a problem with tabling that. I'm sure the association wouldn't have a problem with that either.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Sorry, go ahead, the hon. Member from

Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Mr. R. Brown: Why didn't you request the - "The Council shall make an annual report to the minister..." What about audit financial statements? You've seen a lot of organizations over the last couple years been taken for quite a ride. Why haven't you asked for audit financial statements? Not saying that this organization would, but there's a potential that it could happen.

Ms. Dover: The association would be made up of members who pay a fee to the association. It's not the general public in itself that pays funds, so it's not for public protection. It would be for the members of the association and their protection. I'm sure at any time they could ask for the information and that would be part of the purpose of annually reporting to the minister. But the association and the financial statements of the association, that's left pretty well to the association to control.

Mr. R. Brown: Any charity that's registered on Prince Edward Island has to submit a report to Revenue Canada for its expenses and revenues and stuff like that in order to make sure that it's -

Ms. Dover: When we get to the bylaws, hon. member, section 26, there is a section there that deals with financial auditing for themselves.

Mr. R. Brown: Annual report, they could just report to you that there are 760 members and that's it. There's no requirement that they have to have a set of audited financial statement in that annual report.

Ms. Dover: In the section of the bylaws, section 26(m), for their own members, they will make bylaws concerning the auditing and examining. But they're not really the same (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: Okay, good.

Chair: Okay?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Licences. 12(1) A person who wishes to apply for a hairdresser's licence and for registration as a member of the Association shall

(a) submit an application to the Registrar on a form approved by the Council;

(b) provide such proof of the matters referred to in subsection (2) and such other information as the Registrar or the Council may require; and

(c) pay the required fees.

(2) The Registrar shall, and the Council may, review an application completed in accordance with subsection (1) and, subject to the direction of the Council, if any, the Registrar shall issue a hairdresser's licence to the applicant and enter the applicant in the Register if, after reviewing the application, the Registrar or the Council is satisfied that the applicant

(a) has completed a hairdressing program at

(i) a school operated under the *School Act*,

(ii) a private training school in the province licensed under the *Private Training Schools Act*,

(iii) a school outside the province that the Council considers to be equivalent to a school or a private training school referred to in subclause (i) or (ii),

(iv) Holland College, or

(v) a community college outside the province that the Council considers to be equivalent to Holland College;

(b) is professionally competent as demonstrated by

(i) the successful completion within the previous two years of a hairdressing program described in clause (a);

(ii) holding a current licence in another jurisdiction in Canada, or

(iii) the successful completion by the applicant of such examination as may be established and administered, adopted or accepted by the Council;

(c) has knowledge of the professional ethical guidelines and standards of practice established or adopted by the Council under clause 7(2)(c);

(d) has professional knowledge and skills that are current, as indicated by such requirements as may be set out in the bylaws respecting

(i) the recency of the applicant's professional education,

(ii) the examination of the applicant under subclause (b)(iii),

(iii) the active practice of the applicant, or

(iv) the taking of a refresher course or program or continuing education courses by the applicant; and

(e) if licensed or authorized in another jurisdiction in Canada, is not currently under investigation or subject to disciplinary sanctions by a professional body for professional misconduct, negligence or incompetence.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), the Registrar shall, upon application, issue a hairdresser's licence to, and enter into Register, an applicant who

(a) as of the date this section comes into force, had provided hairdressing services in the province for two of the previous four years; and

(b) did not hold a license issued under the former Act between April 1, 2003 and the date this section comes into force.

(4) If the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant is qualified for a hairdresser's licence, the Registrar shall refer the application to the Council for a decision.

(5) Where an applicant, referred to the Council under subsection (4), fails to satisfy the Council that he or she has all of the qualifications required under subsection (2), the Council may, if it considers it appropriate to do so, direct the Registrar

(a) to issue a conditional licence to the applicant, subject to such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate; and

(b) to register the applicant as a member of the Association and record the terms and conditions respecting the conditional licence in the Register.

(6) The Registrar may, on application and in accordance with the bylaws, issue a student licence to a student

(a) on the condition that the student provides hairdressing services only at a salon and under the supervision of a licensed hairdresser; and

(b) on such other conditions as may be set out in the bylaws.

(7) For greater certainty, the holder of a student licence is not a member of the Association.

Is there a question?

Ms. Dover: This might address what the hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay was talking about. Because it says that the registrar could grant a conditional licence and could ask them to take a short refresher course. As long as they completed the hairdressing program at one point, that they have professionally demonstrated that they are competent, that they have knowledge of the guidelines and so on, and take a refresher course. If you look at (d) (iv), taking of a refresher course so that the registrar could make a conditional license.

Mr. MacDonald: The only question I have on the whole section is (12)(1) is when you do that you get your license. There is no such a thing as the association saying you can't have your license for a reason, like the doctors' group. Pretty hard to get a license.

Ms. Dover: No, once they've done these kind of things they get a license.

Mr. MacDonald: They pay the registers fees, you provide the proof and all of that.

Ms. Dover: You've demonstrated that you have competency, you have training and you're grandfathered in for those who have -

Mr. MacDonald: The other, I missed that. Which section is that?

Ms. Dover: The grandfathering?

Mr. MacDonald: The one you were just talking about where a person -

An Hon. Member: 12(3).

Mr. MacDonald: 12(3).

Ms. Dover: 2(d)(iv).

Mr. MacDonald: 2(d)(iv).

Chair: The hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty, you had a question.

Mr. Collins: I kind of look at 12(3) as the welcoming clause, if you will, for people who have been out there performing hairdressing services for (Indistinct) these many years but have never been licensed or consider themselves a professional hairdresser.

But under 12(3) if I'm reading this correctly, this certainly gives them the opportunity to do so and to come on into the association and thereby strengthen their profession province-wide.

But do we know, still to this day, how many people could possibly be out there in the country side and elsewhere who have been providing these services to friends and neighbours over the years who would qualify to become a licensed hairdresser?

Ms. Dover: The association believes that they have about 95%-plus of hairdressers in their association. They can't be assured of that, but there are probably those who do cut hair in their homes. They're known in the local area and they don't have a sign out that advertises it, but they do perform some hair services. But they are confident that they have 95%-plus.

Mr. Collins: That's good to hear. Thank you.

Chair: Any further questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 13(1) A person who, immediately

before the date this section comes into force, holds a license issued under the former Act is deemed to hold a hairdressers license under this Act.

(2) Every hairdresser's license expires on the date shown on the license, unless the hairdresser's license is sooner cancelled under this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a hairdresser's license that has expired maybe renewed by the Council as if it had not expired if the holder of the hairdresser's license has applied for a renewal not later than 30 days after the date of expiry of the hairdresser's license.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 14(1) A licensed hairdresser may apply to the Registrar for a renewal of his or her hairdresser's license.

(2) Where the applicant held a hairdresser's license issued under subsection 12(2), the Registrar shall renew that license if

(a) the applicant meets the professional currency requirements of the bylaws;

(b) the Register has no reason to believe that the applicant is, at the time of the application, contravening any provision of this Act or the bylaws; and

(c) the applicant pays the required fees.

(3) Where the applicant held a hairdresser's license issued under subsection 12(3) the Registrar shall subsequently renew that license if

(a) the Registrar has no reason to believe

that the applicant is, at the time of the application, contravening any provision of this Act or the bylaws; and

(b) the applicant pays the required fees.

(4) A licensed hairdresser who fails to renew his or her license under this section ceases to be registered as a member of the Association and shall be removed from the Register.

(5) A person who does not renew a hairdresser's license under this subsection (2) may apply for a new license under subsection 12(1).

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Permits. 15(1) A person who wishes to obtain or renew a permit to operate a salon shall

(a) submit an application to the Registrar on a form approved by the Council;

(b) provide such proof that the salon meets the requirements of the bylaws respecting the operation of a salon;

(c) provide such other information as the Registrar or the Council may require; and

(d) pay the required fees.

(2) The Registrar, on receipt of an application for a permit or a renewal of a permit,

(a) shall carry out such investigation of the information contained in the application as the Council considers necessary; and

(b) shall, if satisfied that the applicant has met the requirements of the bylaws, issue or

renew a permit to the salon operator on such terms and conditions as the Council considers appropriate or necessary.

(3) A person who immediately before the date this section comes into force, holds a permit to operate a salon under the former Act is deemed to hold a permit under this Act.

(4) Every permit expires on the date shown on the permit, unless the permit is sooner revoked under this Act.

(5) The Council may revoke a permit if, in the opinion of the Council, the salon in respect of which it is issued no longer meets the requirements of the bylaws or if the salon operator fails to meet any of the terms or conditions of the permit.

(6) A salon operator who does not renew a permit may apply for a new permit under subsection (1).

Are there any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 16.(1) The Council may appoint any person as an inspector to inspect any salon, during business hours, for the purpose of determining compliance with this Act or the bylaws.

(2) An inspector appointed under subsection (1) may be a member of the Council.

Are there any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 17(1) In this section and section 18, “affected person” means a licensed

hairdresser or a salon operator who is the subject of an investigation under subsection (2).

(2) Subject to subsection (3), where the Council

(a) has reason to believe that a licensed hairdresser is

(i) in violation of this Act or the bylaws,

(ii) unfit to provide hairdressing services, or

(iii) guilty of conduct contrary to the public interest by reason of negligence, professional misconduct, mental or professional incompetence or other comparable failing which may harm a client;

(b) has received a complain

(i) concerning a matter referred to in clause (a) or (c), and

(ii) which, in the Council’s opinion, is not frivolous or vexatious; or

(c) has reason to believe that a salon operator is operating a salon in violation of this Act or the bylaws or that a person providing hairdressing services in a salon is violating this Act or the bylaws,

the Council shall appoint an investigator who shall investigate the matter and shall submit a report to the Council.

(3) The Council shall not appoint an investigator until it gives written notice of its intention to the affected person and such notice shall include

(a) a statement of the Council’s concern or a copy of the complaint received, if any; and

(b) a statement of the affected person’s right to a hearing of the matter and the right to be

represented by legal counsel.

(4) An investigator appointed under subsection (2) may be

(a) a licensed hairdresser;

(b) a person licensed or authorized to provide hairdressing services under the laws of another jurisdiction in Canada; or

(c) any person that the Council considers appropriate.

(5) Where the investigator finds that there may be sufficient evidence to support a finding that the affected person is

(a) in violation of this Act or the bylaws;

(b) unfit to provide hairdressing services or to operate a salon; or

(c) guilty of conduct referred to in clause (2)(c),

the Council shall hold a hearing on the matter.

(6) The affected person has the right to be heard and the right to legal counsel respecting an investigation and hearing under this section.

(7) Where, after a hearing, the Council determines that the affected person is in violation of this Act or the bylaws, is unfit to provide hairdressing services or operate a salon, or is guilty of conduct referred to in clause (2)(a)(iii), the Council may

(a) suspend or cancel the affected person's license or permit;

(b) impose conditions on the affected person's license or permit;

(c) report the circumstances of the affected

person to an appropriate government department or agency;

(d) require the affected person to take an educational or rehabilitative treatment program;

(e) require the affected person to pay the costs of the investigation and discipline; or

(f) impose any combination of the proceeding measures or take such other disciplinary measures as it may consider appropriate.

Any questions?

The hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove.

Dr. McKenna: (Indistinct) penalty?

Ms. Dover: Yes it is.

Dr. McKenna: Is there a maximum penalty, or is that addressed someplace else in the act where we can -

Susan Graham Manager: There is a section of the act that says the fines are between \$200 and \$1,000. That's standard for professional acts. It's coming up.

Ms. Dover: It's coming up.

Dr. McKenna: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 18(1) Where, under subsection 17(7), the Council suspends or cancels a licence or permit, or imposes a condition on a licence or a permit, the affected person may appeal the suspension or cancellation of, or imposition of a condition on, the licence or permit to the Trial Division of the

Supreme Court by filing a notice of appeal with the court and serving a notice on the Council within 30 days of receiving notification of the decision of the Council.

(2) A suspension or cancellation of, or imposition of a condition on, a licence or permit shall take effect from the later of

(a) the expiry of the time for appeal under subsection (1), if no appeal is filed; or

(b) the date on which the appeal is decided or abandoned if an appeal is filed under subsection (1).

(3) The Council may reinstate a cancelled licence or permit or remove a suspension or condition on a licence or permit.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 19 The council may not, by bylaw or in any other manner, regulate, govern, increase or decrease, require changes or otherwise interfere with

(a) the prices charged by any person for hairdressing services; or

(b) the opening or closing hours of any salon or other establishment providing hairdressing services.

Ms. Dover: This is an important one that someone asked about earlier. The association has never prescribed fees or operating hours. These are the sole responsibility of the individual hairdresser or the salon operator.

Mr. R. Brown: Could they open all night?

Ms. Dover: They could if they wanted.

Mr. R. Brown: Sundays?

Ms. Dover: They could if they wanted.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Mr. R. Brown: Sunday haircuts.

Chair: Carried?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Okay.

20(1) A licensed hairdresser shall post the licence held by the licensed hairdresser in a conspicuous place near the entrance to the salon where the licensed hairdresser provides hairdressing services.

(2) A salon operator shall

(a) post the permit held by the salon operator inside the salon near the entrance; and

(b) ensure that the licensed hairdressers working at the salon post their licences as required by subsection (1).

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 21 No person shall

(a) call himself or herself a licensed hairdresser, or use any title, abbreviation or description implying or designed to lead the public into believing that the person is a licensed hairdresser unless the person holds a hairdresser's licence;

(b) offer any hairdressing services in a manner implying or designed to lead the public into believing that the person is a

licensed hairdresser or a licensed student, unless the person holds a hairdresser's licence or a student licence; or

(c) operate a salon unless the person holds a permit.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 22(1) A person who violates section 20 or 21 is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine or not less than \$200 and not more than \$1,000.

(2) Where a contravention of this Act continues for more than one day, the person commits a separate offence for each day that the contravention continues.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 23 A prosecution for an offence under this Act must be brought within two years of the alleged commission of the offence.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Sorry, there was a question.

Dr. McKenna: What happens (Indistinct) hear the case at all. Is that standard?

Ms. Dover: That's standard, I understand.

Dr. McKenna: It is.

Ms. Dover: If they bring the alleged

commission of the alleged offence back after two years, it's my understanding the Commission could refuse to hear it.

Dr. McKenna: If you're proven guilty and you want to argue the case again, where do you go next?

Susan Graham Manager: The Trial Division of the Supreme Court.

Dr. McKenna: The typical process.

Susan Graham Manager: Yes.

Dr. McKenna: That can go on more than (Indistinct) two years at that stage.

Ms. Dover: Once it enters that stage, but you have to bring the offence forward within the two-year time period.

Dr. McKenna: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 24 No action lies against the executive of the Association, the Council, their members, officers or employees for anything done or not done in good faith with respect to its functions under this Act or the bylaws.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Go ahead.

Mr. MacDonald: How does your council describe what is good faith in this case, "done or not done in good faith"?

