

HANSARD



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Speaker: Hon. Greg Deighan

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The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker (Mooney): Beginning with the hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a wonderful day again in Prince Edward Island. I think I noticed there was about 16 degrees, which is hard to believe for the last day of November. It does indicate once again it's a great place to live.

I want to welcome the Holland College journalism students who are in the gallery this afternoon. I want to recognize anyone who may be celebrating a birthday or an anniversary today.

In particular, I want to pay tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald MacNeill of Beach Point, Prince Edward Island. Gerald and Edna are celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary today. Constituents of mine in Beach Point. I can tell you they are a great couple. They've made a tremendous contribution to Prince Edward Island, to the fishing industry, to their community, and they have a great family. So, I hope they have a very enjoyable day.

To everyone watching on Eastlink this afternoon, 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 the Holland

College students to the gallery today. It's wonderful to see this warm weather today. I think it might be short-lived from what I hear from the forecast. We are getting close to December now and I'm sure we'll see a little bit of snow on the way.

Today, I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our seniors out there that are watching on Eastlink Channel 10. I hope they're having a very good day. I wish them all the best in the upcoming Christmas season as we get closer.

I think we have to realize the important role that our seniors play in our society in terms of volunteering. A lot of volunteer hours happen from our seniors, plus the great economy that we get to have today, and a lot of our freedoms that we have today. So, I just thought it would be a nice idea to recognize our seniors today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

***Goin' to the Corner* - Island history book**

Mr. Dunn: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This past July, the first of a two-volume history of the sister communities of Elmsdale, Elmsdale West and Brockton, entitled *Goin' to the Corner*, was launched. The comprehensive and well illustrated book is anything but boring. Contained within its pages are copies of actual newspaper articles, diary entries, excerpts from journals, numerous pictures and much more.

It is a wonderful history of the early years,

the economy, the community, and the social life of the area. The book is divided into eight chapters covering such topics as agriculture, public buildings, businesses, organizations, and a salute to district veterans, and much more. It even has a miscellaneous chapter covering everything from health care to Prohibition.

I congratulate the research committee for this book. They are: Margaret Adams, Lillian Adams, Allan Graham, Norma McLellan, Arlene Morrison, Jean O'Brien, Kay Williams, and the administrative assistant, Susan Murphy, on a job very well done.

Just as the final copies of *Goin' to the Corner* are moving off the shelves, work on the second volume has begun. The second volume will concentrate on the genealogies of the original settlers of that area.

This is a fascinating book and would make an excellent Christmas gift, especially for those with an interest in Island histories. *Goin' to the Corner* is available at a number of locations, and I know for sure that if you go to the corner, you'll find it at the Elmsdale Corner Gas owned by Larry and Jacinta Arsenault.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Family Physician of the Year

Dr. McKenna: Mr. Speaker, this past month has been very special for Dr. Alfred Morais of Charlottetown and I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate him on being honoured as the 2006 Family Physician of the Year for Prince Edward Island.

To be nominated by your peers for this prestigious national award certainly indicates that Dr. Morais is well thought of, not only by his patients but also by his colleagues in the medical profession.

Dr. Morais was born in Halifax and raised in Charlottetown. He is a graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island and the Dalhousie Medical school. In 1986 he started his practice at the Charlottetown Clinic and in 1991 moved to the Parkdale Medical Centre. He lives in Charlottetown with his wife, Anne, and his three children, two in university and one in high school.

While extremely busy as he serves about 2,000 patients, he believes as a physician he must also advocate on behalf of his patients and assist them through the various channels of the health care system.

In addition to enjoying his busy family medical practice, Dr. Morais plays hockey, is a team physician for the Charlottetown Jr. Abbies and, along with other doctors, works with the PEI Rockets. I understand, by the way, he's also a die-hard Habs fan. I can also attest that he can also hit a golf ball very well as well.

Again, my sincere congratulations to Dr. Morais on this well-deserved recognition as one of 10 national recipients of the Reg L. Perkins Award for Family Physician of the Year for 2006.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Payday loan practices

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

Yesterday there were some questions about the need for a payday loans act. I could go on for hours about it, but I want to read a letter from a constituent of mine:

“Re: Payday Loans

“I would like to share with you today a recent experience I had with a payday loan company... in hopes that you as a legislator will bring the concerns I have about these operations to the Legislative Assembly.

“Living on a very restricted budget I found myself short on cash this month and wondered how I would make it through till my next pay. A thought came to me that I should call one of those stores even though I’ve heard horror stories on television about the exorbitant fees they charge.

“...I called” the payday loans’ store “...and had a conversation over the phone with the lone clerk who agreed to lend me \$30 for two weeks at a cost of \$17.00. Feeling that \$47.00 was an excessive amount to pay back for a \$30 loan I agreed to those terms because I really needed the money for laundry and things.

“After I was lured to the store by this agreement the clerk asked me for what seemed to be a lot of personal information which I wondered if she even had a legal right to be asking” for: “...Health Card Number, Social Insurance Number, Bank Account Numbers and other personal information that one feels uncomfortable about divulging.

“Once all my information was gathered I was informed that they” couldn’t give me a \$30 loan but only in \$20 increments. “Not wanting to owe them too much I decided on \$20.00 and asked what it would cost me in two weeks to pay back. I was SHOCKED when she told me I would have to pay \$48.00 in return for \$20.00 which... wasn’t

all interest but a brokerage fee, the interest being a mere .16 cents per day.

“Feeling outraged I cancelled the whole contract and demanded to have all my forms given to me that contained my personal information. I also requested that she delete my file from the computer and stood by and watched her...”

“Ahead of me earlier when I entered the store was a young woman with a small child going through the same drill. She too questioned why ‘it was so much’ but agreed to their terms. My heart went out to her for perhaps she needed this money to feed her family and couldn’t walk away like I did.”

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: I know, Mr. Speaker, that the members are pushing me for time so I’ll not read the rest of the letter.

Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Physician recruitment

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

There’s a natural concern and apprehension in the West Prince area over this government’s plan to shut down two hospitals and replace them with a centralized facility. When the report was released which looked into the issue, there was a recommendation for a rural physician recruitment plan.

A question for the minister of health. Why did this government neglect for 10 years the need for a physician recruitment plan dedicated to rural needs?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The statement is absolutely untrue. During the time that this government, over the last 10 years, has been undertaking a recruitment and retention strategy, we have recruited well over 100 doctors during that 10-year period.

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 the minister doesn't quote how many have left or how long they stayed for. Just an easy question for the minister of health. Why did the committee looking at this issue feel the need to make such a recommendation?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, throughout the rest of Canada, as well as Prince Edward Island, there is an ongoing need for doctors, family doctors, for physicians.

Particularly in the West Prince and the rural areas, family doctors are difficult to recruit. Although we have recruited that many over the period of time that I've indicated, obviously not all of them have remained. For any number of reasons, which the rural residents particularly in West Prince are very familiar with, many full-time and

locums have come into that area but they have not chosen to remain. They do stay there for a short period of time. So there is a need to be able to get permanent physicians who will in fact stay in the area. Some of them do but not all of them, and that is not only a Prince Edward Island problem, it is also shared throughout the rest of the country.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The fourth recommendation called for development of recruitment and retention strategy. Why would they have to make such a recommendation if you had been doing your job over the last 10 years?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the last part of that question. Would he mind repeating the last part?

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'd ask the minister to please pay attention to the questions instead of what the minister of finance is trying to tell him.

Number four in the committee's report called for the development of a recruitment and retention strategy. Why would they make such a recommendation if you had been doing such a good job over the last 10 years?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I think hon. Leader of the Opposition is well aware that beginning in 2000 there was a new strategy implemented by this government and that has reaped the effects, as I have indicated.

We have attracted to our shores many individuals. However, there is an ongoing need to be able to retain those individuals, and part of the recommendation, I'm sure, was aimed at not only the recruitment but also the retention. I think that the recommendation was actually added to the last part, which is the retention aspect. And, yes, we are doing what we possibly can to attract and to retain and to keep these individuals and the strategies of 2000 and 2004 point to that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

New hospital in West Prince

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

The lack of physicians points to the fact that not enough is being done. The government attempted to make it appear as if the entire medical community in West Prince endorses the idea. I would like to read briefly from a letter sent by an Alberton physician earlier this year. I quote:

I really don't think enough thought or research has gone into this proposal. I feel we have made many mistakes within our health care system in the last number of years under the guise of reform, mistakes that have cost us both financially and with the loss of services and personnel. I would hate to see us make another mistake due to (Indistinct) and lack of information.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister truly say that the closures of two hospitals and the expenditure of millions on a new one will

respond to these concerns?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I can certainly state that one of the aims is to do exactly that, is to address together the combination of what a brand new single hospital with all of the efficiencies that it can provide will be able to attract and to retain.

I must also remind the hon. leader that all of the doctors in 2005, I believe it was, did endorse the concept at that time. It was the first time that the concept was put forth publicly, and all of the doctors in the two hospitals did sign that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Perhaps he should check out that quote that I just read. But a new question now for the same minister. Can the minister guarantee that this proposed facility will offer new medical services which are currently unavailable in West Prince?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have been asked that question many times and I have made it abundantly clear that new services will not be offered. There will be efficiency, however, in the services that are presently offered by the two hospitals, which will be retained and put in.

When I talk, too, about efficiencies, that could be around technology. Certainly, the X-ray, the care that is taken now, new equipment, certain new pieces of equipment

would obviously be available that we would take a look at, but there will not be (Indistinct) services that are not there now being offered, available, in the new hospital.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Will the minister please inform the House how many beds will be available in the new facility?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I know that hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking these questions and not expecting an accurate answer.

The reason why is that we do have a couple of very well-defined functions and stages of planning which must be undergone. The first one is the master planning, which is ongoing presently at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We recently completed both at the Prince County Hospital. I'm sure that the Leader of the Opposition was paying attention to those. The functional planning follows the master planning. So it would be inappropriate for me at this particular time to say here is the exact dollar cost that is going to be attributed, a budget. It's also inappropriate for me to tell you exactly how many beds are going to be offered there.

But I can tell you that the broad strokes were - and it has been made public for a long time - is that the same services that are presently being offered will be available in the new single concept hospital. Beyond that, it is up to the residents of the area, it is up to the planning committees, to decide exactly the breakdown of those.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

How are the residents of the area going to decide that?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, what this government has been very well noted for and very good at doing is consulting the individuals.

We have just in fact ended up with a list of their recommendations and a very good comprehensive report. Because we did that, we took five or six weeks. We did form a committee. The people of the West Prince area responded wholeheartedly. We have accomplished over six public meetings and numerous other occasions and opportunities available to sample what their thoughts were on the hospital. So there are consultative forms that have proven very effective in the past. We would continue to make use of those.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Cost of new hospital in West Prince

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

I had the opportunity to attend many of those meetings, public consultations, that did take place, and I thought that it was really quite a divisive issue when I attended those meetings. That's why I was a little surprised by how decisive the report was.

But I've got a new question to the minister. I'm wondering: Can the minister - and he said he can't give us a direct cost - but I'm

wondering, can he give us a ball figure on how much the new facility will cost?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, no, I'm not going to fall into that net either.

If one was to take a look at some of the media reports, it could be from a very small figure up to a very large figure. There's all kinds of speculations because, once again, people - and certainly journalists - do not know at this particular time the size of the building and the footprint of the building. As I have said, we are starting from the premises of services but there is a great unknown beyond that and I certainly do not have the final figure in my head. Therefore, I would be unavailable and not ready to make any type of public notice.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I find the minister's answer irresponsible. I think here we are looking at two facilities in communities that are being closed down that are very vital for those communities, that have been in place for many years, where there's been lots of fundraising take place for those facilities. You've announced that they're going to be closing, that a new facility's going to be built. Surely you would have some indication of how much a new facility would cost. Over or under \$20 million?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, once again in his preamble to the question, he mentioned closing.

The hospitals are not closing. There is certainly going to be an amalgamation into one new facility, but those existing hospitals are going to be used for other hospital services. Again, it is certainly not up to me at this particular time to indicate exactly all of what is going to be talked about and the utilization made of those existing hospitals, but long-term care would certainly be a good bet in that area. There is a need for those types of beds in that area. But there is not going to be any closure. That I want to make certainly abundantly clear, not only to the Leader of the Opposition but to everybody.

But no, again, it would be irresponsible, to use the word in a different context from the Leader of the Opposition, of me to speculate at this early stage, without the necessary utilization of the experts and the people from the area providing input, to indicate what that ballpark figure might be.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I've listened very intently to the minister's answer and I think probably the people of West Prince have listened very intently to that answer. From what I gather according to what your position is now, we're going to have three hospitals in West Prince, is that correct?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, once again, the hon. leader is trying to mix the picture, to throw as much mud into the puddle as he possibly can to try to mix the messages.

What we have attempted to do is to listen, is to consult and, obviously, the people of

West Prince have indicated that they have voted in favour of a single West Prince hospital. That is what we are going to do now is to move on to the next stage, into the master planning stage, to find out exactly how that can be carried out.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Can the minister please inform me when the vote took place to decide the move towards one hospital and what the percentage breakdown was on that vote?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, once again, I certainly, in taking the approach used by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, recognize that there was not a vote.