Ms. Dover: If you used a chemical that you believed, and the label said, was appropriate, you applied it in good faith because it said it

could be used - I'm just coming up with an example. You did that in good faith. The responsibility of the fault lay with the company.

This section is saying that if you did something in good faith, then you can't bring a charge against that person. That would be an example of a case.

Mr. MacDonald: If there's some person that the council doesn't want to give a licence, if they don't follow the laws as laid down by this Act, then they could be charged? Say I want to get a licence. I'm a licenced hairdresser. For some reason I got the council turned off on me. They don't want me back in.

Ms. Dover: It would have to be for just cause. If you believe that it wasn't just cause, then you have a right to appeal.

Mr. MacDonald: To whom?

Ms. Dover: To the council. You have a right to have a lawyer present. If you're still not satisfied, then you can appeal to the Appeal Division of the Supreme Court.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 25(1) No action against a licensed hairdresser for negligence or malpractice in the provision of hairdressing services shall be brought later than two years after the date of the discovery of the cause of action.

(2) The relationship of a licensed hairdresser to a profession corporation, whether as a shareholder, director, officer or employee, does not affect, modify or diminish the application to him or her of this Act or the bylaws of the Association.

(3) No person is entitled to bring an action

in any court of competent jurisdiction for the recovery of any fee, reward or remuneration for the provision of hairdressing services unless the person was the holder of a licence or a permit issued under this Act at the time of providing the hairdressing services.

Any questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 26(1) The Council may, with the approval of the membership of the Association, make bylaws not inconsistent with this Act to govern the affairs of the Association respecting

(a) officers and employees of the Association or Council, including the election or appointment, qualifications, duties, terms of office, remuneration and removal of such officers and employees;

(b) the calling and conduct of meetings of the Association, including voting rights, procedures and the fixing of quorums;

(c) the regulation of the members of the Association, including

(i) the establishment of classes of members,

(ii) the terms and conditions under which members are entitled to provide hairdressing services,

(iii) the renewal, suspension or revocation of licences, and

(iv) the continuing education requirements for members,

(d) the currency of professional qualifications and continuing education requirements for members;

- (e) the requirements for permits and the renewal, suspension or revocation of permits;
- (f) the manner in which the Council may establish guidelines and standards for licensed hairdressers and salon operators under this Act;
- (g) the monitoring of the adherence by members to guidelines and standards established by the Council for the provision of hairdressing services and the operation of salons;
- (h) the investigation of complaints and concerns respecting members or salons;
- (I) the discipline process and hearings;
- (j) the duties and functions of the Registrar;
- (k) the making and amendment of bylaws;
- (l) the seal of the Association;
- (m) the auditing or examining of the spending of the funds of the Association or the Council;
- (n) such other matters as may be necessary for the administration of the Association.
- (2) The bylaws of the Association in effect immediately before the date on which this section comes into force remain in effect until revoked or replaced under subsection (1).
- (3) No bylaw or amendment or revocation of a bylaw comes into effect until it has been approved by a majority of the members who
- (a) are present and voting at a general meeting of the Association; or
- (b) vote in a mail vote or other form of vote conducted in accordance with the bylaws.

(4) The bylaws shall be kept at the office of the Association and any member is entitled to inspect them at any reasonable time without charge.

Are there any questions?

Mr. Dunn: Under (c)(I), “the establishment of classes of members...” What is meant by classes of members?

Susan Graham Manager: There are three classes of members. There are regular hairdressers who are regular hairdressers. There are the people in the apprenticeship stage of hairdressing. Then there’s the student members as well.

Mr. Dunn: They’re allowed to be members. Apprenticeships and students?

Ms. Graham, Manager: Apprenticeships can be full members of the association. Students are not (Indistinct) the association.

Mr. Dunn: So is there a different licence and fee and registration fee for those people?

Susan Graham Manager: Yes, the regular hairdressers (Indistinct) \$80 per year, the apprenticeship is \$50 a year, and students \$15 a year.

Mr. Dunn: Okay, thank you.

Ms. Dover: Now the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield, I know you’ve had a long-standing interest in this act, and you just arrived. My apologizes that we had the act almost finished, but I’m sure you have comments or questions that you would like to make.

Ms. Rodgeron: (Indistinct) I know you went through all the sections. Now I know it doesn’t state this in there. I was as well had questions around the student’s licence. I

know they can't attend the meetings as such. I know this last year, because I have a lot of students in my area that were really disappointed they couldn't attend the annual meeting. Not so much to vote, but to have some rapport with senior members and whatever. I'm wondering if they are going to be looking at the students as maybe even to be able to attend those meetings. Not really to have a say, but just to kind of build a relationship with the senior hairdressers and -

Ms. Dover: I think the bylaws will address that, and really, there's nothing in the act that prohibits them from attending the meeting, in the same way that student teachers attend the teachers' convention. The student hairdressers, in my view, would be well able to attend the meetings of the association, but they won't be able to vote.

Ms. Rodgeron: This past year there was a busload of them in town that wanted to attend just for the experience and meet other hairdressers and they weren't allowed.

Ms. Dover: They might well be having - under the former act, which was quite an old act, it may have been they couldn't. But there's nothing in this act that prohibits it. I think it would be made open in the bylaws which they would have a -

Ms. Rodgeron: I know the hours don't pertain to the bill, but I'm wondering, while it's on the floor, about something.

I saw a young man on *Compass* one evening. He was concerned about the amount of hours in regards to their apprenticeship here in the province. He gave comparisons in regards to other provinces, and it seemed we were really high end in comparison to the other provinces. So I did a little research on that to find, to see, because I was aware - in fact I talked to a student, I guess about two weeks' ago now, and the

concern around their apprenticeship hours. Let's say the course they take at Westisle, I think, is 1,520 in school and then they have to do 4,000 more hours, so 5,200 hours. In other provinces it doesn't - I'm trying to understand why there's such a broad margin.

The young gentleman that was on *Compass*, he was really concerned, because after he got through his training he was about two years working at a low wage, and in his opinion there was no stipulation around what he had to do during that apprenticeship time. He said a lot of the time he was sweeping hair. I don't know if anybody else saw him, but I just wondered what the difference is around the hours in our province compared to other provinces.

Susan Graham Manager: My understanding is that the hours required for - to become a full, licenced hairdresser is 2,000 hours, that's what I was told this morning by the executive director of the association. I can look into that, but in terms of the number of hours for apprenticeship, that's under a totally different piece of legislation, the *Apprenticeship and Trade Qualification Act* and I don't know much more about that.

Ms. Rodgeron: So that won't be in their bylaws.

Susan Graham Manager: Yes, the number of hours are expressly stated in the bylaws, and my understanding right now is that it is 2,000 hours. I can look into that to find out for sure, that's what I was told this morning.

Ms. Dover: She was talking to Mr. Dougan, who is the executive director.

Ms. Rodgeron: Yes, Mr. Dougan. When the young man was on *Compass* I guess it just twigged my interest. Because I heard that concern as well and I just wondered. I was told when I inquired that they were

looking at that and they were looking at maybe changing the hours so it would be more in line with the other provinces.

Susan Graham Manager: I know they have the authority in the bylaws to set the number of hours, and like I said, this morning I was told it was 2,000 hours. I can look into that just to confirm what that is.

Ms. Rodgeron: Okay, that was a question -

Chair: Any other questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 27 *The Prince Edward Island Hairdressers' Association Act* Stats. P.E.I. 1959, c. 42 is repealed.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 28 This Act comes into force on a date that may be fixed by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Shall it carry?

Mr. R. Brown: Question. When do you think you'll be proclaiming that, Madam Minister?

Ms. Dover: I don't have any reason to prolong the proclamation. So it would be as soon as can be expeditiously done.

Mr. R. Brown: There's no regulatory authority under here, is there? So you can proclaim it at any time.

Mr. MacDonald: My colleague there, if non-members or students are not allowed to attend meetings, the minister, she'd take the act back to confirm that?

Ms. Dover: I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said.

Mr. MacDonald: If the association and its bylaws do not allow students to attend their meetings, would you as minister take the act back so that we can correct that?

Ms. Dover: They are currently working on the bylaws, so how long it will take them to get that done - I can't suggest, but certainly we'll make that point known to the association so that - I don't see why it won't be allowed, I think it's allowed in other associations, but we'll make the association aware of the concern.

Did the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield have any other questions?

Ms. Rodgeron: No. As you know, I've been following this one closely because I do have a lot of young hairdressers in my district and I know the big concern was the hours. So anyway I'll be following that.

Susan Graham Manager: I'll look into that. We have another question.

Mr. R. Brown: I just wanted to thank the minister for bringing the bill and I want to thank the staff member she brought, Susan Graham. I know Susan is an excellent worker, very smart person.

Ms. Dover: That's why she's working for the Department of Education.

Mr. R. Brown: Believe it or not, she taught me a few courses that I passed.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Ms. Dover: I move the title.

Chair: *Hairdressers Act.*

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Ms. Dover: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Ms. Dover: Ms. Chairperson, I move the Speaker take the Chair and that the Chairperson report the Bill agreed to without amendment.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a Bill to be intituled *Hairdressers Act*, I beg leave to report that the Committee has gone through the said Bill and has agreed to the same without amendment. I move that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I would like permission of the House to revert to Government Motions.

Speaker: Permission of the House to revert back to motions?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Government Motions

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that Motion No. 17 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 17.

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works moves, seconded by the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield, the following motion:

WHEREAS the safe transportation of people, goods and services is a key part of daily life;

AND WHEREAS this movement is facilitated by 5100 kilometers of roads and approximately 1200 bridge structures on Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS there are approximately 100,000 driver's license holders on Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS there are approximately two million vehicles flowing annually between Prince Edward Island and the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec;

AND WHEREAS given this level of vehicle traffic the issue of road safety is of paramount importance;

AND WHEREAS increased road safety is a desirable goal for the health and security of citizens and communities;

AND WHEREAS increased road safety also provides economic and community benefits through reduced pressure and costs upon our health care system as well as

through reduced losses in economic productivity due to injury;

AND WHEREAS there are many challenges to improve road safety on Prince Edward Island such as impaired driving, seat belt usage, and aggressive driving practices;

AND WHEREAS the province is targeting these challenges through a number of measures including strengthened legislation, improved engineering, increased enforcement and public education;

AND WHEREAS legislation such as the *Highway Traffic Act* and the *Off-Highway Vehicle Act* among others have been amended to strengthen the rules and penalties for impaired driving, seat belt usage and aggressive driving practices;

AND WHEREAS the province has made considerable investments to improve the safety of Island roads and bridges through engineering enhancements, including technical advances in design and construction methods;

AND WHEREAS the province's Highway Safety Division, working in partnership with the RCMP and local law enforcement, have stepped up their enforcement activities on Island roads around these issues of impaired driving, seat belt usage and aggressive driving practices;

AND WHEREAS the province works with community partners such as the Medical Society of PEI, the commercial trucking industry; Island school boards, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and others to educate the public about the benefits of increased road safety;

AND WHEREAS this approach of education, engineering, enforcement and legislation is an ongoing priority for the

province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly affirm its continuing support for the goal of increased road safety on Prince Edward Island;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly encourage all Islanders that they also have a key role to play in contributing towards the goal of increased road safety by making responsible decisions when they are behind the wheel.

Speaker: The mover of this motion will open debate.

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure to move this motion on road safety. Transportation, of course, is at the heart of all that we do as a society. As you know, travelling to and from work, running the kids to the rink, going to church, or even picking up some milk from the store, transportation touches most Islanders on a daily basis. On PEI we have 3,700 kilometres of paved roads, we have 1,930 kilometres of unpaved roads, and we have about 625 kilometres of private roads. Every day these activities that we go to and many more places take place on Island roads in communities right across the province.

As you heard in the resolution, we have about 100,000 vehicles registered on PEI. So with all this traffic, and it's increasing all the time, naturally, road safety is a concern. Road safety makes sense from a health standpoint and from a economic standpoint. Improved road safety can help reduce costs to our health care system through a decline

in significant injuries. We're all aware of how much it costs to keep a patient in the hospital per day. Improved road safety can also help our economy through a decline in lost productivity due to medical injury.

Most importantly, improved road safety makes sense for every Islander and their loved ones. Nobody wants to experience the pain and anguish that accidents on our roads can cause if they can at all be avoided. Our hearts certainly go out to the families of the two young ladies who lost their lives over the weekend in West Prince.

In order to increase road safety on Prince Edward Island, as a society we have several challenges that we need to address. These challenges include impaired driving, seat belt usage, aggressive driving practices, and others. I would also tend to include driver distraction among those challenges as well. These challenges are not unique to PEI but they are challenges we must face nonetheless. As a government and as a society we are taking action to address these challenges.

Advancements in engineering and technology are leading to the design and construction of safer roads to accommodate the volume of traffic on Island roads. We can see this in the new roundabout near Summerside. Roundabouts are actually known to be much safer than T intersections, because with the roundabout you have all the traffic going in one direction, or supposedly you do, if the people are using the roundabouts correctly. So they tend to be much safer than T intersections.

Safety is a concern when we're building roads and bridges. As I said in Question Period, we have a situation in Mount Rose where we have a hill, then a bridge, then a turn. We have some farmers who are very concerned because farm machinery is so

wide now today that when they get onto this bridge they're taking actually the entire width of the road to get their farm machinery around. If there was a car to be ever coming faster than the speed limit over the hill, they probably would not get stopped in time to avoid the farm machinery.

We have toughened legislation for road safety. This House has approved amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* to target some of these areas with increased penalties in the past. We have worked with our federal partners on national initiatives to increase road safety for the commercial trucking industry through programs like the National Safety Code. I will speak a little bit about the National Safety Code.

National Safety Code legislation has been adopted through the federal government and it has been adopted by all the provinces. The provinces throughout Canada have worked on this legislation. They've harmonized their legislation so that the trucking industry could follow the same rules right across the country. This was a very huge undertaking. There are 16 different pieces of the legislation that have to be developed and adopted, and the whole process took about probably close to ten years before each of them were developed and adopted.

It really amazes me the work that goes in to regulating the trucking industry. I'm talking about the long-haul trucks and the trucks we use to export our goods off Prince Edward Island and to import goods onto PEI. There is a tremendous amount of legislation and work that goes into making sure that these trucks are safe to be on the road in order to protect the travelling public.

Some of the legislation around trucking safety, around the harmonized trucking regulations, include single-driver license concept for truckers, knowledge and performance tests, driver examiner or

training program for those who examine the truckers, classified driver licensing system. There is now new medical standards for drivers that we can ensure that the people that are behind the wheels of those big rigs are healthy. Carrier and driver profiles, so if people have violations on their records that's all kept in a central database that can be accessed right across the country. We have short-term suspension, we now have hours of service regulations that truckers have to abide by. You can imagine just how tired some of these men and women get driving long-haul trucks. So there are some hours of service regulations that have been adopted around that.

There are on-road inspections. There are maintenance standards that have been developed, there are daily trip inspection reports that drivers must fill out, and there are facility audit standards, and there are standards, rules, that the trucking companies must follow, which means they must keep proper documentation on their drivers and on their vehicles. So there is a lot happening in the long-haul trucking industry to keep our highways safe.

We have worked with the RCMP, local police forces and our own highway safety staff to increase enforcement activities. Mr. Speaker, I know that you drive quite a bit on a daily basis back and forth from Charlottetown to Summerside, and I do too. I certainly have noticed that there is an increased presence of the police force on our roads. It should be a deterrent for you to slow down, Mr. Speaker.

We are partnering with a number of community groups to educate the public about dangers posed to road safety, such as SADD. Reducing impaired driving must be a priority for government, law enforcement, and all Islanders. It's simply unacceptable to get behind the wheel when you are impaired. Old attitudes die hard but they

must. We have too many examples of the pain that this practice has caused, and is still causing, Island families. Using designated drivers, calling for a taxi, using public transit where it's available, or simply staying put and sleeping it off are all better alternatives than getting behind the wheel when you shouldn't be there.

I was pleased with the recent announcement by the federal government that they will be introducing stiffer penalties into the criminal code for impaired driving offences. This comes just as our department was discussing this issue and planning to start a campaign to have impaired driving penalties stiffened for impaired driving offenses.

Today's technology is providing better tools for law enforcement in the fight against impaired driving, and here on Prince Edward Island new tools are being adopted as well. Today's breathalysers provide a much more accurate reading, enabling law enforcement to better pinpoint people who may be driving under the influence.

We are presently finalizing the details around introducing an ignition interlock program which can be an effective measure in reducing repeat offences of impaired driving. If you recall, we passed legislation in this Legislature in the spring which allows for this ignition interlock program to be introduced. What this program does is that it's sort of a breathalyser mechanism that's installed in the car which prevents the car from starting if there is alcohol on the breath of the driver or the person who is blowing into this, the breathalyser. I have said that this would be a great mechanism to install in all vehicles and that we could simply prevent any impaired driver.

As a government, we are committed to look at ways to further drive home the message that impaired driving is unacceptable, and we will be reviewing our current menu of

penalties to see what steps we can take to make them more effective.

We have currently a young man by the name of Alex Poole who lives in Kings County. Alex is a paraplegic and is a paraplegic as a result of an accident at about approximately 20-plus years ago. Alex works for our highway safety division. His job is to go out to the schools and talk to children and tell them his life story and how he thought it was never going to happen to him. Alex was in a very violent accident and nearly died, but now he lives as a paraplegic and tells his story to children to try and prevent them from making the same mistake that he made. He also (Indistinct) and he speaks to driving schools and he speaks to some programs that highway safety have for people who have to attend programs prior to having their license reinstated. So if you do have a chance, if any members of the Legislature do have a chance, and you know that Alex is attending a school in your area, I would encourage you to drop in and sit in on his presentation.

Seat belts save lives. It's a fact. Time and again we have heard from the medical community that seat belt use can save lives and reduce the severity of injuries experienced by motorists and passengers. We have increased the penalties for not using seat belts and have made this message a regular feature in our public education efforts. Although our numbers are showing some improvement, more can be done and much more will be done.

Our government is considering changes to strengthen the province's graduated licensing program, and stricter penalties for seat belt violations by new drivers is one of the areas being looked at. If we can teach good habits in our youngest drivers we can reap those benefits as a society throughout their lives.

Aggressive driving practices like speeding

are also a challenge. There's probably not one of us in this room who hasn't been guilty at one time or another of driving too fast. The rush to get somewhere often trumps good judgement when we are driving. Excessive speeds are a leading cause of motor vehicle accidents. We must stop and consider whether it's more important to arrive at your destination safely or quickly, because the two are not always compatible.

There are many people who probably do not realize that speed limits are posted for ideal driving conditions. If it's raining, if it's snowing, you should be slowing down. If the speed limit says 80 then you probably should be going 70 or 60 if the conditions are not ideal. I know that's something that's taught to our new drivers and we hope that we see people slowing down.

There are ongoing challenges to road safety that government must contend with and all the changes can't be solved by government alone. Each and every driver has a responsibility to do their part to increase road safety. It only takes a minute to click on your seat belt. If you develop that good habit, the first thing you do when you get in a vehicle will be put on your seat belt or you'll automatically feel that there is something missing.

Slow down, travel the speed limit. And there's no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you're impaired. A little planning ahead and avoid that heartbreak and tragedy. As parents we need to teach our children the importance of these lessons and as citizens we must put these lessons into practice.

The conditions of our highways also contribute to road safety. Good highways are much better for driving on. Highways that have rutted out oftentimes will cause hydroplaning and lead to accidents. We have

upgraded Route 2 every year. I think we spent probably \$20-some million on Route 2 over the last number of years and we intend to keep on making improvements to Route 2 until we complete it.

Probably in my area, the road leading into the village, which was part of Route 2, was narrow, bumpy, lots of potholes in it, and now we have shoulders on it. It's much more safe for driving, it's much easier to see vehicles, and it just improves road safety overall. So it's very important that we spend money on highway upgrades, on capital and on maintenance, and it's very important that we also spend money on replacing bridges.

Mr. McCardle: Hear, hear!

Ms. Shea: As the Member from Borden-Kinkora knows, he's waiting to get the other road closed in his area and is currently waiting to have an announcement to replace the bridge there.

Mr. McCardle: (Indistinct).

Ms. Shea: I encourage all citizens of the province to take road safety seriously because when we get behind the wheel of the car you always have your own life and somebody else's life in your hands, and we should treat that very precious and look after it as if it's always our very own.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The seconder of this motion, the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield.

Ms. Rodgeron: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to be able to stand and second this motion today. Because I don't know of anyone any better to move this than the minister of transportation, because as long

as I can remember as coming into government, road safety has been high on her agenda.

I know how hard she worked to get the funding to do the improvements on highway 2. I don't know if many people realize that she lobbied long and hard to get that funding in place so that we could see some repairs to highway 2. I know I had some statistics on highway 2. It's just overwhelming to see the amount of traffic that is travelled on highway 2. I know when you find some weeks when you are on highway 2, especially four, sometimes five days a week, you sure appreciate when you get a stretch of new road that is badly in need of repair.

I know one of my greatest fears in travelling is coming across an accident. Last week on my way home on that given night there were three accidents, and when I got to Miscouche all I could see was flashing lights and cars everywhere. I didn't know what I was going to come upon. So I know the first thing for most of us is do a mental check: where's our family, where's our friends. I started making calls because I still didn't know what I was coming up against. Again, come up through that section of the road you see a truck in pretty bad repair. I was talking to my colleague from Cascumpec-Grand River, he was just ahead of me, he was doing a mental check to see where everybody was.

So road safety is certainly on the minds of people. In our daily lives we do travel a lot. Now since that is our only means of transportation here on this province, it's even more important for us to have good highways.

I'm just amazed to see the amount of drivers in this little province. When you think 100,000 drivers, licenced holders, in this little province, that doesn't leave many people without a driver's licence.

So as we know there's been a lot of work gone into trying to put legislation in place to help make our roads safer, but it takes a whole community, each and every one of us. Whether it's watching out for the unsafe driver, whether it may be giving our children a little more guidance and a few more restrictions on where they can go and what they can do till they get to be experienced drivers. So there are many aspects to road safety.

Again, when I look at this, they talk about "road safety is a desirable goal for the health and security of citizens and communities." We all know people, how their lives have changed due to an accident or the loss of a life of a loved one. As the minister of transportation just said, I know in our district again this past weekend there are families right today that are devastated by another accident. There don't seem like there's one cause to these accidents.

As the minister spoke here, there's a multitude of things that we have to do to ensure safety on the roads. I know back when seat belt legislation was put in place, at first it took a little getting use to. Now I know for myself if I don't have one on I just feel like I could hardly move the car.

So it does take a lot of education and it does take just a lot of challenges to ensure road safety. I know when we talk about bridges, I know as we're all trying to get our bridges fixed across this province - I took the minister of transportation on a little tour in my district here, I guess it was last year. You know how you lobby a little bit, wanting to get your bridge fixed first. It just happened when we were on a little bridge in Glenwood the minister of transportation was standing right in the middle of it, and a car went by her and the bridge shook under her feet. So I know she got that on her list as a number one priority for this year.

So I thought I might add that, but I know she's very conscientious. Because when I think of - I'll call it Goffs bridge - and that bridge was in need of repair for a long time. We certainly appreciate the great effort that she's gone to in working on the bridges in our area. So we just have to be patient. I know there's a lot of bridges. Nobody realizes the amount of bridges that is across this little province.

When I look at all the different acts and the commitment to, again, whether it's the *Highway Traffic Act* or the off-highway vehicle, as everybody knows, has been getting a lot of attention in these last few weeks. The whole goal again is to keep Islanders safe so people are able to continue to enjoy this beautiful province that we live in.

I know when we go off Island and you're on the divided highway, it just seems all you see are trees and roads. You don't get the beauty that we see here. But there's one thing in all of that, that we have to be aware of, because we don't have the opportunity to have a divided highway. We have to slow down, we have to be respectful of others, and we have to ensure as well - and I know I had to replace my tires. Sometimes you put a lot of miles on and the first thing you know, there's no tread on the tires, and when it starts to rain, I was afraid I was going to probably not be able to stay on the highway. So I think we have a responsibility, too, to ensure that our cars are in good repair, because I know for myself mine was due to have new tires.

At one time coming out of West Prince I would see maybe a tractor-trailer once so many hours. Now I don't know sometimes where they're coming from, but you'll see two or three just in a row, early in the morning or late at night. It just happened last evening. I was looking through the potato news - and it was a old magazine - I was

trying to tidy up some things and I came across a young man that grew up just down the road from me. His name is Yuri MacLean. It was funny, he was talking about the transportation file, and I thought it was quite interesting.

When we talk about Islanders wanting to live here and make their homes here, he goes on to tell the story about himself and his wife and his boys, they all run this little family business, but it mainly talked about trucking. His wife did the book work. They have a love for trucking and the whole - it's hard to say, I know for myself I can't imagine being on the road every day, watching all of us drivers out there. But these people who have a love for driving. I was just going to read a couple of quotes that he talked about, which talks about the changes that are happening to try and make our roads safer.

So he said: Travelling to the US has always involved some headaches but the paperwork and inspection requirements have certainly increased in recent years.

So this is just an example of what we're doing here as well. Trying to increase more stringent inspections to ensure that all the vehicles on the road are safe.

Another thing he talked about here was the operating times for truckers are closely regulated, and this impact for him is a greater costs, but new safety regulations will limit operating time to 14 hours, 11 of which can be driving. The trucker must shut down for a minimum of ten hours. Yuri says this is why truckers watch their loading time so closely.

I know we've often heard tell of the years where truckers, I used to hear it, they would take this little pill to keep them awake. I've heard other truckers talk about how they were very worried about their colleagues out

on the road, and the only reason their eyes are open is because of the medication they were taking.

So I am glad to see those kinds of restrictions being put in place where there is a limit to the amount of time we can drive. Because I know myself it doesn't seem like a long drive, but some days I have to stop partway home even for just ten minutes. But the biggest experience I had in that was one night I was going home late from the Legislature and I was getting pretty tired and I was fighting sleep all the way. I got almost to Summerside, but I wanted a nice bright spot, I didn't want to pull off where it was dark. I was trying to wait till I got to a nice bright spot. So I pulled into Maritime Electric. It was a cold winter evening and I thought this would be a good spot.

Leader of the Opposition: Right close to Summerside.

Ms. Rodgeron: Very close. So anyway, the car was nice and warm and it was about quarter to eleven. That night, ten minutes didn't do me. Half past eleven I wake up, I was still asleep in the Maritime Electric parking lot.

So anyway I get my phone out right away and I called my husband to tell him where I am, but that's the longest nap I had on the way home. But I've come to find out it's much better to pull over for that. Sometimes five minutes will do it. But I know I could fight it for half an hour, not win the battle, but if I pull over and stop and shut my eyes for a few minutes, it certainly makes a difference. So I have learned in my time when my eyes get tired, you pull over and you stop. So encourage more people to do that. Even if you're half an hour late getting home.

So again, I'm pleased to stand here in the House and support this resolution today,

because I do think it's incumbent upon each and every one of us to do every thing we can to keep our Island roads safe. If we see someone out there that probably shouldn't be behind the wheel of a car or someone that shouldn't be driving, I think it's much better to make that call or to try and find some way so they're not out on the road and causing another accident.

So I guess I'll close off with those comments, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank the mover of this resolution.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'm rising today to support this motion. I believe improving safety on Island roads is very important. We hear all too often about tragedies on our roads. I believe it's very important as Islanders, and as drivers and as pedestrians too, we make sure that we're aware of the rules of the road and do our best to make sure that at all times we're trying to be safe.

I was thinking it's not too often that I get to agree with the hon. member from the O'Leary area, but I can agree with her on this. It's an interesting point, but it was a tough lesson for myself to learn.

I took driver's education. I happened to miss one of the classes. One of the classes that I missed was falling asleep at the wheel. When I was 16 I had my licence. We had a cottage out in the Brudenell area. I was driving home one night, probably 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. I was heading back because I had to work first thing the next morning. I wanted to get back to the cottage. I was driving like the hon. member says. I

was bobbing my head up and down. The next thing I knew I was stopped from going into a ravine by a bunch of trees.

I was in a deep sleep. I went down over a large bank. Incredible how the car didn't flip. Went through a corn field. I would have gone into a little river if it wasn't for the trees that stopped me from going in. Luckily, I was okay. The car was written off. Parents didn't appreciate getting a call at 3:00 a.m.

I'd like to thank the gentleman at the Whim Inn at that time. I just had to walk up to the Whim Inn and make a telephone call. It's important to realize that we're all human, we all make mistakes, but if you can be aware of some of the problems that are out there I think it can be beneficial. That's why I think it's important. I'm glad to hear that the government's looking at bringing in some new rules to make getting a driver's licence a little more knowledge and putting in some more rules with it.

We hear too much today about young people getting into accidents. It's not rocket science why young people pay more for insurance. It's broken down because young people get in more accidents than older people. It's probably not until you're age 25 that your insurance starts to go down. It's based on simple mathematical equations that younger people get into more accidents. The more we can educate our young people, the more we can work on putting in a graduated drivers licence program in this province and making it more informative, I think the better off we'll be in the long run.

I believe the times are changing. There are still a lot of difficulties out there with drinking and driving. From a generational perspective, and even from the perspective of the older generations, they realize how wrong it is to be drinking and driving and how you shouldn't be drinking and driving.

As we get closer to the Christmas season, I know there are a lot of parties going on. I encourage all Islanders to make sure that they have a designated driver, or that they take \$10 or \$20 out of their pocket if they happen to live in an urban setting on Prince Edward Island and take a taxi home. They'll be thankful for it in the morning. Other people will be thankful for it. Heaven forbid that there was ever an accident. A lot of people will be thankful for it.