It was not the intention. I think the people were aware early that it was not a matter of raising hands in a meeting and counting them. They used a thematic analysis and a thematic analysis was to identify the themes, and from that to analyse the responses of the -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Gillan: Yes, that's exactly what it was, a thematic analysis. It's a well-used research tool. From that there was a concept derived that, indeed, it was the overwhelming majority of the people up there wanted this type of an approach.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very

much, Mr. Speaker.

There was a vote. Now there wasn't a vote. There was going to be two hospitals closing down and a new one being built, and then the two weren't going to be closed down and a new one was going to be built. No wonder the minister has no idea on how much this hospital is going to cost.

I'm wondering: Can he just now perhaps, since he's willing to talk about all these different scenarios, can he give us a scenario on how much this new facility might cost?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition certainly does have difficulty getting things straight in his mind.

His questioning leads to that is that he just doesn't quite know what type of questions to ask to elicit the appropriate responses. I think what is most abundantly clear, no matter how he asks and/or phrases his questions, is that the people of West Prince were given an opportunity to be consulted and they did render a decision, and that decision is to go ahead and to build a single hospital in the West Prince area, following the consultation, and in going to be embracing further collaboration from the residents of (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Physician recruitment (further)

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

We can check Hansard. The minister said vote and then he said no vote, and then he said they weren't closing down and then he said, well, they are closing down. So I'm not really sure where the minister is going on this. But I'm wondering: Is there any independent evidence to suggest that a larger, new facility will have any more success in recruiting physicians than the small, community orientated hospitals?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons, and all of these were identified by the individuals who attended the meetings, those six public meetings, as to the advantage of building a new hospital.

The hon. leader himself referred to one of the main ones, that a newer hospital, and only one of them, with efficiencies would certainly attract more doctors and nurses, health care providers, and not only the physicians but all of the health care providers to a new single area. It is these types of bits of information that the people are looking for and it is this type of a building that, indeed, would be able to provide a more efficient, well-appointed health care to that area.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Earlier this year the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada made the following observation - I'm sure the minister is very aware of this organization, being a minister of health in the country - and I quote:

We need to stop closing rural hospitals, rural

operating rooms, and rural obstetric programs. Provincial centralization of medical services and closure and downgrading of rural hospitals has seriously hurt service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, this group has a great deal of expertise in the area of rural medicine. Isn't the minister concerned, like the society, that closures and downgrades will in fact hurt service delivery?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I certainly take opposition to how he is phrasing his question is that there are closures and that there are downgrades.

I have explained that there are no closures. There is going to be a single, more efficient hospital offering the same services. As to downgrades, I would look upon it as just the opposite. That this is the opportunity for an upgrade. Just because the Leader of the Opposition is not in favour of a single, more efficient hospital that the residents of the area are so well supportive of, it does not mean that we should not put it there. We have listened, we have consulted, and now we are going to go ahead and build that hospital.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, there is a myth in this province, created mainly by this government, that our hospital systems need to be reduced and centralized.

The fact of the matter is this. On a per capita basis we are in the bottom half of the provinces when it comes to spending on hospitals. The problem is not health care costs. The challenge lies in this government's failure to adequately recruit

rural physicians. This government created the crisis and now threatens to worsen the situation in West Prince by a government that doesn't recognize that it has to do a much better job at recruiting and retaining doctors. As the Alberton doctor pointed out: I don't think we have to jump in with the wrong pretense that it will solve all our problems. It won't.

Mr. Speaker, shouldn't the minister be looking at a far more aggressive recruitment plan before he proceeds with this idea?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in the very first response to the first question today, we have had a very ambitious recruitment and a retention plan since we came into government 10 years ago.

All the Leader of the Opposition has to do is to be able to take a look at the figures and go through and count up how many new doctors have come here. Mr. Speaker, I know that you, yourself, in the eastern end of the province are very aware, however, that getting a new physician is not the same as retaining them long-term and that is the second part, and that is also part of the strategy which we're working on.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition here has been quoted that he is not in favour of community rural hospitals, which is not the stance of this government. We have indicated that the community rural hospitals are very important to us. The reason why the single concept of West Prince is being entertained is to be sure that the community hospital in West Prince will be there for a long period of time to support the people of that area with a new, improved, efficient hospital.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'm sure, like any government, they've hopefully done their research into building a new hospital. I'm wondering: Do you have examples of other areas of the country that have amalgamated two hospitals into one and proved that it's easier to recruit doctors?

Mr. R. Brown: Good question.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, we have done lots of research, we have listened to lots of people.

We are aware that in a small market there are many numbers of reasons why physicians and nurses and health care workers would choose not to go to those centres but to areas of greater population, and areas where maybe there are more of their culture speaking the same language, having the same traditions. So when we have indicated that we are able to modernize a hospital, as was the case with Summerside, the Prince County, when we are working to modernize the Charlottetown-based hospital, the Queen Elizabeth, that is the type of message that you send out to these physicians, to these professionals, that it is a modern, well-equipped hospital and there is a good reason, there are good medical practices being carried on, and they do reply. They will then take a long, hard look at coming to those centres. We have proved it with the Charlottetown and the Summerside scenario, and that is the type of information that is good for us and what we have paid attention to.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I want some direct answers from this minister so I'm going to ask a direct question, and I'm not going to get into the debate on the shortage out here at the ER. But my direct question was: Can you provide other examples of where amalgamating two rural hospitals and building one new facility made it that much easier to recruit health care physicians?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, there is all kinds of information available from word of mouth, newspaper accounts, and I'm sure some research as well, that point out just exactly what I have said, that if you have a type of health provision provided in a particular area that is professional, that the esprit de corps is good - and that is what has happened in a couple of our hospitals, and that is what we are attempting to be able to provide to the West Prince area - then people will notice and people will come, and that is the type of health care that we are looking for and will provide to the residents of West Prince.

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

Disability support program

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

A question to the minister of health. I've been receiving some calls over the last few weeks about the disability support program. As a matter of fact, I had a constituent in the officer the other day. The constituent has indicated that \$600,000 has been cut from

the budget from last year's forecast to this year's budget and he feels like he's being squeezed out. Is that what's going on in your department in order to make up for that \$600,000 cut?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, certainly not.

I know that with the disability support program there's always ongoing concern as to whether the dollars and the services, more importantly, will follow. We have over a thousand clients in the province drawing from that fund, and it's always an exacting science or art to try to provide all of the disability services that people are looking for. But we do as well as we possibly can.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, this constituent of mine also said there is a new screening tool and he feels that this screening tool - and he's done some research on it - it's more about getting people off the disability support program.

It's more like a questionnaire of: Do you really need it, how can we get you off it? This person has a disability. He's just wondering: When did you introduce this screening tool, and why such an onerous task for people to prove that they're disabled, especially if they're in a wheelchair?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would take exception to that.

I understand that what we have attempted to do is make it easier for individuals to fill out

the questionnaires. I know that in talking to the disability advisory body which provides assistance and recommendations to me that there is a duplication of forms. Certainly they have made the recommendation, which I support, that we have to be able to simplify the process as much as possible so that we will be able to get to the concern of the individuals and be able to provide them the very best service. So I certainly take exception of that particular type of question.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay.

Ignition Interlock Program

Ms. Crane: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. This fall in the throne speech the province mentioned about the introduction of an Ignition Interlock Program. Could the minister expand on what that program is all about?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ignition Interlock Program is a tool which is used to combat impaired driving. How it works is the person who is suspended for an impaired offence can apply for early reinstatement of their license if they qualify for this program. If approved, the device is installed in their vehicle which is basically a Breathalyzer which disables the vehicle if the driver is drinking.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay.

Ms. Crane: Another question around that, minister. If a person's convicted, then, of an impaired driving offence, does that mean the person is actually going to be able to get on

the road sooner than they'd normally? Is there an advantage to that?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The advantage would come in allowing the person to begin to reestablish their driving privileges under a tightly controlled access that certainly would be better than having a driver on the road who's drinking without a license. They'd have to, of course, receive approval from the courts to be entered into this program. They'd have to make application to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. If approved, both their license and their vehicle would be flagged as restricted so that information would be available to law enforcement that they are a part of this Ignition Interlock Program.

The program is being introduced on a voluntary basis, and it's the case in most provinces which use it. The cost of the program is borne completely by the individual and there's no cost to taxpayers for this program, which can run the user up to about \$100 a month.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Aboriginal health issues

Mr. Arsenault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I understand that you are back from Aboriginal meetings in British Columbia. Could the minister update the House on the discussions that took place?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, during the past number of days it is correct that we were able to gather all of the representatives - that is, the Aboriginal representatives and many government representatives - to go over the Aboriginal health needs.

More importantly, after listening to exactly what those needs are, to come up with a better action plan and a health approach in the future which would meet those needs. I'm sure that the members in the Legislature here as well as the Islanders are very familiar with the fact that among the Aboriginal population right across the country there's a higher incidence of diabetes and other diseases such as fetal alcohol syndrome, disorder, or disease as well, that the Aboriginal populations are witness to and suffer more than others. Those and other health deprivations we talked about.

One of the co-chairs who was the Premier of the Province of British Columbia, hon. Gordon Campbell, in fact started off the conference with the recognition that the Aboriginal population indeed is the silent third, if you will, founding organization and/or population in Canada that is fraught with solitude. In other words, the French and the English have been able to identify and work on many of their problems but the Aboriginal population - the third solitude referring to the Aboriginals - have not been able to do that. So it was around their health care which we put our discussions.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Mr. Arsenault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just a quick question to follow up on this issue. Just what are the next steps that will take place following this meeting?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health,

Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, a number of the premiers who were in attendance, and certainly the leaders of the Aboriginals, did purposely, of course, come with a number of next solutions.

One of them which applies to our province, and to which I will be making further overture to it during my ministerial statement shortly, involves agreements as to how can we provide that health care and I will be elaborating on it at that particular time.

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

Aboriginal housing

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

I just want to follow up on the member's questions about the Aboriginals. Mr. Minister, I wrote you a letter a month before the homeless shelters for Aboriginal peoples in Charlottetown closed. Why did it take you a month to come up with a decision on reestablishing some funding for these facilities?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why there was a delay, which we now have met - and one of the shelters has been open since the 1st of November - is the fact that it is the requirement of the federal government.

It was not an opportunity in British Columbia to lay blame on any particular group of people and/or level of government, but the housing situation which the hon. member opposite has brought up is a shortage of funds that was put there by the

federal government to provide the capital building program, i.e., the erection of the facility, but did not provide the operational dollars.

Obviously, people have a need and they responded a number of years ago that, yes, there would be a need for two shelters for the Aboriginal concerns and health difficulties, but they have been struggling for quite some time with keeping those open. That is the reference to which the hon. member did pose to me in a letter.

We were able to look for and to find some dollars and, with other partners, we have been able to keep it open for a limited period of time. But it still is a concern of the province here and the Department of Health is that we will be able to keep it open because the funds are limited.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, it's a shame the way this government did this.

Wrote the letter. The Attorney General was at the meeting, and the member from Charlottetown was at the meeting, at the Aboriginal council's meeting. That concern was brought up. I issued a letter to the Attorney General and yourself a month before. You waited until the place closed, until it became an issue, so you could come in like Robin Hood and save the day. That's what you were doing. You guys wanted to wait to play politics with this issue and that's a shame on your part, and that's why I brought it up, Mr. Minister.

Now, are you going to continue to fund this housing program?

An Hon. Member: Not true.

Mr. R. Brown: It is true. Are you going to

continue to fund this program or are you going to make them go from month to month?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, it is deplorable that the opposite member would indicate that something such as this was done for a political reason.

I have taken the time to outline how the housing operation evolved and the fact that it was fraught with economic difficulties right from the beginning because the federal government did not provide operating expenses when we do have housing ministers' national forums. We talked to the federal government about this. It is an ongoing difficulty in all of the other Canadian provinces and territories, not only Prince Edward Island. It is not the responsibility, we do not have in budget - the health care budget, that is - the operation of these health care or these housing operations, the same as with non-native. There are operations here in the province that are not getting operating budgets as well.

It is not the sole responsibility for us to keep them open, but it is a program, and it is a problem, the health care of the Aboriginals, that we are working on. Maybe British Columbia is one of those areas of solution that we'll be able to take a look at and go further in the future.

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

Aboriginal housing trust

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

I cannot believe this minister. Minister, there was a bill passed in the federal

government, Bill C-48, and under Bill C-48 there was a number of reserve accounts set up in September. One of those accounts was Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust - off-reserve - \$200,000 this year, \$200,000 next year, \$200,000 the year after, point 700,000. The minister has tapped into those trusts and now I understand that some of the money has been transferred, according to his fiscal update.

Don't tell this House there wasn't money available. Don't get up here and say there's a problem here, that there's money not available. There's money in this Bill C-48. Would you not agree that that money could be used for this Aboriginal housing project?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: No, Mr. Speaker, I would not agree that it would be used for the housing.

It was a health care - we are passing that along in the form of health care. But the idea of being able to keep these housing operations open, that is the difficulty which we are facing. It's one thing to be able to provide health care services and another thing to be able to keep facilities open. They are two distinct different areas of need.

I have taken pains to indicate that, unfortunately, the provincial government is not into the operation of these facilities. It is our requirement as a province to be able to provide health care services but not with the operation of these facilities.

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

Mr. R. Brown: This minister is in the business of leaving people on the street, Mr. Speaker.

Aboriginal people on Prince Edward Island

are Islanders. They are Islanders, and under the constitution of Canada, the government is responsible for social assistance and helping our individuals here. Let's make no mistake about it. Don't try to blame the federal government for your inability to help here. Now, what is the Bill C-48 money going to be used for in Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, we have had a series of meetings with the Aboriginal leadership and we are coming up with a policy and a strategy exactly how that money is going to be spent.