It's important that our young drivers are educated. It's important that we concentrate on making sure groups like MADD are supported and SADD are supported. Make sure that we can cut down on any hindrances that might be out there with respect to improving our roadways.

Some other things that we can do as a government are making sure that we make our roads safer. Some things that come to the top of my mind are bypasses. I think of the Cornwall bypass that still isn't in place. I think that can be an important initiative to cut down on speedy traffic driving through a residential area or a township, so to speak. I think looking at the Cornwall bypass would be a great idea.

I think we should do more in our province to shoulder our roads. There are still too many roads in this province that are travelled for (Indistinct). I see the hon. member from the Souris area. Everyone knows when you reach St. Peters there, and you hang your right to head up to Souris, there's still a large portion of that highway that's not shouldered.

I think of our tourists in the summertime. There are a lot of tourists that are heading up to take the ferry to the Magdalen Islands, or heading up to the beautiful Basin Head, or heading up to beautiful area of Souris. A lot of them are bicyclists. Here we are on a major highway heading towards one of our

major destinations in Prince Edward Island, Souris, which is a beautiful area, and there's still a major section of that road that's not shouldered.

Things that government can do to help make our roads safer are to put shoulders in place, make sure that we have the proper speed limits in place, make sure that we put in the proper warning signs. We all have to make sure that we do our own bit as well.

I can think of a few small things. These are just from personal experiences that I run into. Whether we like it or not, nobody has the force. When you get up in the morning, you've got an icy windshield, go out and scrape off your windshield. Just don't make a little hole in your windshield and try and drive using the force. There are too many people out there - and I'm guilty of it myself in the past. I try to say to myself: Get out and make sure I clean off my windshield. Not only am I endangering myself, I'm endangering others by not doing it. I encourage all other members in the Legislature to make sure they clean off the ice from their windows. Make sure they're being a good example of being safe out there.

Another thing that I can think of is windshield washer fluid. How many times have we been on the highway, you're driving, the trucks are spraying up dirt and mud and salt and whatever, you're trying to use the force again by looking out a little corner of your window where there happens to be a clear spot because you don't have enough washer fluid in your car to make sure you're being safe.

I think that those are some of the things that we can do ourselves to make sure that we're being safe out there. This is a good motion.

I'll congratulate the minister on not being vain like some of her colleagues. She's got

some very good commercials put out by transportation and public works with people that work for the department themselves, know what highway safety's about. They're the ones that are telling Islanders what to do to be safe on our Island roads.

I applaud the minister for those commercials. I find them very informative. In that manner she's doing a great job in her portfolio. It's also important that this government be informative to help make sure Islanders are being safe.

Those are just some of the ideas I have. It's amazing how change is a difficult thing. Nobody likes change. You'll still run into some people today that are against wearing seatbelts. It's hard to believe. For most of us it seems like second nature.

I'm just going to conclude by telling a little story. It's not too often I tell a story in relation to my father. I believe it was that government that brought in seatbelt legislation. I ran into a gentleman one night. I'm not going to tell names, but he's from the western end of the province. Lives here in Charlottetown now.

He said: I want to tell you an interesting story about change and about how sometimes you take some heat for bringing in legislation, but in the long run it's going to be beneficial. This is a good lesson for all legislators. Sometimes we have to make decisions that aren't necessarily the most popular today, but in the long run will pay dividends for a lot of people.

It was about a Conservative from the western end of the province. This Conservative, not a big fan of Liberals, not a big fan of having to wear seatbelts. Always complaining that: Joe Ghiz made me wear a seatbelt, I can't believe those Liberals are making me do it, and things like that.

Unfortunately, one day he had a pretty big accident. He was wearing his seatbelt even though he didn't want to. The way the story was described to me was that he was at a family gathering at Christmastime. One of his granddaughters was there. They were talking about the accident. She heard her grandfather at previous times complain about the Liberals, complain about Joe Ghiz, complain about having to wear a seatbelt. It was very intuitive. I think it was the father explained it to me. It was the granddaughter who probably would have only been about four or five at the time, she said: Well, grandfather, Joe Ghiz saved your life. It took a granddaughter to put that in perspective.

Whether or not we're talking about any government, or any politician, it's important to realize that some of the decisions we have to make today, I know there's going to be some laws coming in on ATVs in this province that are probably not going to be popular with the whole population, but it's something that we need in this province.

It's up to us to make sure that we're out there to provide the protections. At the end of the day there still is human choice, but I think you have to make sure that we do all we can to have a safe population.

It's going to be my pleasure to support this motion. As we get closer to Christmastime, I wish all Islanders a very safe holiday season. Please be careful when you're driving. There's no ice on the roads yet. Some mornings there could be a little bit of ice. Be careful. Remember, you can't drive like you drive in the middle of the summer. Be very cautious.

If you can get winter tires put on your car, do that. I wish all our snowplow drivers all the best in the season. I hope that our sand trucks and our salt trucks and everything's all ready to roll for the wintertime. We have to do what we can on this side in the

Legislature. We also have to hope that Islanders will do their best to make sure that they're being as safe as possible.

It's my pleasure to be supporting this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I too want to rise and commend the minister, the mover, and their seconder, for bringing forward this resolution. Indeed it is an important resolution. As the previous speaker just mentioned, we always have to be thinking about safety.

There are always times when we think we have to get places faster than we do. So often when we're rushing around and trying to get where we have to go at great speed, maybe taking a few chances that are not necessary, we find that we don't really get a whole lot further a whole lot faster. We'll end up getting stopped at traffic lights and the rest of the traffic catches up behind us after we've made two or three valiant efforts to get ahead of the traffic.

We also find that maybe we just get into a slower pace of traffic. So, we don't get as far as fast as we want to. We have to be reminded as well that traffic on Island roads is increasing. As the minister said, with 100,000 thousand people with licences and a lot of vehicles on the roads, it's not like it was 20 years ago.

In the middle of the summer we have, in addition to our own population, a huge tourist population that is visiting the Island and touring around. Maybe sometimes

they're not as aware of the road directions as we are. We complicate that further by the amount of agricultural traffic that's on the road, especially during the summer, but both spring and fall as well. All of these things create a congestion on Island roads. Therefore, it's important that we take that extra time.

Today's day and age it seems like we're in a rush. No matter what's happening we're running late. We're running fast. We want to get where we have to go to make that next appointment, or that next meeting, or get the kids to the hockey game in time that they can get on the ice, and all of those things that take place.

I was so pleased to be part of this government because of the improvements we've made relative to the school bus safety on the roadways. We've introduced amber lights that are a tremendous asset to the travelling public, especially when you travel the busy Route 2 at Route 1 and 1A. Routes 3 and 4, as well. These are very busy arterial highways that bring traffic in and out of our major centres and which connect our major centres. The challenge of the school bus drivers and the students on the roads at that time, especially early morning and again between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. That is the same time as workplace rush hour. Quite often the traffic is moving quite quickly along Route 2 and 1 and 3 and 4. It is important that we exercise that extra bit of caution.

On the back of the school buses there's fair warning about the demerit points and the fines that will be levied for people passing school buses. We continue to hear this. If you have an opportunity to talk to a school bus driver, you will hear that Island drivers continue to go through the flashing red lights. This is extremely dangerous for the driver, for the driver of the bus, but most importantly for the children.

An Hon. Member: Call the hour.

Speaker: The hour's been called.

I declare a recess till 7:00 p.m. tonight.

The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.

Motions Other Than Government

Speaker: The Opposition House Leader.

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, that Motion No. 20 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, the following motion:

WHEREAS gambling in Prince Edward Island does have negative social consequences, particularly in relation to instances of problem gambling, that must be managed as part of effective social policy;

AND WHEREAS research undertaken for the Government of Prince Edward Island points out the need to counteract the prevalence of pro-gambling messages that increase society's propensity to gamble;

AND WHEREAS there are currently no regulations in Prince Edward Island to regulate advertising and promotion undertaken by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the Atlantic Lottery Corporation is responsible for advertising

and promoting pro-gambling messages as part of their efforts to promote their products and services;

AND WHEREAS such advertising and promotion is aimed at increasing the amount of gambling on Prince Edward Island and has the potential to contribute to increases in problem gambling;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island, as a shareholder of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, require that the Atlantic Lottery Corporation devote 10 per cent of its advertising budget in Prince Edward Island to warn of the dangers of gambling and offer informational assistance to those concerned about problem gambling;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these advertising and promotion activities that warn of the dangers of gambling and offer informational assistance to those concerned about problem gambling take place within close proximity to where gambling occurs.

Speaker: To open the debate on this motion, the mover, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This has been a concern of mine for a long time. Back in my days with City Council also. Even back then I tried to get Atlantic Lotto to counterbalance its advertising in terms of television ads, and in terms of radio, and in terms of newsprint.

I think that it's a funny thing, it's a funny world we live in. Not too long ago gambling was illegal, so was liquor too, and we are going around in circles on these issues. By no means am I against gambling. I believe in a person's right of freedom of what they

want to do in terms of limits of the Criminal Code of Canada.

If a person wants to gamble, I have no problem with that. I do have a problem with the problems gambling creates. And let's make no mistake about it, gambling does cause problems, and I am against the abuse of gambling, the people that abuse it, and I think it hurts families more than anything else.

I noticed one time there was a newspaper story and a police report that a person was robbed. He claimed he was robbed walking home one night behind the Tower's Mall. About two or three weeks after that it was discovered he wasn't robbed at all, he lost all his money at gambling and he just couldn't tell his family that he did that. I think that's a pretty sad situation that this occurred.

I'm no expert on gambling because I don't gamble myself. I might buy the odd racetrack horse ticket. I'm like 80% or 85% of the people that gamble. I do it for fun and entertainment. When I do go to the racetrack I have to admit it is a lot of fun to put \$2 down on a horse you think might win. I can tell you from experience my horses don't win very often. But it is fun.

Like I said earlier, I'm no expert on it. But you guys can correct me later if I'm wrong, and the powers to be. But I see gambling as a bit of different sort of a problem than alcohol. Alcohol, you can outright see the person has a problem. Either they're falling down or they can't get up. Or a person that's on drugs you can outright see it. It's a thing that's very visible. You know that person has a problem when you first see that person. You can identify with the problem pretty quick. The person either - and I'm not saying what I'm saying tonight - they may be laying in a ditch, you know they have that problem, you say: Look at that poor

person. Or the person that's on drugs that has nothing and living in a crack house or living also outside or homeless, you can see that problem right up front.

You can not always see the problem of gambling because it really doesn't have a face to it, other than the fact that the person has no money. Granted gamblers can hide their problems a lot easier than the other addictions, that's what I believe. I'll go back to it quite a bit, I'm no expert in it, and maybe some of the other people that talk will enlighten us on it. I'm not saying that the other people in this area have problems in it either.

That's the conclusion that I've come to. That's the area (Indistinct). A gambler can hide it a lot easier, it's not outright. They're not a drug addict, you can notice it right off the bat, or a person with alcohol. You can see these problems, they're identifiable quite easy.

A lot of the times the family suffers in gambling as with any other addiction. That's why the opposition brings this resolution forward today.

We as a society owe it to the people that we counterbalance our advertising. I just feel over the years that Atlantic Lotto has been promoting gambling far too much. Some people might say here: So what's problem with that? People are going to gamble, they may as well promote it.

If people are going to gamble, why do they need all this advertising? Why do they have to be on the air every second night or every night, two or three times a night, showing someone winning \$50 million and never having to work the rest of their lives? Their slogans are pay week stuff, buy this ticket, you and your wife, family will never have to work for the rest of your life. This is the easy way out. Why spend your time working

when you can just buy a Atlantic Lotto ticket and come and be happy for the rest of your life?

I don't mind that kind of advertising if it is balanced advertising. I think that Atlantic Lotto's advertising policy is far too aggressive for the population, not only on Prince Edward Island but across this country.

I don't think we as a society would allow cigarette companies to do that type of advertising. Also liquor companies, although I agree some of their advertising in the sporting events is outrageous, I think.

I think we as a legislature and a shareholder of Atlantic Lotto Corporation, this is something we really put our teeth to as shareholders of this corporation. I know the government goes on every day talking about Atlantic Lotto Corporation's racino, Atlantic Lotto's corporation. It almost makes it appear that: This is some private corporation out there, we have nothing really to do with it, and we are just authorizing this private corporation who gives us all this kind of money at the end of the year to do certain things.

I think that's wrong. It is our corporation, it is a corporation that is jointly owned by the Atlantic provinces, and it is jointly managed. We are a shareholder of Atlantic Lotto. We, as a shareholder, can propose amendments to things that Atlantic Lotto does. That's one of the things that I'm asking here tonight.

I'm saying 10%. I guess the minister involved has said in the media that they spend far more than 10% in their advertising budget on counterbalance advertising. I look forward to the minister explaining that tonight. Because quite honestly, when I turn on my television - and maybe I'm not watching that closely - but I never see an ad

on about Atlantic Lotto warning the problem of gambling, warning of the problems of VLTs. I never see that. Maybe I miss those ads.

I never see advertising in the paper that: Hey, gambling can cause problems, in the population there are problems with it, and you have to watch out for them. I don't play the slot machines or the slots, whatever you call them. So I really don't know, maybe I should have went out there, but the last time I visited I don't think there were warning signs on the slots that this could be dangerous to your health, or this is a very addictive problem.

But some of the other things that other provinces have done in terms of that is they don't have a stop button. Maybe that'll be explained tonight, about the stop button on the VLTs. Other governments have said, take that - there will not be a fast stop button and slow down the game. That's some of the things they're doing on it. I hope I hear that tonight, that's what they're doing.

I don't think a wall full of brochures at the racino-casino is negative advertising. I don't see it as: Here are some brochures you can pick up if you think you're overdoing it. I understand they do. We did meet with the Atlantic Lotto people, especially the person that they have in charge of problems. Maybe that person's salary and that person's budget can be told to us tonight and what that person is doing.

But my main concern is I really think that if the advertising that I see on television, the advertising I see in the newspapers and hear on the radio by Atlantic Lotto, is far exceeding what a responsible corporation will be doing. I watched a couple of weeks ago on the national news where the Ontario Lottery Commission was caught trying to basically put this old person through the ringer for about ten years. I was ashamed at

the way that person was treated by the corporation. The person's response to the interviewer was: That's tough luck, that's the business we're in, our shareholders demand we do everything to maximize our profit.

I hope that is not our mandate to our corporation. I hope we do not force our Atlantic Lotto Corporation to maximize return. I hope that's told by our government time and time again: You're not here to maximize the return, you're not here to get everybody hooked on gambling so we can get more money. I was totally disappointed by the Ontario Lottery Commission in that terms. By looking at the person on the news that night, I came to the feeling that maybe that's all lottery corporations across the country. I hope that is not our corporation mandate.

But I look at the revenues. They make quite a bit of money. I know people are going to get up today and talk about: Look at the good things that Atlantic Lotto is doing. They're giving us a bunch of money every year. People are going to gamble, people are going to buy lottery tickets and everything. What's the use? We're going to get a lot of money from it so we can put it back into the community.