Once again, I differ with the hon. Opposition House Leader. He is mixing his apples and his oranges. I have already carefully explained for it that, yes, all Canadians receive health care which we have a budget for, and that includes Aboriginals. The dollars that the hon. Opposition House Leader is talking about, however, we have met with them and we are going to be able to channel those into very well needed, in this case, Aboriginal health care.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Are you telling me that none of this money can be used for keeping the houses open?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this is not housing rent dollars.

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

CAIS program forms

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

A question to the agriculture minister. I've been doing some work. The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses has done a study of the CAIS program and they have issued a report called: The Case Against CAIS. In this they have interviewed a lot of farmers and the difficulties they're having with filling in these forms and the complications of this system.

Now he and the federal government promised 9 or 10 months ago that they'd fix this problem. Now I know they're going to get up and blame the previous federal government, but they promised they'd fix this program. When is this program going to get fixed so farmers can get their money and then be on the land doing the things they want to be doing and not in their houses filling out government forms?

Leader of the Opposition: Good question.

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

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, the CAIS program was a program brought in under the previous government. The farmers that asked for years and years when this program started to have this changed, it hasn't changed, under the previous administration. But right now, under Minister Strahl, that is one of the things that they are doing. At the ministers' meeting we were at, that was one of the items of discussion. There will be a shorter form. They will be able to do it in an easier way.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Can the minister say when? When will this be done?

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

Mr. Bagnall: To my knowledge they're working on it and it should be in the near future, but I haven't got a date yet. But I'm sure it won't be 10 years.

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

Prices for Island potatoes

Mr. R. Brown: No, it definitely won't be 10 years because there will be a new federal government after the next election.

Mr. Speaker, I've also been looking at some issues here and some of the potato statistics that have been in Prince Edward Island in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

It seems that our Prince Edward Island farmers are consistently paid less for their potatoes per hundredweight than the rest of the farmers in Canada. Example being in 2003, hundredweight prices were \$5.87, while in Manitoba and Alberta they were getting \$15 a hundredweight and \$11 a hundredweight. I'm just wondering why the discrepancy. Why do our farmers get less for their potatoes than everybody else in Canada?

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

Mr. Bagnall: Mr. Speaker, the problem we have there is that a lot of our potatoes are grown for production, for processing, and the processing market is not overly as great as the seed market.

So it depends on where he's talking about and what area. But you know, we had the

highest GDP on potatoes anywhere, so I mean, we're over and above.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, I notice - and I could stand to be corrected here - but Manitoba I think has a big processing plant, or Saskatchewan.

I think they have some big processing plants out there. In 2003 their average hundredweight in Manitoba was \$7.44 as opposed to us here at \$5.87. Now I know he's going to get up and say we produce more potatoes, but their potatoes out there, they produce - we produce 27 million hundredweight and they produce 21 million hundredweight. So I'm just wondering. Manitoba has a plant - and I stand to be corrected on that - processing industry too, but why are they getting more for their potatoes than we are on Prince Edward Island?

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

Mr. Bagnall: Mr. Speaker, one thing about Manitoba, they have a large seed production there, and the price of seed is much higher than processing potatoes, so that does change the marketplace drastically in the potato industry.

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

Mr. R. Brown: That's a good point the minister has just made. You know, before this government came in, Prince Edward Island had a great seed potato industry on Prince Edward Island. We had the Elite Seed farm that was going great, Mr. Speaker, and we were selling lots of seed potatoes.

Since this government came in that industry has gone by the wayside. So that's what happened here. It's not as much as it used to be. Can the minister look into these figures and help our farmers get their prices up to the national average, anyway?

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

Mr. Bagnall: Mr. Speaker, our farmers are getting a good return on their investment, but the problem is the processing market is a stable price and it's set.

It's set by the processors for the potato marketing. That's where we're getting into it, because I think we're the only place in North America that did not get a price increase from the processors this year. When the negotiations were taking place they turned down to go with a zero percent increase and to jump up 8% next year. But that's what the problem is, in the processing and seed potatoes.

Speaker: Final question.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

Sunday opening of liquor stores

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

I just want to question the Minister of Tourism. The minister of industry and the Premier now have agreed that liquor stores can open on Sunday. I'm just wondering: Is the Minister of Tourism fully supportive of opening liquor stores on Sunday on Prince Edward Island?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

One of the services that a lot of our visitors

have been looking for on the weekends is access to retail alcohol, and we looked at that. Government has looked at it along with the Liquor Control Commission. I'm sure that before the summer months a decision will come forward.

Mr. R. Brown: So you agree with it.

Speaker: End of Question Period.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: Beginning with the hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier today I had the opportunity to attend and bring remarks to the Sixth Annual Think Tank on Healthy Child Development. This event is organized each year by the Premier's Council on Healthy Child Development.

Today, more than 100 front line staff, early childhood educators, school board staff, staff of provincial and federal governments and parents have gathered to discuss early intervention for children of Prince Edward Island. This morning, the group also heard from Dr. Kim Kienapple who is the regional director of the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. He shared what has been learned from reviewing early intervention policies and practices in Canada.

I advise members of the House that one of the strategic directions of the Healthy Child Development Strategy is to encourage and support early intervention. Evidence is plentiful to support the positive effects of early intervention programs. When they're well designed, timely interventions can improve the prospects and quality of life for many children who are considered vulnerable due to social, cognitive, social,

emotional or behavioural factors.

The Task Force Report on Student Achievement identified that actions which support children from birth to age eight are fundamental for academic and social development.

The Premier's Council has been successful in bringing a number of issues to our attention over the years. For example, they recommended that students should start grade one at a slightly older age, and we have complied with that recommendation.

Additionally, the Children's Secretariat has worked to ensure that policies and practices at the department level support children and encourage collaboration with more than 60 community organizations which are involved in Secretariat networks.

I welcome feedback from the Council as to how best we can build-on existing programs, services and community supports to give our most vulnerable children the best start in life.

Government does have a vision that Prince Edward Island children will grow up feeling safe, secure, healthy, and successful at learning; that our parents and families will have the resources and supports they require to feel confident helping and being involved in their children's learning; and that our communities will have the social cohesiveness and capital to provide a sense of belonging.

I commend members of the Premier's Council on Healthy Child Development, Dr. Wong and the other members, community and government partners, for their continued efforts in advancing the goals of healthy child development here in the Province.

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 them on their great work. I believe early childhood development is key to our future.

A couple of the main programs that we've been working on on this side of the House - one, we were quite disappointed in this government. Many other governments across Canada, even after Stephen Harper got elected, still fought to maintain a national childcare program in this country introduced by the hon. Ken Dryden. Unfortunately, our Premier wasn't willing to stand up and fight for it.

Another program - and I want to commend the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove for the great work she did when this government chose to cut the Best Start program. She fought hard for many months, along with a lot of volunteers and the people who help administer that program, to help get it back.

I believe also that if we want to, and the Premier mentioned it, be interventionist we need more school psychologists, we need more speech language pathologists, to make sure we can help out our kids.

If there's one thing we can do in this society it is to make sure that all children have an equal start. If we want our literacy rates to increase, if we want our incomes to increase, if we want our health to increase, I believe by putting those dollars in a national childcare program, into a Best Start program, and enhancing a Best Start program, into having enough school psychologists, into having enough speech

language pathologists, into maintaining class sizes at a reasonable level in this province, I believe we can do a lot to ensure that our future is going to be bright.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. MacFadyen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Together with hon. Minister of Education, I am pleased to release the 2004-2005 PEI ArtsSmarts Highlight Report, Open Your Mind and Learn Through the Arts, which will be tabled today during Tabling of Documents. I am happy to provide an update to the House on this unique program which brings local artists into Island classrooms to promote arts-based learning opportunities.

PEI ArtsSmarts is a joint initiative of the Department of Education, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Commission scolaire de langue française and community organizations.

This program offers students an opportunity to study core curricula through sculpting, painting, and working with stained glass, film and music.

The PEI ArtsSmarts program brings together the artistic community, local organizations, teachers, and volunteers with students at Island schools. Through the projects students develop an appreciation for Island history, story telling, nature, outer space and imaginary creatures. They learn skills, values and habits crucial to their personal growth and development.

The report we are tabling today outlines ArtsSmarts projects at Hernewood Junior

High School, Athena Consolidated School, Elm Street Elementary School, École Saint-Augustin, Birchwood Intermediate School, Spring Park Elementary School, West Royalty Elementary School and École La-Belle Cloche. In a colourful and fun format presented in both English and French, this report highlights the activities and achievements of each individual project.

The ArtsSmarts program has generated excitement among students, created a new teaching tool for teachers and helped local artists promote their work. Participating students develop an appreciation for the arts which can last a lifetime. Government is proud to support arts education through the ArtsSmarts program.

By injecting Arts Education not only in our class rooms but also into our communities, we are contributing to innovative and creative learning opportunities. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is also proud to affirm arts programs and education through our support of the Jubilee Theatre, the Confederation Centre of the Arts and the Francophone Community Cultural Partnership Program.

Before I conclude, I want to take a moment to recognize Monique Lafontaine, an artist who was involved in ArtsSmarts projects at two local schools, Darren White and Barbra Groome from the PEI Council of the Arts, and our provincial ArtsSmarts Coordinator Cécile Arsenault.

Thank you for joining us this afternoon, and I thank you for your commitment to the ArtsSmarts program.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to like to stand on behalf of the opposition caucus and celebrate this great program here on PEI being delivered by artists in the community. It's a terrific program. It's cross-curricular where, as the minister stated, local artists can come in and teach so many wonderful techniques to our students. Then, the students are so proud.

I've been in different schools, where the minister stated about the stained glass, there's been film, there's been drama, paintings and so forth. The students are so proud of their work.

As a partnership with the community, I think it's wonderful. As well, I think the department and Vicki Allen and Cécile in the gallery today, wonderful work. I hope it continues. I think we need to further continue to support arts in our schools.

I think when we look at student achievement, it's not all about the test. That's what's so key. I think children in our system have so much to be developed through the arts. I think, as a Department of Education and through Community and Cultural Affairs, there's a wonderful partnership that can be even elevated further there to further support arts in the schools.

So in closing I celebrate all the work. I know the students at East Wiltshire benefitted greatly. Recently, they did their Ardgowan presentation in the form of drama, and the costumes and presented. I know former students that I've had come to me and talked about it and were so proud.

So, continue the great work, schools, and continue the great work as part of ArtsSmart.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to advise hon. Members and all Islanders that the week of December 1st to 7th is National Safe Driving Week in Canada.

National Safe Driving Week is held around this time each year to coincide with the start of the busy holiday season where the need for safe driving practices take on a heightened importance.

The theme for this year's National Safe Driving Week is, "Be A Responsible Host," and it is an appropriate one.

At this time of year there are any number of gatherings and functions of family, friends and coworkers where alcohol may be served.

By following a few simple steps a host can help ensure that their gathering is a safe one.

These steps can include: serving alcohol in a responsible manner and offering non-alcoholic beverage choices; always arranging for designated drivers if needed through friends, family, coworkers, taxi or transit where available; reminding all your guests about the importance of wearing your seat belt and driving responsibly.

I want to remind all Islanders that law enforcement will be on our roads again in full force this holiday season to make sure that safe and responsible driving practices are being followed.

Our department will also be active over the holiday season with public education activities on safe and responsible driving practices through various media.

In closing, I just want to remind all Islanders that the holiday season is a time of celebration. By following these few simple steps we can make sure that this time of celebration isn't marred by needless tragedy.

Thank you, and please drive safely.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'd just like to echo the great statement made by the hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works, and urge all Islanders during National Safe Driving Week, leading up to the Christmas holidays, to please don't drink and drive. Not only are you endangering yourself, you're endangering passengers, you're endangering other people on the roads.

Also when it comes to winter conditions, if you don't have snow tires, try and get snow tires. Make sure that you're being safe out there. Realize that you have to be a little more cautious when it is the wintertime and there is snow and ice on the road, and please ensure that at all times. Especially when you're going through school zones, you're close to school buses, you're near neighbourhoods with young children playing. Be doubly cautious because we cannot control what a little three or four or five-year old running across the street might do, but we can control what we're doing. If we are that much aware we can try and save a few more lives.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

Before I start I'd like to acknowledge Stephen Turner in the gallery. Mr. Turner worked for us a couple of years ago. I know he's eyeing that seat down that belongs to the hon. Member from North River-Rice Point, and he can almost jump right in it.

On behalf of the Department of Tourism, I would like to rise to pay tribute to a long-time tourism operator, Anne Olson, who passed away recently.

Ms. Olson was born in Hillsborough, Scotland in 1932. Her given name was Rosemary Margery Anne Hay, and Anne moved to the Island in the late 1970s to become a permanent resident and director of volunteer services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. After working with the QEH, Anne became a tourism operator, opening Anne's Ocean View Haven Bed and Breakfast located in Kinlock.

Anne had a vibrant personality and was not content to be a quiet bystander, silently tending to her B&B and many customers. As a small-lodging operator Anne had strong convictions and she firmly believed that the industry needed to change with the times. To accomplish her goals, Anne formed the Association of Tourism Operators. She enlisted the help of quite a number of B&B operators and would march to the Legislature to demand meetings with tourism officials - including Premier Binns - to discuss issues that were of concern to the group. The association was loyal to their cause and Anne was never afraid to speak her mind, no matter what the audience. So unafraid in fact, her son Brian remarked that he was sure she called him once to say she had just called George Bush to give her opinions about the war in Iraq.

Anne was a great lover of animals with a

number of cats and dogs at her side in her living quarters of Anne's Ocean View Haven. She loved to talk politics and her family considered her a bit of a political junkie.

Anne Olson loved her work in the tourism industry and loved to welcome people into her home, Anne's Ocean View Haven. She entertained guests from all around the world and many would write to her to say how special she made them feel and how she had made their trip a memorable one. She will be missed in the tourism sector.

In closing, I offer my heartfelt condolences to Anne's family, her sons Brian and Alan and her three grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The current *Police Act*, R.S.P.E.I., 1988, Cap. P-11, came into effect in 1951 and was amended on at least eight occasions. The various amendments have been "piecemeal" and have resulted in inconsistencies within the act and difficulties with the appointment processes for police officers.

In 1990 a new police act, Bill No.29, was brought forward and considered by a special committee of the Legislature, but it was not passed.

In 1998 the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square introduced a private member's bill, the police commission act, Bill No.205. The Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development held public hearings and Bill No.205 received mixed

support. The Standing Committee recommended that the Office of the Attorney General investigate various procedures used in appeals of complaints against police departments in other provinces and implement a process of appeal to an independent body - and I quote - "to ensure that all disputes against police departments would have a fair and equitable conclusion with a hearing of appeal by a completely independent and impartial individual or body."

In developing the proposed legislation, which I have already tabled, consideration has been given to issues raised during the hearings for these previous versions of policing legislation. To the greatest extent possible, efforts have been made to maintain processes that are currently working, avoid bureaucratic processes, and improve problematic areas. The proposed legislation aims to clarify relationships and responsibilities, simplify appointment processes, and balance improved accountability with minimal provincial intervention into municipal police departments.

Because of the extensive provisions required, a new *Police Act* has been drafted and the current *Police Act* is to be repealed.

The group which will be most affected by the proposed new *Police Act* is the police. The PEI Association of Chiefs of Police recognizes the need for and supports the implementation of a new police act. The association has been consulted and has provided a great deal of helpful advice to the development of the legislation. Policing agencies which are represented by senior officers on the PEI Association of Chiefs of Police include the four municipal police departments, RCMP "L" Division, UPEI Security Services Division, and the Atlantic Police Academy. The association also includes representatives from related

provincial and federal government departments.

Representatives of the PEI Police Association and the Police Association of Nova Scotia, which represents police officers from the Charlottetown Police Department, were consulted through two face-to-face meetings last winter with the two government officials who worked on the legislation. Representatives from CUPE, which represents police officers from the Summerside Police Department and the UPEI security police officers, were invited to these meetings, but were unable to attend. Summaries of the proposed legislation were provided to police association and union representatives.

The police association and union representatives expressed some concerns about civilian oversight of public complaints. It was explained to them that the public complaints will continue to be dealt with by chief officers and will go to the Police Commissioner for a review only if the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the chief officer's resolution of the complaint.

The two main concerns expressed by the representatives were: public exposure, especially if the complaint is found to be unsubstantiated; and the length of time the process could take, i.e., a concern that the officer could have the matter hanging over his head for some time.

To address these concerns that were brought forward, to the extent possible in the new *Police Act*, the complaint process will not be public unless there is a hearing. The provisions for hearings are found at sections 32 and 43 of the act. There are some circumstances where the police commissioner may close the hearing, and subsections 32(3) and 43(3) provide that the police commissioner may make an order

banning the publication of the identity of the complainant, the respondent, or a witness.

Time limits have been set out for each step of the complaints procedure, which was another one of their concerns.

Consultations were also held with Hon. Norman Carruthers because of his role as public authority regarding the law enforcement justification provisions, section 25.1 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. Mr. Carruthers provided helpful advice which has been incorporated into the act.

Consultations were also held with officials in Community and Cultural Affairs because of that department's responsibility for municipalities. Officials in the Department of Education were consulted because of that department's role with UPEI and the Atlantic Police Academy. Legislative coordinators and officials in all departments responsible for legislation which will be affected by consequential amendments were also consulted.

All other provinces have legislation which sets out the responsibilities and powers of the minister and which provide for a civilian oversight process for public complaints against police and rational, consistent processes for appointments of police officers. Most provinces have more elaborate policing legislation requiring a greater level of provincial government intervention than is manageable or desired for PEI. Matters such as internal discipline not involving public complaints, and standards for municipalities - for example, specifying the size of municipalities which may have police departments - are not dealt with in the new PEI *Police Act*.

Establishing a civilian oversight process for dealing with public complaints against police officers will enhance public confidence in policing, bring PEI in line

with other Canadian jurisdictions, and enable PEI to participate in cross-border policing agreements with other provinces.

Most provinces have codes of conduct and discipline which provide guidance regarding appropriate conduct and penalties for breaches of the code. The Charlottetown Police Department has operated under a code of conduct and discipline for some time and the RCMP have a national code of conduct and discipline. The Association of Chiefs of Police has recommended for several years that a uniform code be established for all police officers on PEI.. Such a code will benefit police officers as well as chief officers by providing consistent guidelines throughout the province. The new Code of Professional Conduct and Discipline is referenced in the *Police Act* and will be included in the regulations.

Legislation from all provinces was examined for relevant provisions and the most suitable provisions were used or adapted in drafting the Act.

Before the new *Police Act* comes into effect regulations will have to be finalized and administrative mechanism will have to be put in place.

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.

I'm critical of the government on quite a few occasions because that's my job and I believe that they make lots of mistakes. But I'll give credit where credit is due. A couple of days ago the hon. minister told me she would provide a briefing for me on this bill.

She tried to bring the bill onto the floor of the House. I said I didn't get the briefing yet. She very kindly pulled the bill from the House. So first, I'd like to congratulate and thank the minister for that briefing.

Secondly, I believe it is important to have consultations. The only complaint that I've heard from the unions is the fact that they didn't get a chance to see the bill after it was prepared. Yes, they did have meetings back in, I believe, July and August. But after the bill was in draft form they didn't get a chance. I find that quite unfortunate. I believe consultation is one of the key things that any government can do.

In our consultation processes, one of the other things that I understand is very important for our police unions is fixing the definition of a police officer. Currently right now there's a difference between police and security police. I understand that it doesn't necessarily fall under the mandate of the Attorney General. I believe it could be more under the *Labour Act* and I would hope that the government would be willing to bring in changes along those lines as well. Because if they've been doing the consultation process, they know that this is something else that the unions are looking for.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the last two days Chief Darlene Bernard, co-chair of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI, Marilyn Sark, president of the Aboriginal Women's Association of this province, and myself, participated in a working meeting in Vancouver. Discussion themes included leadership, partnership,

innovation and collaborative health service delivery related to Aboriginal populations. The meetings were organized to foster dialogue on strategies related to these themes.

I recognize that there are health issues unique to Aboriginal communities and health issues which are shared by all Islanders. We are encouraged by the collaborative work we have already accomplished with Aboriginal groups in areas such as Public Health Immunization programs, education and prevention on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. I realize that there is much more planning work that can result in more progress.

The meeting in British Columbia was strongly focused on groups working together to form tripartite relationships, especially within provinces. This effort will help build an effective structure to better coordinate Island system planning, health system planning, and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of health services.

It is important to note that the joint efforts among federal, provincial and First Nations governments to work collaboratively on health issues was unanimous at this meeting. These efforts will help address the gap between Aboriginal health status and the health status of non-Aboriginals. At the meeting, Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba offered to host a follow-up meeting next year to monitor progress and ensure that activities are moving forward in all jurisdictions.

On December 8th of this year, the Department of Health, Health Canada Atlantic, and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy are meeting to discuss the first step toward developing a tripartite forum.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to update the House on these discussions.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

Concerning Aboriginal issues, there was a good document on the table which was called the Kelowna Accord. Excellent document, tons of money there for Aboriginal nations and our country. The new Conservative Government of Canada choose to throw that document into the garbage can and start negotiating again. That's a sad day for Aboriginal people in this country.

Health issues among Aboriginals are very important. As I said earlier in this House, Bill C-48, which provided funding for off-reserve Aboriginal housing, there is money there for this short-term housing. I want to read what the money is for because the minister has indicated he can't use it.

Three hundred million dollars for off-reserve Aboriginal housing to help provinces address short-term housing needs for Aboriginal Canadians living off reserves. The money is there, Mr. Minister. I urge you to tap into that fund. It is in your bank account. It's a matter of sitting down with the 'Grandma House,' people that run that place. There is a big deficit there, and I urge the minister to provide the funding for this facility. It is in my district, but it serves all of Prince Edward Island. That is a health issue to me in terms of health among the Aboriginals.

So I ask the minister to look into this fund, cut them a cheque, make sure this house continues to stay open. Because I walk by it quite a bit and it does serve a need. It is a need that we should be addressing and not trying to blame other people for it, the federal government or some other body and

things like that. We are a provincial government. Under the constitution we are in charge with health and social services. Aboriginal people are Islanders and they deserve this money to be put towards this house.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, by Leave of the House, I beg leave to table the report on the environmental assessment of the Montague Regional High School prepared by All-Tech Environmental Services Limited and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation and Public Works, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

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

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the ArtsSmarts 2004-2005 Highlights entitled Open Your Mind and Learn Through the Arts and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Community and Culture Affairs, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize guests in the gallery who have worked with the ArtsSmarts Program. Particularly I'm talking about Vicki Allen Cook and Lucille Fontaine from the Department of Education, and teacher Debbie Cuffley. Thank you for your dedication to the ArtsSmarts program and for your work in compiling the report.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Dover: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my comments to those of the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. As a former teacher, I appreciate the value of the programs like ArtsSmarts which address various learning styles and makes learning fun for all students. Teachers and student really enjoy working with local artists and through the opportunity provided by Arts Smarts -

Speaker: Hon. minister, this is just Tabling of Documents.

Ms. Dover: Okay. I do want to say thank you, though, to the teachers involved.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table answers to written questions 7 through to 17 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: By command and pursuant to Section 46(6) of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, I hereby wish to table the 2006 Interim Report of the Prince Edward Island Indemnities and Allowances Commission, and I move the report of the Committee be received and do lie on the Table.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Reports by Committees

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

Mr. Collins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Development, I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove, that the same be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Collins: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove, that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Mr. Speaker, your committee is reporting its activities to date on the issue of Entrepreneurial Skills and Positive Development in Island Youth.

I believe our committee has been pleased, intrigued and enlightened by the groups and individuals who've come before it during our sitting so far this fall. I believe this is

such an important topic that we do want to solicit more public input on this matter as to ways in which government can better help to foster the entrepreneurial spirit on Prince Edward Island and assist the young entrepreneur in starting up in business.

I feel, and I believe I speak for the committee in saying this, that we'd like to hear from more young Islanders. I know many of them have been very busy through the fall, involved with their studies, many of them, at the university and Holland College. But I would hope that now, when they get past their examinations in the month of December and they have a little time over the Christmas break, if they would take the opportunity to visit the Assembly web site. It's www.assembly.pe.ca. Surf around there a little bit and learn a little bit more about the work and the mandate of this committee.

Because we are certainly open to hearing from more Islanders. If necessary, and if the need is warranted, our committee members have certainly expressed a desire that they would be more than willing to travel across Prince Edward Island, if necessary, to meet with these young people in the early new year.

We hope that by the spring sitting of the Legislature we will come forward with some good solid recommendations that are based upon a very wide consensus of opinion on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Community

and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. MacFadyen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2006* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, that the same be now received and read a First Time.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: *Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, 2006*, Bill No. 15, read a First Time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Mr. MacFadyen: Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation which allows the municipalities across the province, if they so choose, by putting forward enabling legislation, to allow an accommodation levy.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other bills?

Motions Other Than Government

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

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

I say you're doing an excellent job in the Chair, by the way.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, that Motion No. 21 now be read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 21.

The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove moves, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the following motion:

WHEREAS the Conservative Government of Canada has made funding cuts to Status of Women Canada that directly affect Prince Edward Island women's organizations that perform community-based research and deliver programs and services to communities across the province;

AND WHEREAS these women's organizations work for women's legal, social and economic equality in our community;

AND WHEREAS the recommendations put forth to government by these women's groups in Prince Edward Island reflect the reality of women's lives and seek to enhance equality for women in the community;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has an *Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act* which creates the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, a body that carries out equality seeking research, advises the government of its findings and makes recommendations to the government to eliminate inequality in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is funded by the provincial government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island formally request the Government of Canada to reinstate funding to Status of Women Canada in order that funding to women's organizations on Prince Edward Island can also be reinstated;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island consider increasing funding to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in order to replace the lost federal funding if such funding cuts can't be reversed.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, to open the debate.

Ms. Bertram: May I have the podium please?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time yesterday we were on this floor debating the resolution brought forward by the government, Motion 19, which was relative to the same issue, but was not clear enough in what actions are taking place right now as we speak by the federal government and by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Bev Oda.

It's been very dismaying over the last several months to hear the \$5 million funding cuts to Status of Women Canada. I think it's very important at the onset to clarify how Status of Women works here in Prince Edward Island.

Status of Women Canada is federally run. There is or there was an office before all this happened at the Dominion Building, Status of Women Canada. From that, there is an advisory board to the minister. The advisory council works toward equality issues for women here on Prince Edward Island, and bringing forth policy issues to Government here on PEI.