I really question the amount of money that we're taking out of the community and the amount of problems we're causing in the community as opposed to the amount of money we're getting back from it. I've never really seen the analysis that said: Sure we're getting \$17 million out of Atlantic Lotto every year, but what is it costing us as a society for this type of gambling? How far do we want to go with it? How far do we as a society want to get people hooked on gambling?

People are going to say tonight, and I'm not assuming that, but you're going to probably

hear the argument that: People are going to gamble, people are going to gamble anyway, so we're just giving them an avenue to gamble. I go back to my original argument. If that was a valid argument, then why would Atlantic Lotto have to advertise itself? They know they're going to get their gambling dollar no matter what, because society is going to gamble. So they can just sit back and save 10 or 20 or how many other millions they spend on advertising and just put that back into the provinces. I don't know why they need all this advertising if people are going to gamble anyway.

I think it's a bad message we're sending to our young people in terms of Atlantic Lotto's advertising. I think it's a bad message we're telling young people. Basically the messages are continuing to say all the time: Buy a ticket, you're going to win, you're going to never have to work for the rest of your life. Lazy way out, this is the lazy way out. I think it's wrong. The ethics of work is - Atlantic Lotto says: You don't have to work, you just buy these tickets.

But I'm going to conclude here because I want to hear the minister. He did indicate on Friday that Atlantic Lotto is spending more than 10% on advertising, negative advertising - not negative advertising, but counter-advertising, responsible advertising. I notice the minister of transportation has excellent ads on television concerning winter driving. Public service announcement saying: Hey, watch out for bridges, watch out for the snow, and stuff like that.

Why can't we have that? Why can't we have some sort of counterbalance of advertising in terms of this to tell the people of Prince Edward Island or Atlantic Canada: Look, your odds of winning this ticket is 50 million to one. I don't know what the odds are. One in 14 million. Maybe the same people go out and bet, I don't know. But you're sitting back, minimum wage income,

and you're looking at a house - a guy coming down the street with a brand new car with his lotto ticket hanging out saying: Look, I just bought a ticket and got all this stuff for nothing. I just think that's wrong, personally I think it's wrong.

Look, like I said earlier, I don't mind if people want to gamble. If they want to go out and gamble, they can gamble. I am not saying ban gambling, I am not saying stop it or reduce it, but all I'm saying is we have to have a balanced approach here. We owe it to the public, we owe it to our citizens to be responsible in this area. Responsibility after all is our game, our thing.

So I'm asking the House tonight to consider this motion, to consider our request to Atlantic Lotto and to consider that at least show us in your advertising some of the problems. Now maybe we don't want to do that. Maybe we demand our tobacco companies to do it because we don't own a tobacco company, so we can say to the tobacco companies: You guys are bad guys and we are going to force you to put these on your cigarette package, we're going to force you to hide them behind the counter. Which is great, I support that.

But we don't want to admit to ourselves that this is our corporation. So if we say, if we ask our corporation who we've mandated, to do this, look, balance it off a bit here, that we are admitting that there is a problem. Well, there is a problem, let's face it. If we're going to stick our heads in the sand and say there are no problems with gambling on PEI or it causes no problem, quite obviously those members are not reading the report and reading the data here.

Now I know people are going to get up today and say: It's (Indistinct) problem gambling. I question that study, I question the survey that was done. I understand there were 1,000 people on Prince Edward Island

studied. There was 4,000 calls made. I question the validity of that. I think 1% of the population - and some people get up: It's only 800 people that have a real problem here. That is 800 fellow Islanders, that's 800 families that are affected by that. That could be the average size - that's a lot of children involved here. When you think about it, that's a lot of people affected by one person's gambling.

As we've stated in this House a number of times, the breakfast programs and things like that, maybe that's why a lot of people are being left out here. There is just simply no money in the house because Atlantic Lotto is telling the parents or the owners: Hey, just keep gambling, you're going to win some day and you're going to be the happiest person in Atlantic Canada.

Anyway, I'll sit down now and hopefully we can have a good discussion on this over the next hour or so and maybe, hopefully, we can get a vote on it tonight and hopefully it can be sent on to Atlantic Lotto and maybe we can do something about this (Indistinct). At least ask them for reducing their advertising or I want a counterbalance in their advertising to show Islanders and to show people that: You're buying this, it is addictive, it can cause problems, the odds of winning are not all that great. I understand you have a - and maybe it'll be corrected tonight, especially VLTs, where you get Atlantic Lotto saying: They're randomly generated and the machines aren't scheduled to win on certain times or that.

I'm a simple programmer. On a VLT machine I would assume the computer works something like this. Give me four random numbers, the computer comes back with four random numbers, and it says those four random numbers equate to these cards on the machine. So I'll tumble until I get to those four or five cards. But Atlantic Lotto says there is are ceilings on these payouts.

When it gets the four numbers back and the four numbers generate a win, the computer then: Hold it now, I'm at my win level, so I'm not going to give this win, I'm going to cancel this win and let the gambler go on again. That's what I think is happening with the machines. I'd stand to be corrected on that.

Because how else could Atlantic Lotto say: We have a 95% payout on these or we program them to win this many times? That's the way they program them. They get a random generated set of numbers, they look at the tumblers, and the tumblers then (Indistinct) this machine is at its maximum win at this time so we're not going to give the win. Otherwise the random generator would maybe go over 100%. But anyway, that's the thing that I just can't figure out with Atlantic Lotto saying: These are totally random machines that work, we have no influence on them at all, it's a random generator that just generates and whatever numbers come out, we have no influence on this machine after those numbers are generated. I call that hogwash.

Anyway, hopefully we can have a great debate on this tonight and hopefully we can come to a resolution.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We'll have the seconder of the motion, the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square for bringing this resolution to the Legislature. I think he speaks very passionately, ongoing about this issue. Certainty for him in his district this certainty

applies, and we can look at the gambling study that was tabled, where proximity has a lot to do with it. Certainty the new gaming facility, this affects the member in his district greatly.

But it affects Islanders too, and I think this resolution this evening is a positive measure. Putting 10% of the advertising budget from Atlantic Lotto is a good thing. Now the Provincial Treasurer, as the member already stated, that it was mentioned today, that that's already taking place. But I guess - where is it? We can watch the television and we can see the tobacco ads where there's a human being that turns into a monster from all the smoking or what it causes to the body. Yet we never see any type of advertisements that have - as the survey, the February 2006 study that was done, stated: The key message that could be helpful if distributed widely is clear information. They're terming it as the theme: addiction potential.

So do we ever see that on the television? Do we see Atlantic Lotto paying for ads that show this addiction potential? I don't see that. We see the advertisements for the particular scratch games or the Lotto 6/49 or there's been a new one in the last few months related to Atlantic Lotto. It's such a great thing, it's putting money into the economy in your various provinces for education, and there are different people, they do different clips from different people, education, health care, etc. So they're showing the positive. You support Atlantic Lotto, here's what it's doing for your province, part of this.

Yet we don't see that addiction potential. How easy it could be to have these. Because we could see - they could use actors portraying testimonials from people that have been affected by this. It doesn't have to be the actual people because that's certainly personalizing it. However, actors could

portray the testimonials from people that have been greatly affected from this potential addiction through problem gambling. I guess I can't see where government on PEI could say where this is taking place, on the Internet, these messages aren't - we don't see these messages on the television, we don't hear these messages on the radio. So these are media outlets. Advertising takes place via media outlets, or even the newsprint, the newspapers. We do not see these messages.

In the February 2006 conclusions and recommendations there were some interesting findings that did take place. Certainly there is no barrier between genders. It knows no limitations between females and males in terms of problem gambling. As well, they seem to see that there is a significant amount or the majority reporting was between the 35 years of age to 44 years of age bracket. Which I think is a very important fact to look at. Because these are individuals that are raising families, have children. If this is a problem age group, 35 to 44 years of age, if at the end of the day or at the end of the week or month these parents or adults who are gambling don't have the money to pay for their child's breakfast, lunch, supper, school, related things or activities or just giving them the basic needs necessary to their development, guess what?

We have a legitimate concern here this evening, raising this in this resolution. Because as government and opposition, our role is to defend children and families here on Prince Edward Island. If we don't address this problem and provide adequate measures to address this addiction potential, more families will be affected by this. I can think of two or three incidents just in my own experience with meeting with people in our constituency. Where they have approached me, and they are people in this age bracket with children, stating that they

lost everything, their personal bankruptcy because of this very matter. They had a problem, addiction with gambling, and they lost everything. They just say: This is such a horrible thing and until it happens to you, you really don't know. But we don't want that to happen to people. We need to put that message out, and perhaps there are people that are on that verge that need to feel supported.

Because if you look further on in the study and - what page is it on? - it's talking about how people that perhaps had this potential addiction don't want to reach out for the supports. So perhaps they're feeling, as the study states, the anxiety, the stress. Depression is a huge side-effect of problem gambling and perhaps they feel: What's wrong with me. Perhaps they don't think there's others that are like them and what's the support there. So they don't want to reach out for that support.

Twenty-five percent of the participants with gambling problems stated that they would not access treatment services if they thought they had a problem with gambling. The most common reason for not seeking treatment was a desire to handle the problem on one's own. So PEI, we know we are very small. We don't want the word out that we have a problem. People are fearful that if they reach out that maybe someone, their neighbour, might know that they have a problem.

We need to first of all by accepting this resolution start the process. Start the process by advertising the addiction potential, that it is there. It does exist and it could happen.

Secondly, we need to examine ways and means that we're going to be able to support people that in fact do have problems with addiction services here on Prince Edward Island and ensure that continued confidentiality continues in its necessity for confidentiality.

Recommendation 6.2 said: Reaching out with self-help resources might be particularly helpful. So again, 10% of this amount from Atlantic Lotto terming it as advertising - well, self-help resources could be part of that.

It's all here in this document. There are things that perhaps we don't agree with or we do agree with, but I think there were some very interesting findings within.

It also states at recommendation 3.2: Before introducing new forms of gambling in the province, it is recommended that the potential impact of the new forms of gambling on overall health and well being of the population be assessed.

It's okay for Atlantic Lotto and the provinces to say it's going to go into helping education and health care, but at what expense? At what expense?

I think we look at the statistics for every dollar spent - in terms of early child care, in terms of helping the child at an early age. What's the statistic with this? By not insuring the addiction potential and putting it out there, what is the long-term effect on our society here on Prince Edward Island? By not insuring that we are putting the message out there, that adequate services are available to people.

Now I do agree with the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square when he stated that it's free choice. People do have a choice what they want to do. They don't have to go to the gaming facility. They can be at home, perhaps, in their own corner of their home and be gambling on the Internet.

There are charities, too, that are doing bingos if we want to term that as gambling as well. The survey in 2006 does bring up charitable gambling and hows important it is to present the risk. It said: Development of

new legislation intensifies enforcement that existing legislation related to prohibiting of gambling among minors is recommended. It is also important that organizers of gambling related charities - and they give examples of bingo, casino nights etc. - play a role in preventing children from participating in these activities.

Now, to take that with a grain of salt - because a lot of charities do look towards that for support - just like the hon. Provincial Treasurer will stand up and say: This supports us and supports our program.

But we have to do that with responsibility, we have to be responsible in how we do that, and people do have the choice whether they want to play. Some people don't have any interest to do that. But for those that do, we have to ensure that it's responsible and the message is out.

Earlier I brought up the tobacco campaign. We see that the legislation has been brought forward and the member stated that these are private companies, the tobacco companies. This is a government - it's an affiliate of government, the Atlantic Lotto Corporation and government can control what happens even better than what happened with the tobacco companies. Because they have representatives, the board of directors, Atlantic Lotto, etc., they have hopefully an even better dialogue with Atlantic Lotto Corporation than the tobacco companies seeing that they are partners in this. Things can change a lot faster than through the tobacco legislation because they are part of this.

I think that we should be reaching out through a television campaign, Internet campaign and posters to the schools. You might not think posters work. Another thing that is important too is the tobacco campaign. I know there's been different physicians go into the schools and do talks

with the students about the damaging affects of tobacco use. Why can't that happen with addictions and gambling risks? This is prevalent in our society and we can not turn a blind eye to it. We must be vigilant and we must be do something.

The family is under stress from many different directions. Problem gambling is adding on to the stress of families. It could be a child, an older child, it could be a parent, it could be an aunt, an uncle, a grandparent. It has many faces. But many families are dealing with it here on Prince Edward Island and around the region.

I believe that this resolution tonight addresses what we can potentially do and improve the situation. It's calling on only 10% of the advertising budget. That's all it's asking is 10%. This is responsible, this is responsibility.

The final paragraph states: Therefore be it further resolved that these advertising and promotion activities that warn of the dangers of gambling and offer informational assistance to those concerned about problems gambling take place within close proximity to where gambling occurs.

Perhaps we have a better situation here in terms of getting the word out because we're a smaller province. We should be more in touch with the people than perhaps the other provinces because we're smaller. We should be able to reach out with the message that's necessary and whether it's on television, whether it's on radio, Internet, we can reach out.

I will conclude my remarks. Let's think about it folks. Let it start here. Other provinces in our country are doing this. I don't think they're doing this possible measure, or maybe they are. But let's take the leap forward. We can be examples in this. Then they can say in their legislatures:

Let's do what PEI did. Let's do what PEI, let's get the ball rolling, let's initiate this and we can make it start here.

I thank the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square for bringing this forward. I look forward to hearing the comments from the other members and I do hope you do support this. Because I feel that it's a good motion and it has great potential for PEI.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of (Indistinct).

I'd just like to rise and welcome Gloria to the gallery and thank you for being with us tonight, Gloria.

An Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Yes, the Page is going to bring me over the podium, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure to rise and speak to the motion introduced by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. One of the benefits of leaving the House after a little while is often you get to learn a little bit about other members and what issues they have a particular passion for. I would agree that this is a particular issue for the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. It's not the first time that he's raised this when a resolution has been on the floor. If my recollection is correct, we spoke about this in the past.

I do welcome the resolution and agree with previous speakers. It is an important resolution we should be debating in the

legislative assembly of PEI.

There will always be a difference of opinion and people on various sides of the issue just because of the nature of the activity that is involved. I do want to articulate to the House this evening that the government, through the Atlantic Lotto Corporation, does agree that responsible gaming and promoting responsible gaming is an ethical thing to be doing. In fact, it's a core part of Atlantic Lotto's business. I think it should be a core part of Atlantic Lotto's business.

I'd like to share with the House some of the corporate vision that guides Atlantic Lotto in doing its business. Yes, Atlantic Lotto is a corporation that is owned by the four Atlantic provinces. We're all shareholders in that corporation. We all nominate members to sit on the board of Atlantic Lotto (Indistinct) input into policy and decision making processes. In that regard, we certainly, as one of the four shareholders, will have our opportunity to have input in the policy making.