Along with that, the advisory council directors, some of them sit on various women's organizations here on Prince Edward Island, including, for example, the Women's Network, the PEI Coalition for Women in Government, East Prince Women's Information Centre, and the list

goes on. Those advisory council members do sit on those other groups.

From this \$5 million in funding, let's be very clear - and today we're joined by many members of different organizations in the gallery from the advisory council, from the different women's network groups, different organizations across our province who are gravely affected by this \$5 million federal cut to Status of Women Canada.

First of all, the Dominion Building office will be shut down. With this cut that position is eliminated. I spoke to this resolution that the Government brought forward yesterday, but wasn't really clear on its intent examining this funding cut to Status of Women Canada.

This position has been eliminated at the Dominion Building. From the funding cuts nationally there are 16 provincial and territorial offices across the country that, from these funding cuts, will be eliminated down to four. For the Atlantic region, Moncton will be the Status of Women Canada regional office. Basically, we've lost our federal connection here to another province.

We speak on a lot of issues relative to federal issues. It could be passports. Talk about how the necessity to have offices here in our own home province to make accessibility easier. Here we are talking today about women's issues, equality, and how better to promote women's equality in having better dialogue and communication here on Prince Edward Island.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women is not being cut. The Dominion Building is being cut. The advisory council is funded by the provincial government. The responsible minister of transportation leads that.

The advisory council will be affected. As I stated, they serve on these committees looking into legal aid, family violence, child care, etc. Those organizations could be gravely affected in the research based activity that they take place. Based on the \$5 million that's being cut, the Dominion Building's office is gone, plus any type of research based activity that deals with equality promotion for women will be lost.

It's a sad day when we're here in the Legislature fighting about - not fighting, but standing up to support women's equality here in Canada and in our province. We are in year 2006. We go way back to the days when in the early 1900s - and for any of you that studied women's history, and political studies of women, and the progression over the last hundred years - women had to fight for their rights.

We still are fighting for rights in our society. Let's not think that it's over. The efforts have to continue. It's wonderful to see the commitment by the women in the gallery today that have come at last minute notice to support their organizations and a true belief in the women's rights and equality issues here in our province.

Today I will be sharing some of the statements I used yesterday. I wanted to, in the beginning, share the context of these cuts, this \$5 million in cuts, and what it's going to mean for Prince Edward Island.

There is a parliamentary standing committee looking into these cuts. The Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women have a draft submission. They have been kind enough to forward this draft to me. I would like to read parts of it today. I think it clarifies on the national basis what is needed here by us supporting this resolution being brought forward today. Yesterday's resolution wasn't strong enough. It didn't stand up

enough for PEI and for women's groups across this country fighting for equality.

This is what it states:

Coalition's unique position. The coalition of government appointed women's advisory councils in eight regions is in a unique position. Serving as a conduit between their government and the community, and as a resource to the federal government on issues of common concern, this venue for information sharing, collaboration and strategic action evolved to fill the gap created by the dismantling of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 1995.

With cuts to the Status of Women Canada - and for this I will be calling Status of Women Canada as SWC - and changes to its equality seeking mandate, the disconnect between the federal government and grassroots women will be exasperated and front-line work further impeded.

Women's ongoing equality. Many women continue to be socially and economically disadvantages. Women are equal under Canadian law but the reality is vastly different, especially for aboriginal, racialist, disabled and senior women as well as single mothers.

This inequity is compounded by the under-representation of women in Parliament and other decision making rules, funding cuts to women centre services by some regional governments, feminists fashion and the lack of voice in mainstream media.

The need for gender based analysis. Advances in society's understanding of various forms of discrimination experienced by women is a result of women lobbying, advocacy and hard work. The issues are complex, interconnected and unresolved.

To entrench any ground gained, gender-based analysis with teeth must be applied across federal departments, ensuring their accountability for delivering measurable results that addresses (Indistinct) barriers to women's equality.

Cutbacks and changing SWC mandate renegeing on child care agreements, ignoring recommendations on pay equity, dismantling the court challenges program and cutting literacy programs are all actions by the federal government which have a profound impact on Canadian women's equality.

Looking at impact budget cuts on community capacity building, Status of Women Canada plays a leadership role and provides a mechanism to engage the community in capacity building to address women's inequity. This fact was reiterated in recent all-parties standing committee hearings and SWC's regional and national consultation with women's organizations, as was the necessity for appropriate funding for this equality seeking work. The \$5 million cut to SWC's administration in a time of surplus also flies in the face of recommendations by the parliamentary standing committee on the Status of Women and the expert panel on accountability mechanisms for gender equality. With the elimination of 12 out of the 16 offices the connection between the federal government and women at the community level has virtually disappeared.

The importance of research. Status of Women Canada has funded cutting edge research that provides vital information about women's lives to coalition members, equality seeking groups and government research, not done anywhere else by anyone else. Cuts would deny access to this knowledge when transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision making are required by government at all

levels.

Let's finally look at the changes to the mandate. Removing equality from Status of Women Canada mandate and barring women's organizations from lobbying government for policy changes only serve to muzzle or silence the voices of those who have advocated for women at the local, national and international levels.

Changes in the program objectives erode Status of Women Canada's mandate and make it unclear what work this funding program will support. Profit-making and faith-based organizations should not be competing with non-profit volunteer driven women organizations that work to advance equality rights in the charter.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the draft for the presentation being put forward to the standing parliamentary committee hearing into these cutbacks.

Yesterday there was a press release put out by the Public Service Alliance of Canada and it was outraged over the \$5 million cut. They're representing over 160,000 nation wide. Again, why are we standing here having to defend such a program and the money, \$5 million, when we're in a time of surplus?

It states:

"Ottawa - Canadians are outraged at the \$5M cuts to Status of Women Canada (SWC) and the changes in the guidelines which saw the elimination of funding for research and advocacy for women's equality rights.

"To add insult to injury, under the guise and premise of 'achieving efficiencies'" - and that's what the key words are, achieving efficiencies - of Status of Women Canada, "the government has decided to eliminate

almost half its workforce across the country."

Now Robyn Benson, the officer responsible on the Public Service Alliance of Canada responsible for women's rights, states: "How can Minister Oda expect Canadians to believe that she and her government are acting in the best interests of women? We are calling on this Minister to resign. She simply cannot profess to represent Canadian women, nor can she claim she is defending women's equality...." I we look at the positions across the country: "Out of 131 positions, the majority of which are held by women, 61 positions are being cut." Eliminated. As we've already stated, 12 of the 16 offices are gone. PEI is gone. If you call the office today, you call that number today at the Dominion Building, 368-0926, guess what? You're not going to get PEI, you're going to get Moncton. I called it this morning just to see, and you get a lady. I asked: Where am I calling? Moncton.

If this goes through, folks, we've lost a service, we've lost a job here on Prince Edward Island. We've lost women's programs and equality promotion here on Prince Edward Island.

Everyone in this Legislature today should be supporting this resolution. The women and the individuals in the gallery today that are here took the time out of their busy schedules to support this. You should see that this is an important issue and that the government in Ottawa should not go through with this \$5 million cut, and that minister of transportation responsible for the Status of Women here on Prince Edward Island should be fighting. I hope she will fight to continue the constant funding that has been taking place to Prince Edward Island and to the rest of the provinces and territories in Canada, and that we will not see the cut to the office, we will not see women's programs and their work in

advocacy and promotion of equality gone.

Because as I already stated, we in the year 2006, we're taking step backwards here today if we do not support this resolution.

The minister states that she believes that equality has taken place. It's equal, we're equal. Let's take a look at the - this actually came to me today - it's the press release, the fall 2000 press release from the PEI Advisory Council, Kirsten Lund, chairperson. Her whole message - the front page of this is addressing this very issue. If we truly believe the equality issue, well, let's take one portion of this. The statement is staggering and unbelievable:

If Canadian women are equal, how is it that they made just 62% of men's income in 2003 even though they made up 47% of the workforce? If Canadian women are equal, why is it that 43% of all children living in poverty live with a single mother? If Canadian women are equal, why are there over six times as many female victims of sexual assault as male victims? Why are female victims of spousal abuse more than three times more likely than male victims to fear for their lives? Finally, why do women make up 84% of all victims of spousal homicide?

Those are staggering statistics offered by the chairperson. I'm sure all the members got this newsletter, received at their offices. This whole document is looking into this whole issue of \$5 million cut and the federal minister making this decision.

Let's look at the projects that are locally affected here on Prince Edward Island. I'm sure there's lots of people in the gallery today who are representing those projects. PEI projects that have been receiving through the women's programs over the last several years include: Women's Network, Maternity and Parental Benefits Project,

East Prince Women's Information Centre Work on Family Violence Sentencing, Family Violence Prevention Work by the Justice Office of the Steering Committee, including the recommendation for the province to establish a domestic violence court, Women's Network, EPWIC, Family Law Legal Aid work, work by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government to get more women elected in PEI, work by the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association to have Aboriginal women's voices heard on equality government, and leadership issues and work by l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard on improving the economic status of Acadian and Francophone women.

These are just a few of the local projects that have been receiving funding through women's programs. That's a terminology, women's programs.

As I stated yesterday, and if you look at the web site for Statu of Women Canada, they come under - it's called Women's Program Renewal. So Minister Bev Oda has now program renewal in her program. So as I already stated, they're taking away funding projects that are examining equality for women's issues, any type of lobbying or advocacy work that these groups are doing on the basis of advocating and policy changes towards government at all levels, provincial, municipal and federal.

What does this say about a nation of Canada who should be seen as setting such an example in our world today? People look to us, and here we're saying we don't want that work to continue for these groups to work for equality, work towards a promotion of women in our society. I don't understand. It's very disappointing that the Harper government in Ottawa has gone down this route (Indistinct).

But members of this Legislature, men and women in this Legislature, today can vote to support this. Motion 21. Yes, you tabled Motion 19 yesterday, but it was just examining research and project work, it was not calling on what's taking place. It was in the national news last night, the cuts to this program. We are looking for the province of PEI "formally request the Government of Canada to reinstate funding to Status of Women Canada in order that funding to women's organizations on Prince Edward Island can also be reinstated."

The money hasn't flowed to these groups, and they're doing ongoing work related to family violence, related to women in politics, etc. Yet there has been a standstill of money due to Minister Oda and her program renewal. So basically, if we don't accept this and if we're not fighting for the reinstatement of funding, some of this work is going to end.

If I go to some of the statements by local groups I would like to share, Marilyn Sark, President of the Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI, stated: "We have received funding from the Women's Program in the past few years to bring Aboriginal women together to explore issues that there is equality, governance and leadership, and to ensure that Aboriginal women have a voice. The recent cuts and changes to the Women's Program will curtail these activities, and, in particular, will put an end to our ability to use the funding to lobby for the rights of Aboriginal women in PEI and across the country."

Let's go further. Michelle Harris-Genge, co-director of the Women's Network, states: "Removing the advocacy component from the women's program takes power away from Canadians. It eliminates another venue to participate in the creation of policies and programs that directly affect women. Women's voices are effectively being

silenced. Removing the voice that advocates for fairness is - ironically enough - unfair."

Let's continue to look at Kelly Robinson of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. She states: "The rights and privileges that women on PEI enjoy are not the 'inevitable' outcomes of a liberal democracy - they are the result of decades of lobbying, advocacy, and hard work. All Islanders and all Canadians - adults and children alike - benefit from the work of the women's communities. These changes to Status of Women Canada ultimately severely impacts our ability to continue the advocacy work that has benefitted so many."

We have dedicated women on Prince Edward Island serving on committees, community based committees, serving on the advisory council, that are truly committed to this. They attend rallies, they attend meetings, they attend so many things to promote these poor values on PEI.

Yesterday I shared, which is disappointing - perhaps the federal minister is following an agenda by REAL Women of Canada. I shared some of their press release yesterday. Where they were so pleased with the federal minister and the Stephen Harper government, especially pleased, the Status of Women budget would be reduced by 5 million. Their statement says: "REAL Women is especially pleased that the Status of Women's budget will be reduced by \$5 million in the cut backs. This is a good start, and we hope that the Status of Women will eventually be eliminated entirely since it does not represent 'women,' but only represents the ideology of feminists."

Yesterday I brought this up. Who in this Legislature considers them a feminist? I hope everyone in this Legislature considers (Indistinct) a feminist. REAL Women's organization started in Western Canada, and I think Prime Minister Harper is playing into

their agenda. It's a sad day when they are taking the agenda away from the provinces and territories and advocacy groups that are lobbying government. Are they fearful, are they scared? Why wouldn't cross departmentals want more policies based on equality for women, children and looking at issues such as family violence and things like that?

Governments at all levels should be wanting and desiring to make sure that their society is being promoted in this respect and that women are being seen, as we know we're not equal, but the point is the ongoing effort has to continue. I already shared the statistics how we can definitely see where women have not received full equality in Canadian society yet.

But the resolution being promoted by myself and the hon. Leader of the Opposition today is calling on all members of this Legislature not to muscle the women's groups, because this is actually muscling the groups. We want them to advocate for change, we want them to lobby for change. That's taken place over the last hundreds of years. Do we want women, do we want them in the public or the private sphere, as we used to talk about it in university? Are we supposed to be completely domesticated and that's it? Are we going back hundreds of years to see women's role completely changed?

Women have made so much progress in our society today, and we need to ensure that women and children, females in our society that are children today, are going to be promoted into the future and that they will receive full equality. Maybe, just maybe one day, we will have it. But we have a long ways to go and Minister Oda has a long road ahead of her if she feels that equality has been achieved here in Canada.

Equality as critical to Canada's future as it is to the individual lives of girls and women,

we need to promote our advocacy groups, women's programs, here on Prince Edward Island and in Canada. The staff of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women: Lisa Murphy, director, Jane Ledwell who is policy analyst, Becky Tramley, administrative assistant, Sandy (Indistinct), coordinator for the Purple Ribbon Campaign, and the list goes on. Many others serve on the council and volunteer their time as well.

We support them, we stand in this Legislature today and support this resolution, because there is no reason why we wouldn't support it. If you truly believe in equality of women and again, men and women in this Legislature today, I'm interested to hear the speeches from other members and how, if you don't support this resolution, you're defending yourselves by not supporting this resolution. Because you should have that true belief.

I hope that all members will support this, support the women, individuals in the gallery today that have come forward for justice. It's justice and we are trying to promote justice here today, we're trying to promote that 5 million in cuts to Status of Women Canada to be reversed, that we as a province here and the government of PEI reverse its decision and lobby the federal government to change and reverse its decision, and that women's programs will continue and can continue to lobby and advocate for change and policy to all levels of government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[There was a commotion in the gallery]

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I wish we weren't debating this motion today, but unfortunately we are. It's my pleasure to be seconding this motion. I can't speak as eloquently as the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove did, but I just want to make a few points.

From what I've been reading, what we're seeing here is about a \$5 million cut over two years of a \$23 million annual budget for Status of Women Canada. Minister Oda said the regional offices do little to serve women directly and money can be better spent by streamlining services. I'm not really sure what the point is she's trying to make there and why she would want to streamline services.

When I look just around this Legislature today - I mentioned it yesterday - I've heard stats where currently right now in the Parliament of Canada women make up about 20% of the MPs. Here we are in our Provincial Legislature, women make up about 20% of our MLAs. It's my understanding that women make up about 52% of our population. For every dollar that a man makes, a woman makes about 70 cents. If that's equality, I think someone needs to have their head examined, because that's not even close to equality in my mind.

I believe that one of the arguments that's being made - and I'm not going to speak for too long because I'm interested in hearing all members get up and support this important motion - but one of the arguments that really bothers me the most is the fact that what these offices don't necessarily provide is help directly to women. This is another quote from Minister Oda: There was a lot of lobbying groups, there was a lot of advocacy. Well, lobbying groups and advocacy and education are what we need to bring equality in our society. Imagine if

there was no lobbying or advocacy in the past. Would we have pay equity legislation today? Who knows. It's amazing, recognition as women as a person in this country. Imagine if we didn't have lobbying and advocacy. The right for women to vote. Imagine if we didn't have lobbying and advocacy.

If we want to move forward, lobbying and advocacy are two things that are vital to bringing equality in this country between men and women. I find it insulting that the federal government, under circumstances where they have budgets with surpluses in the tens of billions of dollars range, would somehow look to make budget cuts and look to an area like the Status of Women. What does that say about our society?

I was glad to hear hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove raise the point that in the world today we are envied with our constitution, with our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, with our democracy. But yet at the same time, now we have a government that comes out and believes that they can cut funding for lobbying and advocacy for women's rights in this country. I'm dead against it and I will do everything I can, like I hope every member in this Legislature will do today, and stand up and make sure that our voices are heard loud and clear and that we indicate that this is wrong.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my mother today. I grew up in a family with a very strong mother who instilled values in me from a very young age. She was the type of woman, and she is the type of woman, that makes a difference. She makes a difference for a lot of advocacy groups, she makes a difference for a lot of women's organizations. It's my pleasure today to stand up here and second this important motion, and I hope that every member in this Legislature will show their support for this motion today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[There was a commotion in the gallery]

Speaker: Before we move on to the next speaker, I just have to make you aware of the rules of the House. The gallery is not allowed to participate in any of the debate, please.

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I'd like to begin my remarks by saying that apparently there were several phone calls that have gone to the advisory council today. Because some people were concerned that the fact that the advisory council was closing down. So I just wanted to assure Islanders that the Advisory Council on the Status of Women is 100% funded by the province and certainly is not closing down.

While I'm on that topic I would just like to point out that there are several other groups that receive core funding through the province, one being Transition House Association and the outreach groups around Transition House Association, from the province. As well as the Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre. We have increased their funding by \$50,000 in this fiscal year so they can provide services to women and girls across the province.

It's my pleasure to rise and speak to this resolution today. We did have a similar resolution on the floor of the House yesterday which we debated for awhile. It's a very important issue so I'm glad to see it's getting lots of attention.

I have written my federal counterpart on this

matter. We registered the province's concerns with the implications of the decisions that they were making. I've also discussed this issue with several of my provincial and territorial counterparts and we will be raising the issue collectively with the federal government in future discussions. I know that the Premier has also raised this issue with the prime minister when he was in Ottawa.

The advisory council certainly does excellent work, along with the other women's groups across the province, and I have worked closely with all of them.

It seems that I have received a reply from the federal minister with regards to the \$5 million administrative cuts. I know that does result in the office being closed here on PEI. That is unfortunate because there's probably a number of different projects that were approved through that office last year to the tune of \$129,000.

I would really like to see more of the funding going to the front line services for women. If money is being saved through cuts to administration, then I certainly would like to see that channelled through either more project funding or core funding for women's groups in the province.

Reading the resolution that the opposition has put forward, "Therefore be it resolved that the Government of Prince Edward Island formally request the Government of Canada to reinstate funding to Status of Women Canada in order..." to replace the lost federal funding if such funding cuts can't be reversed. At this point, funding for women's organizations hasn't be cut. It's program funding criteria that has changed, which is going to result in not as much project funding going to these groups.

So I'm going to propose an amendment to this resolution that will address that.

The motion also reads: "Therefore be it further resolved that the Government of Prince Edward Island consider increasing funding to the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in order to replace the lost federal funding if such funding cuts can't be reversed."

We do fund the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. As I said, the loss of federal funding would only be project funding that perhaps, depending on the project, they now would not qualify for.

I also do have with me a copy of the new program funding guidelines which was released by Status of Women Canada. I will just read the section that deals with what will be funded. It reads:

The women's programs provides funding and technical assistance for projects that have a direct impact on women in their communities. To be eligible for funding, applicants must demonstrate how their projects contribute to the achievement of a full participation of women in the economic, social and cultural life of Canada. Priority will be given to projects addressing issues pertaining to Aboriginal women, immigrant women, visible minority women, and senior women. Following are examples of issues which may be addressed through women's programs funded projects. Things like entrepreneurship, self-employment, small business, micro-credit businesses, women's representation in corporate trade and other boards, increasing the representation of women in key or non-traditional professions, supporting the economic security of senior women, violence such as elder or domestic abuse, human trafficking, etc.

So the program funding still does address quite a few women's issue, and I will table this for the Assembly.

So I'm going to propose an amendment to the resolution by:

Changing the first Therefore be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support the Government of Prince Edward Island as it continues to request the Government of Canada reinstate funding to the Status of Women Canada so women's organizations on Prince Edward Island can be supported in their valuable work.

Followed by the second Therefore be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly support the continued provision of research, advocacy and front line services for women on PEI.

Mr. Speaker, this is what the hon. member talked about yesterday. Advocacy was taken out of the program criteria, so we are asking that it be reinstated.

Speaker: Hon. member, would you have a copy of that by any chance, that you can Table.

Ms. Shea: I just have this one. We can make copies of it.

Speaker: Yes. Pass it to one of the Pages (Indistinct) make copies.

Ms. Shea: I'll move that amendment, seconded by the Member from Morell-Fortune Bay.

I do agree with the hon. member, the mover of the resolution, that no, we haven't reached equal status yet as women. She is quite right that there's still that segment of society that experience domestic violence, domestic abuse, and yes, women are most likely to be the victim.

Women are more often caregivers of children, they're more often caregivers of aging parents. Women are more often the

single parent raising the family. I still think, Mr. Speaker, we have much to do on the equality front and I hope that this Legislature would support the amendment asking for advocacy to be returned to the program criteria.

Speaker: The seconder to the amendment, the hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay.

Ms. Crane: I rise to second the amendment just put forward.

Yesterday, I too spoke at length about the great work that not only women's organizations but many women do in the province on behalf of women, whether it's in family violence prevention, parental benefits, legal aid, working with Aboriginal or Francophone women, as well as immigrant and refugee women now, too, as a more diverse group of people live in the province.

Another area that I could have mentioned that the Status of Women is involved with is actually a promotion of women's education through a bursary program at the University, Holland College, and I think they also offer a bursary to refugee women. I think sometimes, whether you call it advocacy or education or information sharing, that this is an awful important issue. It often allows people to raise awareness, especially on issues that sometimes other people don't want to talk about. It's not just issues as we know for women, but it's also issues that are still in our society

I too, like one of the members mentioned, come from a family that have a lot of strong women in the family. I often remember different times of lessons that I've had a chance to learn through the eyes of some of these women.

One of my aunts, Aunt Lottie, who was a terrific community worker - actually she's

no longer with us and the anniversary of her death is soon upon us - but when I think about one night, I was at Aunt Lottie's with my mom, who was 74 years of age at the time and my Aunt Margaret who was 74 at the time. One aunt was up from the States on my dad's side, a lady by the name of Aunt Mary, who was 84 years of age, and one of Lottie's friends, a woman from King's County. Her name was Ella.

Ella had 16 children. I remember that night. We actually sat up and we talked till about 3:00 a.m., not only the issues around what it was like for women years ago to have babies, but also the kinds of problems that still are in our community every day.

Even though most of the night we ended up talking about family violence and some of the things that some of women had experienced that I had no idea about, they also talked at great length of my sister Dodie. I don't know if people would remember, but Dodie is a lawyer here in Charlottetown. At one time she was also the chairperson of the Status of Women.

In our house and throughout the women in our family often we have different perspectives on the answers. What I always liked was the fact that my father was the one that pushed us. It's not so much about talking. It's about what you do every day. It's not so much about just one time when someone raises something, but it's actually what your actions talk about every day. That's some of the reasons why I think it's really important the work that the Premier continues to push us on a daily basis around women's issues and how important they are in the Province.

The issue of family violence really strikes home. I think many people know that I was a social worker for awhile, although I didn't practice child welfare. I worked more in the area of economics. When you work with

people and you see the results of poverty and you see the results of family violence, you really are glad that someone else is out there working towards making PEI a better place for all the women.

I know I talk a lot about my family. It's interesting that it's probably 16 years later, but the issues around family violence haven't gone. Whether you're talking about family violence, dating violence, all kinds of other things, it's through the girls in my family and their friends and their friends who happen to be male, that we continue the dialogue.

I think it's important that we forget about education and raising awareness around the problems that women face on a daily basis. If we only talk about rather than taking it upon ourselves to make a difference, then it's, to me, not reached the kinds of things that we have the potential to do as individual people.

Again, I mentioned yesterday about an article I saw on *Compass* this week, a young woman who talked about a family violence situation that she experienced first hand. Her dad actually killed her mom. The little one was only eight years old at the time. She had to help raise her two brothers. Actually, I think the article is in today's *Guardian* as well.

I am really pleased to be able move the amended motion. I also want to challenge each person in the Legislature. It's not about what we do just today. It's what we do every day. I think of the work the Status of Women, the work that women in agriculture do, the work that women in our churches do, and the work that lots of people do on a daily basis to make someone's life a little bit different.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any others to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square to the amendment.

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, there's going to be proof in the pudding in a few minutes in this Legislature that minority rights mean very little.

The government is going to use its majority in a few seconds to majorly alter the resolution that's before us today, that being one of a formal request to the federal government to reinstate its funding.

We are a minority. Let's make no mistake about it. There's only going to be two votes against this resolution, probably. I object to the amendments. The main intention of the motion is being altered. But you'll see today, minority rights, the minority opposition in this House today will be shanghaied, voted down, because this is what we're fighting against.

The intent of the member's resolution is to allow minorities to speak and to have their thoughts and have their votes, but we will see today in a few minutes in this House this minority right of the opposition being taken over by the government today. We have no rights here (indistinct) just to speak about it. We will speak about it, but if you feel good about it, feel good about it. Because you're doing what shouldn't be done - taking away rights from a minority.

You're scared to vote on the main resolution here. You don't want to vote on the main resolution. You don't vote on a request sent from this Legislature to the federal government. You want to water it down. But you go ahead and do what you want to do against our minority rights because we are

only two seats in this House at this time to vote on it. So, be happy and do what you want.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Anyone else to speak on the amendment?

The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: I'd like to speak, Mr. Speaker, to this amendment.

As the mover of this resolution, the entire intent of the resolution is changed by this change by the minister of transportation responsible for the Status of Women here on Prince Edward Island. Because it in fact - it's more direct, the motion that was put forward in the original No. 21 resolution. It also was calling on the government to take over the funding. If the funding doesn't come through for some of these project based women's programs, that the minister's department will have to fund more fully these programs. I guess that's what's disappointing. We're looking as well at an office that is being cut here in the Province of Prince Edward Island. It's very disappointing.

We could take the opportunity to show leadership in the face of this national attack for Status of Women Canada, show and be an example to other regions in our country, yet here we are trying to soften it up with this change in amendment to the resolution.