Atlantic Lotto is a trusted gaming innovator that puts its customers at the heart of its business. It's proud and it's passionate about its employees who know that they're making a difference in Atlantic Canada. They know that the core of their mandate is to promote responsible gaming.

I just want to share with the Legislature - and this is directly from the Atlantic Lotto's website where you may purchase some products that they offer. This was raised about the Internet being part of the promotion of responsible gaming. This is directly from their website. It has to do with their responsible gaming policy:

"A Commitment to Education, Awareness and Prevention. ALC does promote" gaming "education, awareness and prevention as part of its overall commitment

to social responsibility. It's responsible" gaming "policy flows through its corporate purpose, vision and core values. It was inspired and developed through consultation with others who have expertise in the field of responsible gaming through the examination of the various papers, studies and responsible gaming frameworks."

This is not something that the board of Atlantic Lotto just sat down with and said: We need to develop a responsible gaming policy. There was consulting experts who have knowledge in the field (Indistinct) a thorough review of the literature that is available on responsible gaming. It was also speaking with those that are involved in the field of responsible gaming.

They are "committed to a prevention based approach providing gaming products information in a manner that encourages recreational play and empowers players to make informed choices about their play."

Like any other gaming provider they believe that "taking a more active role in promoting the responsible use of its products is the right thing to do, not only for the customers" who use their products "but also for the communities where those products are offered in."

I think we know in the latest problem study released on gaming "confirms that most people play for fun without an impact on themselves or families or friends." However, that is not to trivialize or ignore those people who do not game responsibly and who develop problems as a result of problem gaming experiences.

The Lottery Corporation and government as a shareholder and other partners in the community all agree that there is a responsibility to support and provide treatment for those people who do not game responsibly.

We think that “no group can tackle gaming on its own. Gaming provides retailers, the treatment community, researchers, governments and everybody involved with a responsibility and a role to play.”

While we “recognize it is up to each adult to make his or her own decision on how to approach” gaming “activity, the problem” gamer “is ultimately responsible for making decisions to address his or her problem with the support, information provided by the various stakeholders that are involved.”

Responsible gaming is at the core of Atlantic Lotto’s business. We think that is a very important underlining foundation block on which it’s built on.

The responsible gaming strategy is based on three key principles:

“Further entrenching responsible” gaming “into Atlantic Lottery’s corporate culture. Through awareness and education, processes and tools, employees will clearly understand ALC’s responsible” gaming “role and how it applies to them on a” daily “basis. Increased employee knowledge will empower staff to support responsible” gaming “measures at work and speak comfortably about responsible” gaming “with family and friends. Responsible” gaming does “play a vital role in business planning, product development, advertising and communications;

“Two: Facilitating informed player choice. Players will receive meaningful information to help them make informed decisions when playing ALC products. Information” about “prize structures, odds and how games work. Facts or “myth-busters” will be used to dispel common” gaming “misconceptions, and responsible” gaming “materials with warning signs of problem” gaming “and toll-free” helplines are also “made available.

“Retailers and siteholders have direct contact with players and have an important role to play in supporting recreational play and providing responsible service...”

“Three: Engaging in community partnerships. Working in partnership with others who have a stake or interest in the responsible use of” gaming “products, ALC will build responsible” gaming “programs that truly make a difference. ALC is playing a responsible gambling leadership role with national and international” gaming organizations, and they are a “founding member of the Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling. ALC continues to work closely with academics and others to identify, and provide funding for, research opportunities. It is also actively involved in supporting local initiatives that promote responsible” gaming, “including responsible” gaming “awareness weeks, youth awareness and prevention programs, and other community-based initiatives,” etc.

I’m certainly comfortable that responsible gaming is (Indistinct) in the mission statement and the practices of Atlantic Lotto Corporation.

In my remarks I am moved to submit some facts. I want to table this for the Legislature so it’s a member of the public record.

Two previous speakers had touched on various aspects. I think it is important that we spend a little bit of time talking about myths and facts, particularly for video lottery products:

“Myth: There are ‘hot machines.’” That’s a myth. “VLTs don’t keep track of play results. Each play results is drawn from all possible combinations and is totally independent from previous plays. In other words, VLT spins are random from one another just like all LOTTO 6/49 draws are

random from one another. This means that there is no such thing as a 'hot machine'."

Some VLTs are "due" to pay." That's a myth. The fact is, "VLTs are designed to pay out randomly. They follow no set pattern and there is no way to predict the outcome of a game."

Another myth: "Players can control the outcome of a game." That's a myth. They cannot control the outcome of the game because it's randomly selected.

"Myth: VLT payouts are adjusted by ALC." That's a myth. The facts are, "while VLTs and ALC's central computer system communicate daily by telephone... ALC's central computer can't make changes to the way specific VLT games play, nor can it make any changes to payout rates. A computer chip located within each VLT controls all information specific to the games, including their payout rates and their randomness. The computer chips run independently from the central computer system.

"Myth: It is possible for me to 'chase' and recoup my losses." That's a myth. The fact is this: "VLTs are programmed to pay out less than they take in over time, and the longer you play a VLT the more likely you are to lose money. Gaming should be considered as a form of entertainment, not as a way to invest or make money."

"Myth busters for ticket lottery products. There are 'hot numbers' that are drawn more often than others." That's a myth. The fact is, "lottery draws are completely random, so there are no hot numbers. Every number has an equal chance of being drawn, so every set of lottery numbers has the same chance of winning."

Another myth: "Retailers know which tickets are winners, and they sell those

tickets to friends, family or staff." That's a myth. The fact is, there's "strict security procedures" that ensure "no one knows which lottery tickets are winners. This includes everyone from ticket designers and employees who produce tickets to distributors and retailers. Integrity and honesty are the cornerstones of the lottery and its operations."

Another myth: "Players can control lottery outcomes by using various methods to forecast winning numbers." Again, that's a myth. The fact is, "lottery results are completely random, so no one can control the outcome. It is impossible to predict a number beyond its overall probability of appearing among the winning numbers. A random guess has just as much chance at winning as playing birthdays, anniversary dates, or any personal system."

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Along with welcoming Gloria Houston to the gallery, I'd like to welcome Raymond Loo and his guest with him tonight. Raymond is very busy in our district and in the Island promoting organic farming, and thank you for being here, Raymond.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: I'd like to also say hello to Raymond. I can't see who is with him. Raymond was a classmate of mine back at Kensington High School, we'll say the late 1970s, early 1980s. He certainly is a leader in the organic movement on PEI.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Murphy: There are some comments

there from the back.

Speaker: I'll look after it (Indistinct).

Mr. Murphy: Finally, Mr. Speaker, to wrap up the myths and facts, another myth is that fresh or newly arrived tickets are luckier than tickets from a previous week.

The fact is this: the probability of purchasing a winning ticket is the same over the lifespan of the game. Unsold tickets from the previous week get the same chance of containing the winning ticket as newly delivered tickets.

Finally, it is possible for me to chase and recoup losses with lottery tickets. Well, lottery ticket series are created to pay out less than they take in over time. So the more lottery tickets you purchase, the more likely you are to lose money. That's why it should be thought of as a form of entertainment, not a way to invest to make money.

I will table those myths and facts so they're on the public record.

Speaker: Moved and seconded by (Indistinct).

Mr. Murphy: In Prince Edward Island the government's operator ALC are committed to responsible gaming and the minimization of harm that can be caused by lottery and gaming. Specifically there are a number of responsible gaming programs and services, and those include the following.

There is mandatory retailer training for all video lottery retailers across the province; there is responsible gaming materials including warning labels, tips for responsible play and a 1-800 number that can provide counselling; there are warning signs that pop up on these video lottery terminals after 60 minutes, after 90 minutes, after 120 minutes, after 145 minutes, and

then the machine shuts down in the terms of a mandatory cash out for that particular player; there is a 1-800 number on the video lottery screen in each terminal urging people with problems, people who know of people with problems, to call for assistance.

At the racetrack there is a gaming information centre that is resourced by trained responsible gaming representatives with addictions' counselling backgrounds. They promote responsible gaming through education, they talk about the services available, they also distribute literature on how to play each game responsibly. They always monitor the players. If they feel that somebody is exhibiting signs of not gaming responsibly then they will make a one on one intervention with that particular player.

There is also a self-exclusion program at the racetrack where people with problems can exclude themselves from entry in play. So there are people who have gaming problems who have asked the lottery corporation not to allow them to enter the premises at the racetrack for the purposes of gaming. It's a self-exclusion program and there are people who have recognized a problem and are doing something to address it. The lottery corporation obviously is cooperating with them.

As well, Atlantic Lotto has a community partnership program which is delivered across the region, including this province, that funds various treatment programs. If you want to go to the website there are application forms that can be filled out for community groups, or other interested individuals can apply for partnership on responsible gaming programs.

Also, because it was raised earlier, Atlantic Lotto does provide youth education training through a variety of means including speaking to high school students outlining the risks associated with gaming. They also

have a play through the use of drama that presents that message to high school students. In fact, the play recently is making its way across Prince Edward Island. I think to date they presented at five high schools in the province. So they are being proactive in getting the message out on responsible gaming. We want people to use gaming as a form of entertainment and just as such.

Also, people should also be aware that Atlantic Lotto Corporation and the government of PEI, mainly through the Department of Health, also are promoting responsible gaming. There are a number of ways that people can access supports if they need it: either directly through the government; we also have Gamblers Anonymous organization in the province who help each other - they are a group of men and women who share experiences that may help each other to solve any gaming issues.

We talked about earlier, and I think again this is also important, that there are warning signs. This is part of the training that staff at ALC go through. Warning signs. The mover of the resolution had mentioned earlier, sometimes - and I think I would agree with him - it's probably a more difficult challenge to diagnose somebody who may have difficulty in this area to the person with a background who doesn't have training on how to identify and diagnose those various issues. But there are ways to do that and that's a training that people are required to take.

But there are telltale signs, and here are a few of them: spending more time and money than intended, arguing about gambling with friends and family, feeling guilty or remorse about gambling, borrowing money or selling assets to gamble, missing work to gamble, (Indistinct) gaming, etc. That's (Indistinct) training that's provided to staff to help people do that.

Some of the debate earlier on, I think subject over - in speaking with Atlantic Lotto officials I asked them the question directly. I said: You have copy of the resolution that was tabled in the Legislature which calls for 10% of your advertising budget that we spent promoting responsible gaming. They are spending that amount of money. I think what I conveyed from the conversation of the previous members that spoke, perhaps their question in form of advertising that they're using. I think that's an important point, because it's really about the effectiveness of your advertising. (Indistinct) were spending 10, 20, 25%, I think the important thing is you want to know that your advertising in that area is having some impact.

There is some evidence to suggest that their advertising is effective. In 1999 there was a prevalence study conducted in the province, and the latest prevalence study that was released in 2006, that shows that in terms of problem gamers, statistically speaking we don't see much deviation between the two studies. Also, there is another study done by - this happens on an annual basis - I think the Canadian centre for responsible gaming, which correlates the results done by the study, I believe, from the professor from UPEI.

So that would suggest to me that ALC's message of responsible gaming is having an impact on the players, or theoretically we should be seeing those numbers go up. Now I'm quite willing, for the purposes of the resolution, to discuss with the lottery corporation - if the Legislature feels strongly that there needs to be more radio or more television advertising, if they feel that that would have a greater impact. I'm sure that the lottery corporation has that data. They have the analysis of the effectiveness of the responsible gaming message that they're promoting. It's certainly a conversation that I'd be willing to have with them.

I could speak at length - I won't - other than say that in terms of the percentage of the advertising revenue, they are spending that amount. I don't have an issue with the resolution that was presented. I think it's an important resolution. I think it's an important resolution that the members of the Assembly could debate and talk about. I do, however, feel, because I've dealt with them directly in a number of areas, that that is at the core of your business, that responsible gaming, that not only Atlantic Lotto, but for other corporations across the country is an important part of the business that they do.

I will dispute the fact that because this is a publicly owned company - we are a shareholder along with the other three Atlantic Provinces - that, in some way, shape or form, influences the message around responsible gaming. I don't think that's the case at all. I think that we would insist that part of the core business of Atlantic Lotto be responsible gaming. I don't think we should be as bold to suggest that the way that they deliver that responsible gaming message cannot be reviewed or looked at. I would certainly want to see their analysis of the effectiveness of their advertising and what they do.

But I will not accept the argument that because it's a publicly owned company that somehow the message is any less valid. If we looked at a privately owned company, I don't think that that logic stands up. I do think that they are responsible in doing that.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I certainly have no issue of being supportive of the resolution that was put forward, and look forward to other members' remarks on it.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other member like to speak on this motion?

The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd just like to comment on the resolution and maybe pick up in some ways some of the comments that the hon. Provincial Treasurer has just made. Because in reading over the resolution and subsequent debate that took place around it, it became apparent that indeed Atlantic Lotto was doing what the resolution was calling for.

The 10% was being spent, but it did become apparent when you read the media coverage, as well as listening to the proponent of the resolution, that indeed it was the type of advertising and the method in which they were conducting the advertising that there was a concern, and the proponent of the resolution thought that there was a particular methodology that should be employed to educate, inform or warn gamers to the risks associated with the activity.

I'm certainly not an expert in this field so therefore it's difficult to really determine the value of the resolution. There certainly is not a lot of supporting evidence that the direction that Atlantic Lotto is employing now in this regard is less affective than the one that is being proposed by the resolution. So therefore as legislators, as people asked to cast a decision on the resolution, it is very difficult.

I was pleased to learn that indeed Atlantic Lotto is investing in this endeavour, and I know from a limited experience of talking with officials with Atlantic Lotto, they're very concerned about responsible gaming. This of course we know in the public realm is a rather new area for governments, especially in North America, to be associated with, and particularly in Canada.

I think we all remember the Olympic lottery, the original large sanctioned lottery that was utilized to raise money to host the Montreal Olympics back in 1976, some 30 years ago. At that time, you may remember, though you would be rather young at that time, but you may remember that when the lottery was drawn it was with great fanfare and there was a live t.v. production. We saw the numbers rolled and it was a \$10 ticket that was required to purchase an Olympic Lottery ticket. I remember watching I believe the first one on t.v. and it was probably an hour, two-hour t.v. production. I guess as a country we were taken up by this idea that particular night. It was Sunday night when the draw was made and it was the first of continuing (Indistinct) I think they were held every six months at that time, but my memory fails me on the particular details.

But it was I guess captivating that we as people in the country were watching what we knew would end up in a millionaire being - a new Canadian millionaire that particular night. Someone would achieve that status with the luck of the draw, if you will. So it captivated the nation and many people watched and that kind of - because it's original designation as a support for the Olympic Games in 1976 is what kind of propelled the lottery initiative into - in its beginning a way to support amateur sports in Canada.