I'm very disappointed that this amendment has taken place because we should be very direct. This was on the national news last night. It's gone across the country. People are talking about it today. Here is a legislature here today in Prince Edward Island, we could be supporting our women in PEI, our women's groups in PEI,

pressuring the federal government, Minister Oda, to reverse the decision, to fund fully Status of Women Canada.

You know, these are just words. It's very difficult to even read the first therefore be it resolved. It's so wordy. It certainly doesn't provide substance to the original intent of this motion.

So we in the opposition - it's disappointing, as the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square stated, we are a minority with two votes, you folks are in the majority. It's disappointing if you choose to support the amendment put forward by this member.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Anyone else to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise and speak to the amended motion. I think the amendment does serve to strengthen the resolution in that it calls on the Legislative Assembly to support the Government of Prince Edward Island, so that it's not just the Government of Prince Edward Island asking that funding to the Status of Women be reinstated.

The government can do that, has done that. What this is doing is asking the Legislative Assembly to support the government in that request. It shows that it's not the ten members who make up the Cabinet or the Government of Prince Edward Island, rather it's the Legislature represented by the 27 members that are here that would support the initiative that's already been taken by the government.

We've been very clear in this. We feel that it is important to support the work that is

carried out by women's organizations in PEI, including the Status of Women, in terms of research, in terms of advocacy, in terms of front line services for the women of Prince Edward Island.

We do recognize that there are many needs in our community that are not met and that must continue to be addressed. Who better in this province than women's organizations themselves to push these issues forward and to continue to advocate for them? We've tried to strengthen this resolution by asking the whole Assembly to support the government in its request to the federal government.

What's interesting is the opposition seems to want to suggest something other than what's really happening. Everyone would be interested in knowing that yesterday the government introduced resolution No. 19 to this Legislative Assembly for debate. It called on federal funding for the Status of Women. It called on the federal government to commit to ensure that important research and projects were able to continue to benefit Island women. It called for the Assembly to express its continued support for research and project work undertaken by various community organizations to advance women's equality.

Speaker: Hon. member, you have to kind of stick to the amendment.

Premier Binns: I am, Mr. Speaker, but I point out that yesterday the opposition used a political tactic of talking out this resolution so it could not pass.

I think that's somewhat unusual. They obviously have a political agenda here of trying to push their resolution forward. In the past we have agreed to combine resolutions and to work together. They don't appear to want to do that. They wanted to talk our resolution out yesterday so it

couldn't pass. We tried to improve their resolution today and they take a different tactic. It's unfortunate that they're trying to play politics with this issue.

Speaker: Any others to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

Mr. MacAleer: This resolution reminds me of a situation of where we have a boat and we're trying to get everybody in the boat to support it. The problem we have here is quite a positive one. It's a matter of wanting everybody in this Legislature to support this concept of supporting women and their need for support in the community.

I'd just like to add here that this is just not a women's problem. It's a man's problem. As a MLA, I fully recognize that the face of domestic violence is often a woman, that poverty is often a single woman with a child, and that there is a need for the community to deal with these issues.

I'm in support of women's groups and I'm in an organization that support women's groups, and I fail to see here why we're debating this issue when the call is for essentially a return of funding for the Status of Women and also that we want more funds for front line services. Those are the two issues here. If we want to debate these issues, I think what we're doing is just muddying the concept. I think what we're saying here - and I'm listening to everyone, and I also listened to the discussions (Indistinct) behind closed doors - and I can tell you that there is fully support in this Chamber for the causes that this resolutions represent. I think we should get on with supporting these in some form of action, and I would hope that the action is represented in this motion today.

Speaker: Any others to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General.

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have been listening very carefully to the speeches yesterday in relation to the government's resolution, and today in relation to the speakers who have spoken to both the resolution and the amendment. It seems to me that although there may be some jockeying for position as to who leads the race, it seems to me that all of us are racing for the same goal. The same goal that all of us want is the improvement of women's rights not only in PEI but across the whole nation and around the whole world.

To me it doesn't matter whether the race is lead by person A or person B or party A or party B. Yesterday our government had a resolution on basically the same issues. Today we have a resolution and an amendment, all of which try to improve the lives and the endurance, the situations that women find themselves in. It seems to me that the amendment that was put forth by our hon. colleague does nothing more than strengthen the resolution that the opposition had.

If you listen to it very carefully, it says: be it resolved that the whole of the Legislative Assembly - not just the ten members - I'm not reading it, I'm just referring to it. What I'm saying is that the resolution, if you read through the resolution, what it's saying is that instead of the ten members who make up Cabinet applying and beseeching the federal government, which the Premier has indicated has already been done, what this resolution is asking is that the weight of the Legislative Assembly come together and appeal to the minister.

So as the Premier has indicated, that makes a much stronger position. Instead of ten people, this is the whole of the Legislative Assembly, which is an August group of people, elected by the people of Province of Prince Edward Island. So it's asking that the Legislative Assembly support the government of PEI as it continues to request the Government of Canada to reinstate funding. This has already been done by the government, but the weight of the Legislative Assembly, in my view, would add substantial pressure to the federal minister to recognize that this is not just the Conservatives who make up the Government of Prince Edward Island, but the Liberal party as well. The whole of government.

So I don't see how anybody can object to an amendment that is going to strengthen the resolution. That strength is that the Government of Canada reinstate funding to the Status of Women Canada so that women's organizations on Prince Edward Island can be supported. Reinstate funding, the whole of the Legislative Assembly.

How can anyone argue that? How can the opposition say: This is going against our resolution? it's not, because it's adding weight to their resolution.

If you look at the second therefore be it further resolved, it's that the whole of the Legislative Assembly, again, support the continued provision for research, advocacy and front line services for the women of Prince Edward Island.

As a woman, it seems to me that all we're doing here is asking that the federal minister, the federal government, take a look at what the Province of Prince Edward Island, as represented by the 27 members here - take a look at the 27 members, all the parties want the federal government to do. So vote against this amendment. Even

though it may be take the opposition resolution in a little further than it intended to go, it still doesn't negate the importance of women's issues. Matter of fact, it strengthens it.

So it seems to me that anyone who would vote against this amendment is asking that we not do these things. These are important things for the women of Prince Edward Island, and as a female, it seems to me that I would really be upset by a vote against a amendment that is asking the Government of Canada to reinstate funding to the Status of Women Canada so that women's organizations on Prince Edward Island can be supported in their valuable work.

How can anyone vote against that? You may stand up or the opposition may stand up and say: This isn't my motion, you've changed my motion. But if it's changed for the better, if it changed so that women's groups can be supported, then how can that be bad? I don't see why anyone would vote against a resolution asking for support for women's organizations and the continued provision of research, advocacy and front line services for the women of Prince Edward Island.

These two amendments may change, but change for the better, change to strengthen, and in my mind that's exactly what we should be doing. Putting as much strength as we can. If these two amendments do that, then it would be a shame for anyone to vote against it merely because it somehow deflected or took the resolution farther than it was anticipated.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be supporting an amendment that supports women's organizations across the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Brown: Point of order.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square on a point of order.

Mr. R. Brown: I may have to apologize to this House. The minister has just indicated that these resolves are going to be added to our two resolves, to the original intent.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: We're going to have four resolves now, and if that's the case, Mr. Speaker, we'll definitely support - she's indicated to this House that they're going to be added to the resolve. I want an order from you. Are these a replacement, or are these an addition?

Speaker: It's a replacement, hon. member.

Mr. R. Brown: Okay, thank you very much. Strengthen, how do you strengthen by taking away?

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

Dr. McKenna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to rise to support the amendment to this resolution. As a father of three teenage daughters and, as the hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay, my daughters tend to be quite strong-willed as well. I encourage them to be strong-willed. Don't rely on a man to take care of you. You're going to be out there in the real world there soon, so I certainly support anything for women's rights that makes it stronger for them.

Actually, last week I did attend a rally out at UPEI supporting the students out there who were urging Prime Minister Harper to reinstate the cuts out there. I was out there with our hon. Premier, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works, the

Member from Morell-Fortune Bay and my hon. colleague here from Charlottetown-Spring-Park. We were there. I didn't see the members of the opposition there. So that shows that I support it. I went out to the rally, I listened to what the young students had to say, and I agreed with what they had to say.

So I certainly find that the amendment here, it's a strong amendment. I wasn't quite as comfortable with the other previous resolutions and amendment that we discussed. I listened to the debate the last two days and I think that we're going in the right direction finally.

I look at what our minister has done already. She has contacted the federal minister and she has urged her to reinstate the funding, and I think that, hopefully, her efforts will pay off. We can't be assured but we hope the efforts will pay off. So really I just want to stand here and say that our government certainly is concerned about women's issues.

I can remember last year with the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Group, they committed for further funding, we gave them more funding because they are doing very valuable work for the department, for all citizens on PEI. I know they're very appreciative of the funding. It may not be enough, but it's what we were able to give last year. I know I attend their fundraiser every year, they have a golf tournament every year for actually promoting awareness for PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Group, and also for additional funding for their organization. It's certainly a great group of volunteers out there that work very hard on behalf of all Islanders.

So really, when I look at this resolution and the amendment that was made, I stand here and support the resolution.

Thank you.

Speaker: Any others to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Speaker, I just want to be very brief, but I support the comments made by my colleagues.

I guess the only thing that seems to be omitted from this here is the second resolution where it says that the Legislative Assembly support the continued provision of research, advocacy and front service for women on Prince Edward Island.

I think that's the gist of the whole thing here, that we want to make sure that there is project money available for these women to carry out their work and carry out the wonderful work they do do on behalf of women on Prince Edward Island.

So I think that the second part of the resolution should be very strong and that we want criteria set aside so that organizations and groups and women's groups across this province can access funds to do that research through the advocacy on behalf of the women on Prince Edward Island, and also more dollars be put on front line services. I know we come from the western part of the province, we lobby hard for our organizations in the west with the provincial government, and I'm very pleased that our minister in charge of the Status of Women has seen fit to put more funds in the hands of women who do some wonderful work in our area.

So I think the front line service is very important to us and the advocacy that these groups do. So the second part of the resolution is just as important as the first part.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Any others to speak to the amendment?

Ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

An Hon. Member: Standing.

Speaker: Standing.

Sergeant-at-Arms, do you want to ring the bells, please?

[The bells were rung]

Speaker: Okay, standing vote.

All those in favour of the amendment, please rise.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, the hon. Premier, the hon. Government House Leader, the hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors, the hon. Minister of Tourism, the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, the hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works, the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, the hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay, the hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay, the hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove and the hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

Speaker: All those opposed, please rise.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Clerk: The hon. Opposition House Leader and the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Speaker: The amendment has been defeated, so back onto the main motion. Excuse me, the amendment has been carried.

To speak on the motion, the hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I just want to speak on the motion now as it is amended. I think sometimes it is important, especially for the benefit of people who joined the debate, to understand that this Assembly is a workplace, and it's a workplace for 27 people elected to represent the interests of all Islanders. Sometimes the things that we do here are important because this is indeed a workplace. When we come into the Assembly we have to put the good of the whole for the benefit of the Assembly and for the benefit of Prince Edward Island. Sometimes that is why people look and they say: Why do you do this and why do you do that?. Sometimes when you're putting the good of the whole, it tends to create some strains and some tussles, but we have to work on that. When you're working on that and you're building consensus, it doesn't always look like you're building consensus.

I know certainly the people here representing the Status of Women understand that advocacy. Sometimes you have to push hard because sometimes there is some pushing back and it's not always as congenial as maybe you would like it. But I do think that it is important for the debate to have all people aware of the resolution that we debated for two hours here yesterday that was very close to this resolution. It said:

Whereas on Prince Edward Island there are many community organizations which strive to advance the matters of interest,

importance and equality to Island women.

And whereas the work of these organizations add value to the discussion about ways to improve the social economic and legal position of women in Island society.

And whereas projects, research activities done by these organizations -

Speaker: Hon. member, are you speaking on the motion today? You have to stay on this motion.

Mr. P. Brown: Yes.

Mr. R. Brown: (Indistinct) motion 21.

Mr. P. Brown: This is the motion - we have an amendment -

Speaker: Don't quote from 19, hon. member, if you're speaking on this motion.

Mr. P. Brown: Okay. Suffice to say that people have talked about resolutions that we talked about yesterday.

I want to commend, as I did yesterday, the minister of transportation for bringing it forward. If there was one thing key to all of the discussion yesterday and all of the discussion today it was the word advocacy. The word advocacy was not in Motion 21 until the minister of transportation moved the amendment. I think that was the crux of the issue. It certainly is important that when members work together we improve the resolution because therefore we have strengthened the resolution. So we look forward to unanimous consent of the House to support this resolution.

Because it puts back in that the Legislative Assembly supports the continued provision of research, advocacy and front line services for the women of Prince Edward Island.

Because I think, as we've all talked about, the concern was that advocacy was being lost. I commend the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women here in the province for insuring that this word was added to the resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Anyone else to speak to the amended motion?

The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

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

I'll be very brief. Just to indicate to this House that I'll be supporting the motion as amended.

Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais souligner la présence de madame Colette Arsenault, la directrice générale de l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones. Je comprends qu'elle vient juste de sortir pour quelques instants, mais j'aimerais souligner son excellent travail au sein de cette organisation. Monsieur le Président, l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones a fait énormément de progrès au cours des dernières années. C'est une organisation qui est très active et qui a réussi à faire avancer le dossier des femmes acadiennes et francophones au cours des dernières années, des progrès qui sont très mesurables et très admirables.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to signal the presence of Ms. Colette Arsenault, Executive Director of l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones. I understand that she just stepped out for a few minutes, but I would like to mention her excellent work within this organization. Mr.