After a period of time, that was a national lottery and it evolved into provincial lotteries. As we know, the carrier in the Atlantic region is Atlantic Lottery Corporation. In some ways it presented a real challenge to governments and to legislators because we were entering as a government into the approval of an activity that up until that time, barring bingoes and small lotteries for charities and other activities, could not be conducted legally in Canada. There were no legal gaming houses, there were no legal lotteries. I remember - I

probably don't show my years to remember all these details - but I remember a thing called the Irish Sweepstakes. People in Canada could access Irish Sweepstake tickets. Someone was bringing the chance or the opportunity, if you will, into our home. I must have been quite young because as they talked about this chance to buy an Irish Sweepstake ticket, it was talked about in hush, because everyone surrounding this discussion seemed to be talking about doing something - better keep quiet - and so there was always this here temptation or inclination to be involved in gaming activity.

So it evolved. Quite frankly, I come down on the position as responsible people who have as their mandate to regulate society, I really do not believe that governments had any choice but become involved in this particular activity. Because we know that it was out there. It was an activity that legislators could regulate or that they could criminalize. Formerly it was criminalized, and a lot of activity was required by law enforcement agents and others, prosecution lawyers, the whole criminal justice system was required to uphold the legislation to criminalize -

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Sorry for interrupting the minister in full flight there, but I'd like to recognize Mr. Bruce MacIsaac who happens to be one of the main advisors -

Mr. R. Brown: Good man.

Leader of the Opposition: - for the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. Obviously the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square has had an illustrious career

thus far, only about to go more up probably into the future. Whether or not you look at his 17 years on city council -

Speaker: Is this a speech on behalf of the hon. member?

Leader of the Opposition: It's not. It's on the advice, 17 years on council that he advised him, where now the two elections that he has now won here and I'm sure many elections to come. So I'd like to welcome Mr. MacIsaac to the Chamber.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: So obviously gaming was around a long time. So as a country, as a organizer of the public affairs, government had to decide what they were going to do in this area.

Now I personally I have a problem with a term used all the time by critics of the gaming activity, as: governments are addicted to the revenues. I don't believe that that is at all a complete statement. I think it is used to somehow indicate that governments are a part of the problem, that governments are sick in their application of this particular activity, that they are deprived in their thinking around this matter, and that they're addicted to this in a way that we think about addictions.

Mr. Speaker, with a brother and a father-in-law and other family members having gone through addictions, while I do not claim to be an authority, I do realize that this is a very serious accusation to make. I think it's one that should be thought about and the word should be applied correctly in this matter. Government, as is my position, that governments have a responsibility to be involved in this particular activity because of its prevalence in society.

There are increased opportunities for people to be caught up in this particular activity without necessarily being aware of it. Or for most of it, we have little understanding of the amount of opportunity that exists for gaming, gambling, throughout the country. We see it taking place. We drive by many establishments today and they say, Wednesday night Texas Hold'em. We just drive by, it's just up on the marquee, it doesn't really mean that much to us. But it is a gaming activity that is taking place that is really outside of an organized, regulated activity.

We do have a responsibility and I think the (Indistinct) responsibility on this particular matter is that the odds, however good or bad they are, that they can be known by the player and that they can be ensured that they don't change in the middle of the game, that they're applied with some sort of certification. Outside of that, it becomes difficult to say whether or not an individual who is capable of making a decision can be outlawed from making that decision. So we do have a responsibility. We cannot ignore the Internet gaming that's going on. Most of these activities are housed with what we'll call offshore server sites. People are accessing them through the use of credit cards and similar to PayPal type of accounts, where you set up an account and you put your money in and then you game.

But the verification of those particular sites, the verification of the fairness of the activity, is regulated by no one and that is very disturbing. In any activity the person who enters into the activity should have some assurances that there is a regulator in place. Therefore we exercise that responsibility through the Atlantic Lottery Corporation and it's a matter that we must be involved in.

I guess the component of the resolution seems to suggest that the inclusion of the ad

should be at - during the advertising, and you're talking about the opportunity to win, and then at the tail end or in the middle or somewhere you're going to talk about the risks involved in that particular activity. I'm not sure how this would work. I'm not convinced that these little trailers at the end really do adjust as to what you're trying to do. Because you talk about any activity and then at the end you add a caveat that this is probably not a good idea to engage in, (Indistinct). I'm not sure that that's effective. That's certainly a position for debate, and if there is supporting evidence that that is a good thing and that works to discourage play - and discourage play from the person that is being harmed by this activity. That's what we're all trying to do and we have a responsibility to do it. We have a responsibility to protect the people that are being harmed.

Now I can say whether I believe where an activity is right or wrong, and that is a personal opinion that may be supported by a religious or moral conviction that I uphold or adhere to. But what I can't do necessarily is categorically state that a person is being harmed by a particular activity. I don't spend any money on VLTs. I do know people who enjoy spending money on VLTs who say that this is a part of their entertainment, to put a certain amount of money through a VLT machine, and if it takes them two or three hours to do that, they feel they get their value. Now I feel I get my value by -

Mr. R. Brown: Talking.

Speaker: All right, hon. member.

Mr. P. Brown: - purchasing a 6/49 ticket probably about twice a year when it gets up to about \$20 million. For \$2 I can think about for three days what I'd do with \$20 million. I can actually think about it in the slight realm of the possibility because I have

a ticket and I can tickle my imagination for \$2 to the idea of what it would be like to have 20 million.

So there is a certain value in that. It's much the same as going to a movie and being entertained by the script of the movie. So for me, it's a fair purchase. I put my \$2 in, I got my instapick and now I get to think about what it would be like to have \$20 million. But before I actually make the purchase it's just hypothetical, because I know I can't have the \$20 million if I don't purchase the ticket. So therefore I have to make that purchase and so it becomes a reality at that point, and there is value to that.

So I suppose if a person believes that having the opportunity to play a VLT for an hour is worth to them 10 or \$15, it's certainly not my right to tell them that that can't be the case for that. Now we do know that people do try to access - the desire to reap huge gain for little input is there. It's there in all of us, and it's something that the human condition is wonderful too. Of course, quite often we want to have something very grandiose for very little input. That is where, as the Member for Charlottetown-Kings Square talked about, the advertising, where you buy a ticket and you're a millionaire and you live happily ever after. I can appreciate where the member is coming from on that because there is a certain exploitation of, if you will, the human condition, for a desire for that, that the lottery taps into.

Again, it goes back to what that translates and what it motivates us to do that causes the problem. It does exist, as I said, outside of the regulated domain, nonetheless. So therefore, as I said earlier, it is an activity that I don't think that governments really have a choice about. If it's going to exist in society, you only have the two options as the lawmaker. You have to enforce it as an illegal activity and legislate against it and

prosecute when the activity takes place, or you allow it to happen in a regulated manner. Those are the only choices for society.

The public themselves are the ones that, through their participation in a particular activity, determine whether or not it's an activity that's acceptable in some measure within the society. We can all feel public when it pushes forward, we can all feel public when it pushes back.

The whole idea of gambling is well known for so long that it's been taking place. My colleague was wondering if I had the Good News Bible here, and I do. But just to the point of - at the crucifixion where it refers to the casting of lots for the Lord's tunic, where gambling took place at that time. That was a reference to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah which was 800 years prior to that.

So we know that this is something that has been in society for a long time. People have used it to - for decision making, to divide things. So we have to be responsible about the way we regulate. So I hope that in his concluding remarks, the promoter of the resolution is able to demonstrate that the Atlantic Lotto Corporation should move the money that they are not spending for, as the Provincial Treasurer talked about, the programs to deter irresponsible gaming, and that the promoter of the resolution can explain how this particular money would be better utilized in other activities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

May I just say first I want to congratulate the hon. Member from Charlottetown-King Square for bringing this motion forward. The minister of finance is absolutely right, this is a issue that the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square takes seriously. He believes in it and we're lucky to have public servants like the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square to push this agenda.

Can I also thank the seconder, the Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove? I also want to take this opportunity to thank the minister for his comments. They were very informative and they were very open to dialogue. I think that's what the key is here tonight, it's about dialogue. As my mother use to say to me, it's about moderation, and if you can do things in moderation we can be okay in society.

I just want to talk a little bit about some of the problems we've experienced in our society, whether or not we're talking about alcohol abuse, whether or not we're talking about smoking, whether or not we're talking about gambling, whether we're talking about drug addiction.

If you find someone who's been related to one of those topics - of course the child who had the alcoholic parent who perhaps abused them or abused their spouse or abused another family member, or someone who smoked their whole life and perhaps died at an early age because of lung cancer, or perhaps the gambling addict or the drug addict or something along those lines - that issue is going to be the most important issue to you. You're probably going to fight your whole life to try and correct the wrongs that were done.

But when I mentioned all those things, especially the top three that are legal in our society, I don't believe there are things that are ever going to go away. Alcohol is

always going to be here; smoking, while we're seeing a huge reduction in Canada and even the United States now, other areas of the world are still enhancing their smoking abilities while we're moving in the other directions, but we're moving the right way there; or gambling. I hate to say it, but even the hon. Minister of Tourism, he was right. It's been here since the beginning of time.

I don't think we're going to do anything in this Legislature or anything over our lifetime that's going to get rid of those things. We have to realize that and that's why we have to promote responsibility like we were talking about this evening.

That's why I think this motion is a good one. I think first of all as the body, the Government of Prince Edward Island is responsible for the gambling here on Prince Edward Island and Atlantic Canada. I think it's imperative on us to make sure that we're very responsible about it and at the same time even try to persuade people to move away from it.

I think right now - and I could be wrong here - what we see from Atlantic Lotto is more of a move towards responsibility in gambling and not so much a move towards persuading people against it. The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove raised a great point about the smoking commercials. I'm sure we've all seen them. Where it shows a person smoking and it shows the inside of a body turning all dark. It paints a real evil picture, really, of smoking.

I must admit, we had a great fundraiser down at District 2 on Saturday night. The big crowd, very enthusiastic, and I got home and I was pretty pumped up after such a great crowd. In an area like that, and people optimistic about what's going on in our party, so I was quite enthusiastic when I got home and I had trouble falling asleep. This would be Saturday night, so I happened to

be watching t.v., and on ASN *The Bourne Identity* was on. It started at 12 p.m., went to 2:30 a.m., and I said to myself: I'm going to sleep at the next commercial, same as everybody else.

Of course they cut off the commercials exactly when you want to find out what happens next in the movie. So I ended up watching the whole movie and I must admit I did see on ASN between 12 and 2:30 two commercials from the Nova Scotia gaming commission that were anti-gambling, that were there to persuade people against it. They were similar to the smoking commercials that the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove - the minister of finance, who I know has direct links with Atlantic Lotto, if he wants to listen to me here, those commercials - I hope he talks with Atlantic Lotto and perhaps asks them to look into those commercials that are taking place. It was really probably some of the most powerful commercials that I've seen to this point.

I was happy to hear the minister of finance talk about how he agrees with the motion and he supports the motion, and if there were other ideas out there, whether or not it was television commercials or radio commercials, he'd be willing to take that to Atlantic Lotto. So I hope he takes the idea of what the Nova Scotia gaming commission - which is different than Atlantic Lotto - is doing in the Province of Nova Scotia.

Now I think that would be a great way to go. I think it's also important to know that right now we see a lot of warnings on being responsible, which is good. We see mechanisms there for people who are in trouble, for numbers for them to call, for someone to go and see them.

But I think that these commercials would be very important. Because as fast as we move in trying to adapt to the changing times in

terms of keeping up with gambling addictions that could be out there, new forms of gambling pop up. I heard someone mention earlier the Internet. I understand now you can go on the Internet and you can play basically anything on there.

I find it unbelievable that some games would be played on there, considering you don't know who's on the other end or what's going on. But at the same time there's no way we can regulate what goes on on the Internet. So even showing these commercials without being close to, say, the racino, the video lottery terminal, or a convenience store or drug store or anything that sells these lottery tickets. That's why they would be good, because there's no way for us to keep track with what's really happening on the Internet.

So I think that's something we have to do is continue to adapt, continue to offer new commercials, and continue to make sure that we're being there to promote responsible gaming, and even to persuade people against it from getting addicted.

But there's always going to be those people out there that have the addictive personality. But we also have to make sure that we're there, one to persuade them against it, but two, if they want the help, we have to make sure that we're able to offer the help they need. I think that's another key component to what we're doing.

As some of the hon. people said before about gambling, VLTs, I don't play them. I will admit I play the 6/49 when I remember to go play it. Probably for the same reason as the hon. Minister of Tourism plays. I buy tag because I look for that extra 100,000.

But it's one of those things I do. I know the odds are about 1 in 14 million, but it is the enjoyment. If you got to drive a couple of hours in the car, you're right. You think

about what would I do if I won the lottery. So it's one of those things that is interesting.

The other thing I just wanted to comment on. The hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay and I were having a discussion and it had to do with the minister talking about the sport lotteries. It's how we got to lotteries being under provincial jurisdiction. I actually worked for a while with Sport Canada. One of the big problems we have, as you would know, as a former and perhaps current star athlete, but it is raising money for our athletes. Whether or not its our Olympic athletes, Commonwealth Game athlete, PanAM Game athletes. A lot of other countries use sport lotteries to help raise those funds to help them. As we know, these are national teams.

Our lotteries today are provincial. So the federal government does not have jurisdiction to run lotteries to help raise funds for these. Actually that decision was made when the hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay was a member of the Joe Clark nine-month government back in 1979. Just to give a little bit of a history on it.

But to conclude, I was very happy to hear the minister of finance's comments tonight. I know this is an issue that is very important to the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. I think we should forward this motion on. I know the minister says that Atlantic Lotto has already seen it, but I hope that it is important that we forward on the ideas and the minister takes a look at some of the ideas that were discussed tonight.

There are some avenues out there that we can't control and we have to make sure that we're there to offer these persuasive ads. I would really recommend that the minister persuade or ask Atlantic Lotto to look at those commercials that I saw on ASN from the Nova Scotia gaming commission because I think they are a step in the right

direction.

So with that I'll conclude, and I'm looking forward to supporting this motion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I too, would like to extend my congratulations to the mover of the motion as well, and the seconder. Because the issue of gambling is an important one that we should all consider and discuss here in this Chamber because we all want to be responsible for what is happening around us.

I don't disagree with the intent of this resolution at all. Although I am a little bit confused as to where we go with it. I would hope that the mover of the resolution would try to clarify a few things for me in wrap up remarks. I certainly believe that today a lot of the advertising we do see does subliminally somehow give across the message that it is a money investment, and it's not. I think if we're going to alter in some way the message of advertising from the Atlantic Lotto Corporation, it should be emphasizing what it is. It's fun, it's excitement, it's an experience, but it's not a money investment. The local lottery machine down at the corner store is not your portfolio advisor. We got to get that notion out of our heads. I mean, when they encourage us to get ready for a (Indistinct) events on Wednesday nights because there is 14 million in the 6/49, why do I know that? Because I got a ticket.

So I realize what the Minister of Tourism is saying. This is a \$3 dream. That's all it is.

It's a \$3 dream and I'll dream for the next - well, to whenever it's drawn, Wednesday night at 11:00. But I realize what it is. It's like wanting to get struck by lightning, really, because that's what the odds are, one in 14 million.

I think sometimes Atlantic Lottery Corporation should be trying to emphasize a little bit more in its advertising the fact that it is just meant to be purely fun. It's a game, that's all it is, it's a game. I certainly concur with what the Provincial Treasurer was saying as well, and I do thank him for his enlightening remarks here tonight. Because essentially he's saying Atlantic Lotto Corporation really is doing this right now in terms of the proportion of its advertising budget that is devoted to try and encourage responsible gaming and trying to get across the cautionary warnings to anyone who might have a predilection to have a problem with gambling.

Certainly it is happening in terms of the second therefore be it resolved, which calls for it to be happening on site. That certainly seems to be the case, when we have trained personnel on site at the Charlottetown entertainment centre that are trying to recognize people within the crowd who they feel might have a difficulty with gambling and are there for anyone who volunteers to go on in and talk with them, as well to try to resolve any issues they might have around this game.

We're having difficulty here, and this is where I will call on the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square. It says here that "...Prince Edward Island, as a shareholder of the Atlantic Lottery Corporation, require" the corporation to "devote 10% of its advertising budget in Prince Edward Island to warn of the dangers of gambling..." The Provincial Treasurer says that is being done right now in terms of proportion.

But we are just one of four partners, I think, in the Atlantic Lottery Corporation. There is Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. So I think any sort of change in the thrust of the advertising message that Atlantic Lottery Corporation should undertake has to be a cooperative thing. What we're really saying here is devise some kind of an advertising strategy and budget for one province only, for one of the four partners. I think it's something that there is concern about in legislatures in all the other three provinces in the Atlantic region as we wrestle with the problems that can crop up from time to time with that 1% of the population that do have a predilection to have trouble, problem gamblers.

So I do support the thrust of this in some way, and I certainly would appreciate any remarks that the mover of the resolution would have in terms of steps to be taken. The Provincial Treasurer has already committed to speaking with our representatives to the corporation about this issue and maybe try to do a little more front-end advertising, front-end messaging, instead of at the other end. That almost is in contradiction of my statement there to the second therefore be it resolved where it says it should "take place within close proximity to where gambling occurs," as is the case right now.

However, I'm thinking that if their advertising thrust emphasized more of the theme of it's a game, it's fun, it's a bit of excitement, don't gamble more than you can afford to lose, and don't look at it as a money investment because it's not. It's just a game.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude and be anxious to hear the remarks from other members.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other member like to speak on this motion?

The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Mr. Mooney: I'll just say a few words, Mr. Speaker.

I'd certainly like to stand in support of this motion, and certainly thank the mover and seconder for this. Unlike all the hon. members in here, I buy the odd 6/49. A few years back when all the kids were small I figured it would be good luck so I used to each one of their birthdays and our anniversary until we had one too many kids (Indistinct).

But anyway, one of the boys asked me one day, he said: How do you chose your numbers? I said: Boys, I use your birthdays, and I'm beginning to think you're hexed. When I found - you'd feel guilty if you missed mine because you knew the numbers off by heart, so I scrapped that plan. I don't buy them very much anymore.

My friends and I, the crew we get around with out in Souris, usually what we do when it's someone's birthday we always head to that house that particular night. Something we stated years ago, everyone gets the birthday child scratch tickets. So it was my 40th about a year and a half ago or so and I had quite a horde of tickets, I'll have to say. So I said, I'm going to keep scratching these and if I win a couple of bucks or get free tickets I'll just keep scratching. It would have been a more accurate advertisement if I had seen the 6/49 or the scratch ticket advertisements for the scratch one tickets and it says, whoo whoo, they win the big one. I was about up to my knees in that black stuff by the time I was done. There was no winnings. That was more accurate. It was the fun and excitement for the few

minutes but I'll tell you, it's a poor investment, I'll have to say.

Up our way, when the machines and things came out, I've seen a lot of families hurt and I've seen, like, some seniors in our area that have lived a great life and they have a bit of disposable cash and they enjoy to go to Halifax once in a while or go down to one of the machines. But they know it's going to be money lost when they go, but they set a budget and they enjoy it. But there is a certain amount of people out there that have an addictive nature and for them, my goodness, it's an awful curse on a family. I've seen homes lost and it's - I don't know what the answer is, but there is always going to be gambling.

So with that, I just want to say I'll support this. I know one of the Pages, I don't think she's in the House now, she said: I should give these fact sheets to one of my boys, they play Texas Hold'em. I figure home, if they're playing Texas Hold'em in the house with all their friends, I know where they are. I enjoy watching them. They don't play for money, I don't think, but they have a big belt with a buckle this big, it looks like a wrestling belt, and bragging rights for the next week until next Friday.

Anyway, with that, I want to thank the mover and seconder and throw my support.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other member like to speak on this motion?

If not, the mover of the motion will close out debate.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to thank everyone that talked to the resolution tonight. There was a lot of good comments on it. By no means was it an anti-government resolution and it wasn't taken that way. I commend everybody that spoke to it.

A lot of the ideas that are in the resolution are in the report that was tabled in the Legislature here. It was done for the Province of Prince Edward Island in February 2006. The person that did the study, he studied 1,000 people and he got their opinions and comments. From those comments he came up with a set of recommendations, and that's what basically the recommendation or our resolution is reflective upon, these recommendations.

Recommendation 1.1, and I'll just read it from the report:

“Given the popularity of gaming on Prince Edward Island it is recommended that the public be provided with more information about gambling and the problem of gambling so they can make a more informed choice. For example, designing and displaying key messages about gambling and problem gambling, using multiple mediums (e. g., television, radio, internet, posters etc.) should be considered. One key message that could be helpful if distributed widely is clear information on the ‘addiction potential’ of various gambling activities...”

That is why this motion came about. We're taking this report that was done - and let's make no mistake about it, there were many Islanders interviewed in this report. This report is not just someone sitting down and at UPEI with a PhD and just coming up with this report. This person interviewed 1,000 Islanders. Matter of fact, I think he called over 4,000 Islanders in order to get the

1,000 Islanders that participated directly in the study.

This is what Islanders are saying. This is not what the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square or the caucus is saying. This is what Islanders are saying from this person's study, and this person who has gone out and who has talked to 1,000 Islanders. Who has surveyed 1,000 Islanders quite substantially. This is what he has heard from them.

I think it is incumbent on this Legislature, if we are going to be listening to Islanders via this study, that we ask the corporation that is in charge, that we have given control of gambling to, our Atlantic Lotto Corporation, that they must address.

I know there was some discussion about Atlantic Lottery's television ads. I'm just asking Prince Edward Island's ads to be 10% of our budget to be used.

As the member correctly said, we are one shareholder of that Corporation. Maybe that's why Nova Scotia gaming commission is doing the ads, because they can't get Atlantic Lotto to do the ads. Maybe the commission is doing the ads because Atlantic Lotto won't do them.

Maybe if enough provinces get together, enough shareholders get together - we have three votes on it now. We have the chairman and two other votes. Each province has votes. Maybe we can't get the votes out of the other municipalities. If we come on board and there's enough votes at the next board of directors meeting, maybe that'll force the corporation to do it.

If Nova Scotia is doing it, what is it costing them? We must realize that we have the same gaming commission on PEI. We have a lottery or a gaming commission on Prince Edward Island that controls gambling. That corporation, and the minister can correct me

if I'm wrong, has given authority over to Atlantic Lotto. Atlantic Lotto then gives the money back to the gaming commission who then transfers it right over to the province.

Obviously, in Nova Scotia that gaming commission is getting a little bit more authority and saying: Look, you can take a certain amount of the budget before it comes back to us and do some responsibility advertising. Maybe that's an option for us.

I just think we would get a bigger bang for our bucks if we cooperate on a Maritime basis. After all, if Atlantic Lotto has advertising agency that they're spending all kinds of money on putting these ads together, why should we go out and hire another agency and do it ourselves as Nova Scotia is doing?

I'm just saying if enough shareholders get together on Atlantic Lotto and say: No, we want our advertiser to come up with a certain amount of ads to be put on television, radio or to counter our advertising, maybe that would be a more cost-effective approach. If Nova Scotia is doing it now, the minister could contact his counterpart in Nova Scotia and say: Look, you're going out and doing ads. Maybe we can buy your ads or we can do ads together.

I look at the ads that are done by the Workers Compensation Board. I can tell you, they are very effective ads, the ones that talk about workplace safety. They are having an effect on Prince Edward Island. I commend the Workers Compensation Board for doing that. They are sending a message out to Islanders that you can get damaged if you don't obey the rules and think safety first.

If they went along with the opinion the workers should look out for themselves, they wouldn't be doing this advertising. I hope members would support this. It's not a

resolution that came out of my head, although I wrote it. It is a resolution that came out of a report that was tabled in this Legislature.

Other recommendations in the report I hope the government comes back with:

Recommendation 3.2: "Before introducing new forms of gambling in the province, it is recommended that the potential impact of the new forms of gambling on overall health and well-being of the population be assessed..."

I notice Nova Scotia has just gone back out to tender. It's currently on their website. Maybe we should join in with it. I don't know why we have to do everything ourselves. Social Economic Study of Gambling in Nova Scotia. They're going out and finding the social impacts and what can be done on gambling.

I find it interesting. Particularly in my district - they say the biggest problem areas are in Cape Breton and in Halifax. That's where the casinos are established. That's where they say the problems are. It's close to the population of that area that develops the problem. There are a substantial number of constituents in the Charlottetown area.

I ask all members to support this resolution. If Atlantic Lotto is doing as the Minister says, spending 10% of their budget, I want to see some joint advertising done to counterbalance that.

Remember when they used to do the old movies, they used to have subliminal advertising. This is basically advertising that's inside the picture by itself. While the picture was playing there was images portrayed each 30 or 40 or 50 frames of popcorn. That made people go out and buy popcorn.

I'm not saying Atlantic Lotto is doing any subliminal advertising. What I'm saying is that the advertising they are doing is really promotional. I think this resolution is calling upon them to take a further look. They owe a responsibility.

We as legislators are just listening to them. Again, in closing, I just want to say to the members this is not an idea that just came about. This is an idea as a result of a study done that Islanders talked about. Islanders were called at home and asked a detailed question list, a detailed survey. From that survey the conclusions came that Islanders are asking for a balanced approach in advertising. They want to see what Recommendation 1.1 outlines. We want to see some balanced advertising in this area.

I hope all members will support this resolution and maybe we can move on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. members, are you ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: All those in favour, say 'yea.'.

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: Contrary say nay.

Unanimous agreement on this resolution.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Opposition House Leader.

Mr. R. Brown: We agreed to give our time back to government.

Speaker: You're very kind, hon. member.

Government Motions

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that Motion No. 5 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 5.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay, the following Motion:

WHEREAS Lord Baden-Powell started the scouting movement with an experimental camp for youth at Brownsea Island off the coast of Britain in 1907;

AND WHEREAS since then, the scouting movement has grown to 25 million members in over 216 countries and territories around the world;

AND WHEREAS today Scouts Canada has emerged as a leading youth organization that offers seven challenging programs for over 84,000 young people across the country;

AND WHEREAS these programs are provided by 25,000 caring and dedicated volunteers;

AND WHEREAS Scouts Canada programs employ a system of progressive self-education that encourages members to learn by doing, often using outdoor activities as a key resource;

AND WHEREAS the programs encourage young people to do their personal best,

while contributing to the community, and also demonstrating respect and care for others;

AND WHEREAS today there are approximately 1,500 members in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS for generations the scouting program on Prince Edward Island has positively influenced the lives of Island youth by developing leadership, teaching practical skills, and fostering fellowship among group members;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island hosted its third national Jamboree in 2001, at Cabot Provincial Park, with many Islanders reaping economic and social benefits as a result of hosting thousands of scouts, leaders and volunteers;

AND WHEREAS Scouting is currently going through a very challenging period with declining youth and adult membership;

AND WHEREAS planning for the 2007 Centennial celebration is well underway;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of this Assembly, and indeed all Islanders, congratulate Scouts Canada, and its P.E.I. Council for all their contributions over the past century, and encourage everyone to participate in the organization's Centennial celebrations in 2007;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Members encourage Islanders to continue supporting the work of Scouts Canada, through volunteering, becoming a member, or participating in the organization's community initiatives.

Speaker: The mover of this motion, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

Mr. MacAleer: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate (Indistinct) -

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacAleer: - lots of notice with respect to this motion, but having said that, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this.

Leader of the Opposition: Stephen Harper doesn't even tell his Cabinet.

Mr. MacAleer: Well, that's true, and in keeping with that theme - Mr. Speaker, having been a Scout, and being a part of the movement since I was eight years old, and having received some of the benefits of being in the Scouting movement, it gives me great pleasure to comment.

Beginning in 1907 with the founder of this movement. Lord Baden-Powell was an interesting gentleman. He spent much of his life being a military person and had spent a considerable amount of time representing the British army in South Africa. He began as a scout himself. A scout was somebody who went out and sort of traced down the enemy before the army actually participated. His experience with respect to dealing with the enemy - in that case it was the British versus the Dutch colonies in Britain during the Boer War.

In the early days, much of the activity in that area was regarding guerilla warfare. Which you really didn't have armies lining up and fighting one another. You sort of sent out a reconnaissance party to assess the forces that you were up against. He would do this with some expertise.

He involved himself with the native or aboriginal peoples of South Africa and befriended a number of the tribes in his exploits to provide the information that he needed.

One of the particular tribes that he dealt with had, of course, in those times, no firearms. They were dealing with swords and shields. One of the tribes, particularly one in which he became very good friends with, used to greet a friend, as opposed to a foe, by dropping their shield. Because most people - even Europeans, most men are right-handed, and therefore they held their sword in the right hand and their shield in the left hand. When this particular tribe greeted a friend they would drop their shield and hand out their left hand in friendship.

Therefore when Baden-Powell started his movement in 1907 the characteristic that most stands out with the Scouting movement is that people shake hands with their left hand. That was the beginning.

Now Baden-Powell was sort of a practical chap. When he came back to Britain he was a military hero. Of course, it was bestowed, a lordship, on him, because of his military exploits in South Africa. One of the most exciting periods in which he was involved was the fact that he and about 30 men held off the enemy I think for somewhere close to two or three weeks at a particular battle. He was noted for being able to move his men around to give the impression, of course, that he had a lot more people on his side than was the case.

So when he returned to Britain of course he was given state recognition for that. With that, he was able to influence government to a great extent. In a certain part of London - of course we all know that during the Second World War, it was bombed heavily, and that's the east end of London. But during the first part of the 20th century, which was in the 1900s, there was a large population of young people who lived in that end of the town. They were strongly in need of leadership and support.

So he, as a military hero, decided to take

upon himself to give the young men in that particular area an opportunity to explore the suburbia of London by participating in camping trips. His initial idea was very much to provide these young people with an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors -

Leader of the Opposition: Call the hour.

Speaker: The hour has been called.

Mr. MacAleer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
(Indistinct).

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, that this adjourn and stand adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m.