Speaker, l'Association des femmes acadiennes et francophones has made enormous progress over the past few years. This very active organization has managed to move forward the agenda of Acadian and Francophone women over the past few years. This progress is very measurable and very admirable.

I'm sure that you realize that I'm sticking to the motion -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: I just checked on that and he thinks you're right on the money.

Mr. Arsenault: With that said, I'll adjourn my comments.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Collins: *Merci, monsieur le Président.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, rise to support this amended motion, because I do think it's a strengthened resolution.

It really gets to the heart of the matter that we've been talking now for two days. It talks about reinstating funding to the Status of Women Canada. Reinstating the funding. It talks about our continued support of this assembly for research, advocacy and front line services.

As I may have mentioned yesterday in discussions on a previous motion related to this, I don't believe this is just women's issues, this is everybody's issue. It is just the fact that determined and courageous women

across this country have been leading the charge on this for quite some time. But that doesn't mean that they should not be supported every step along the way by men. I certainly agree with my hon. colleague from Crapaud-Hazel Grove. I think everyone in here truly - if we're thinking in the right direction, we are feminists at heart and we support the cause of equality and we do have a ways to go with it.

It may say under the charter of rights that men and women are equal, all persons are equal, but we all know, as it's been pointed out here in debate, the statistics prove that there are terrible gaps and discrepancies and abuses that are occurring here in Canada, even in the year 2006, that must be corrected.

I believe that the work of women's organizations across Canada over the years have certainly made a valuable contribution to trying to make it a true reality of day to day life in this country that we, as men and women, are indeed equal in every respect and some day hopefully we will achieve that in reality.

That's why I think it's very important, as the hon. minister of education has pointed out, that the weight of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island be brought to bear on this resolution.

Before being amended the resolution called for the Government of Prince Edward Island to formally request the Government of Canada. I think what we have here is a resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. I don't know how more formal one can get than that. It is the voice of the people speaking from this Chamber to Ottawa, to Minister Oda, to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and to other members of the conservative government in Ottawa that this is our view, these are our feelings, this is our request, that they

reinstate funding, that they would continue the provision of research advocacy and front line services for the women of Prince Edward Island so that they can continue to do the great work that is improving our province day by day.

I certainly hope that when this resolution is delivered to federal authorities in Ottawa it will be met with the respect and consideration that it deserves, and that the work will continue here on the Island as a result of our work here in this Chamber today.

I would in closing encourage members of the opposition to please reconsider their support for this resolution. I think it would be marvellous if at the end of the day we could say that this viewpoint is the unanimous viewpoint of the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

So I do heartily encourage them to deeply consider this in their heart of hearts because it does fulfil what is certainly their intent and our intent as well. To reinstate funding and to make sure that research advocacy and front line services continue for the women of Prince Edward Island, and indeed for the families and all of us here in this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to, like my colleagues, rise to support this amended motion.

A number of the members here in the Legislature have indicated that due to their upbringing, due to their family situation of

sisters, due to their work environment, that they are very supportive of the rise of women and women's organizations in supporting a whole women's movement. I know that re very well aware of the long and sometimes (Indistinct) history of women's organizations in North America, as well as in Canada.

I go back to the time of the suffragettes. In teaching Canadian history there was that organization which started in Great Britain. It was the first, I suppose now we would call it the feminist movement and/or organization, to try to spell out to the government of the time, but also to educate, of course, the male citizens who did not look upon with equality the status of women. For many generations that voice was subdued, it was kept off to the side, until obviously the word spread not only through the European countries but also to the North American countries of the injustices that were being suffered by these women.

Today we can hardly believe that with the movements that we have become familiar with and the endorsement that the male part of society has put with these feminist movements and organizations, that anybody could think to the contrary.

When I come full scale now to the motions that have been put forth in this Legislature, I am in agreement that really what we're attempting to say in the various motions is the same thing. The message is the very same. Is the wording to be disputed? I'm sure that members in the gallery and members that are watching this via television will think: The words are not the same. What is so important is that we get out, and we agree among ourselves, that the message, however, has to be one of support. There's more work to be done. If we can get the words that permit us to put forth motions and resolutions here in the Assembly, then that is the function of it.

I can remember, of course, I started with this, that in my own family I, too, had the luxury of a mother who worked outside the house, was a single mom for most of our children's lives, but did not look upon it from the point of view that it was a challenge that she could not overcome. She just assumed that she had to because of a large family and went about her job in a very industrious, labourious manner. We kids never knew anything other than the fact that mom was mom and she was strong and she was doing what was necessary to keep the family together, and to be very supportive. That message, of course, was echoed from family to family to family, until we are today in the position that we are able to put forth motions and resolutions to this extent.

So my theme is, we have come along way, we have come full circle, but the circle is still not joined, and more work has to be done. It would be great if we were able, in this resolution, to be able to point out the fact that it is a message that is important and it has to be a message of unity in us supporting the work and the advocacy of the various women's organizations.

Let me switch over to a moment, if you will, to the negativity, however, that surrounds all of this, and that is the negativity of family violence. Within our society today, I have mentioned that the history is long, in some cases it's certainly not that good of a history and it's not that positive. But even today when we know the theme of the messages, there is still family violence occurring. As the minister responsible for social services in particular, and also for seniors, we are now more aware and are able to recount and to gather statistics which point out this unfortunate tale, and that is family violence.

Let me just mention for a moment. Last year in senior elder day, one of the themes was that we have to start to recognize and to

avoid and to work against senior abuse. For me, that was one of the first times that I realized that there was a problem in society against our seniors. It is one thing to think about family violence at an earlier stage or at an earlier age. It's quite another to think that, well, these individuals who are completely defenceless indeed are having this havoc wreaked on them.

It went on to point out that there are many different aspects of senior elder abuse that need to come to light and what can be done about it. It can be economic. It can be so many different aspects of this message of advocacy that we have to be able to put behind us. But in order to do that we have to be able to, obviously, see the whole gist of the resolution and the amendment.

Before you ask me to get a little bit closer to the flame of speaking to the resolution, then let me go full bore on that and that is to say that it is all about whatever age group that you would want to think about, that it is important that indeed we recognize the need and the support of providing monetary resources, economic aid, to the women's work, to the women's organizations. If and when funding has been cut, has been delayed, is not been provided, then it is the message for the entire Assembly to be able to rise and to make the governments known that this has happened.

That's exactly what we are saying in this amendment. The message we want to impart on behalf of the Government of Prince Edward Island, on behalf of this entire Legislative Assembly, is one of unity in vocals to get to the federal government the message that there is a lot of research, advocacy, front line services that need to be provided for the women of our province, and that we want to be able, together, to talk about this and to get this message across to those, of course, who are able to provide it.

I do want to recognize, before I sit down, the many different groups of women here who, again, our social services provide support to. I'm thinking about Anderson House. The Minister of Transportation and Public Works indicated the work of Transition House and the budget that our department, therefore the government, provides in their particular work. The outreach programs, the (Indistinct) programs of outreach. It is unfortunate the reality is that those organizations, those NGOs, have to exist because of the aspect of family violence.

But here in government we have provided support to those. We will continue to provide support to those. Work is ongoing and we have a lot of deliberations ongoing with those different NGO groups as to how can we provide even better support in the future.

So I simply wanted to rise to add my voice to those of the other legislators in the fact that the words may be somewhat different, but the message has to be one of unity in our support for the valuable work that the women certainly do provide for our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

I'll speak to the amended weakening motion. I'll also propose an amendment here, if we're in the spirit of cooperation here. If they really believe in their motion here, I will make an amendment:

Therefore be it further resolved that in the event that the federal government fails to reinstate funding to the Status of Women

immediately, this Legislative Assembly condemns the federal government for its actions.

Seconded by the Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Speaker: Do you have a copy of that, hon. member?

Your seconder is the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Can I have that slipped upstairs to make copies of it?

The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to speak to the second amendment to this original motion. Basically, the whole intent of this resolution has completely changed and advocacy - we can talk about advocacy here at a provincial level. But unless we talk about it at a federal level, then Minister Oda and her counterparts for the Status of Women Canada will not be changing women's programming and the application process if advocacy is not promoted at the federal level.

So basically, by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square bringing the second amendment to the motion which we did vote against - because the government brought forward the first amendment which they said strengthened it; unfortunately, we feel it did not strengthen the original intent of the motion - by us stating this second amendment to the motion, we are stating that we are condemning the federal government if they in fact do not reinstate the \$5 million for Status of Women Canada.

We are condemning them. Because the government spoke just a few minutes ago

about how they were strengthening this resolution because we were putting a Legislative Assembly name around this instead of saying the Government of Prince Edward Island. So here we're saying that the Legislative Assembly is condemning the federal Government of Canada if it does not reinstate the funding.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: So there we go. If you truly believe that, well then, vote for that.

Speaker: Anyone else speak to the amendment?

An Hon. Member: Call the hour.

Speaker: Call the hour?

Mr. Dunn: Call the hour.

Speaker: Hon. members, the hour has been called.

We'll reconvene at 7:00 p.m.

The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.

Government Motions

Speaker (Mooney): The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that Motion No. 3 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 3.

The hon. Minister of Education moves, seconded by the hon. Member from St.

Eleanors-Summerside, the following motion:

WHEREAS Alzheimer's Disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys an individual's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgements, communicate and carry out daily activities;

AND WHEREAS although there is no known cause or cure, new treatments are on the horizon as a result of accelerating research insight into the biology of the disease;

AND WHEREAS 2006 is the 100th anniversary of the identification of Alzheimer's Disease by German neurologist and psychiatrist, Dr. Alois Alzheimer;

AND WHEREAS today, Alzheimer's Disease is the most common form of dementia, affecting one in 20 Canadians over 65;

AND WHEREAS one-quarter of Canadians have a family member suffering from Alzheimer's Disease;

AND WHEREAS the founding of the Alzheimer Society of Canada in 1978 marked the first organization of its kind in the world;

AND WHEREAS over 5,000 Islanders are affected with Alzheimer Disease and related dementias, and this number is expected to rise by 10 percent this year;

AND WHEREAS this figure does not include the countless family members and caregivers who must cope with the effects of the disease;

AND WHEREAS for nearly three decades, the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island has been an integral resource, providing an extensive array of support,

information and education, not only to those living with Alzheimer's Disease, but also their families, their health-care providers, and their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island has achieved international recognition for their unique elder care mediation services provided on-site to individuals and families faced with the challenges of dementia;

AND WHEREAS to improve the quality of life for individuals stricken with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, the Government of Prince Edward Island added three Alzheimer's drugs for coverage under the provincial drug program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of this Assembly recognize the achievement by Dr. Alois Alzheimer on this centennial year 2006 of medical discovery of the disease;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this Assembly recognize the positive contributions of the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island, and encourage Islanders to support this organization along with those in the Island community and their families who are struggling to cope with Alzheimer's disease.

Speaker: Just before you stand, hon. minister, the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to rise before we speak to the resolution and welcome and introduce Mr. Costello in the gallery, George Ward and Brodie Ward in the gallery today. I had the wonderful opportunity to teach Brodie. He's a great guy, great student, and his sister now is still at Central Queens.

This afternoon we were talking about the ArtsSmarts program and the Ardgowan project. Here's a guy that took part in all of that. We talked about that this afternoon, Brodie. Anyway, I welcome them to the gallery. Enjoy the proceedings this evening.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General to move the motion

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move to stand in support of the Alzheimer's Society of Prince Edward Island who provide a significant amount of assistance to families whose loved ones suffer from Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease. It affects over 5,000 Islanders. That's not to count the family members who are also affected by the Alzheimer's that their loved happens to have.

It is a very progressive disease. It comes upon one in a rather insidious manner and eventually destroys a person's memory. It also destroys his or her ability to communicate and his or her ability to carry on their daily lives.

I remember when my mother first started exhibiting signs of what we thought was dementia. We weren't sure if it was dementia or senility or Alzheimer's. I remember that we became quite concerned with her forgetfulness. The fact that she was living in a seniors' unit and responsible for a stove, responsible for taking her medications - and it came to the point where we were unsure whether she'd remember to shut off the stove, whether she might leave something on the stove.

I remember the lady coming to test my mother to see whether or not her dementia

or Alzheimer's or senility, we weren't sure what it was, whether it was serious enough to have her placed at Beach Grove at the time.

I remember we were sitting there talking to the lady who was examining my mother, and I made the comment that mom tended to forget a lot of things. I remember the lady saying, well, we all forget things. The trouble is when we forget a lot of times, when it becomes more and more frequent.

Alzheimer's is a terrible disease. It takes a great toll on family members. I remember my mother used to get on the phone and she'd phone a lawyer and she'd tell them that somebody was telling stories about her. It didn't matter how much we tried to convince mom, and we became quite upset about it. We couldn't understand why mom was continuing to talk as if people were speaking about her. She'd get on the phone and we'd try to convince her.

I remember finally one of the ladies at Beach Grove said: You know, your mother is here for a reason. You are the ones that are getting upset. So you have to accept the fact that your mother's here for a reason and you might as well give it up when it comes to trying to convince her.

But she would grab a garbage bag and she'd take everything out of the closet and she'd put in her clothes and toilet paper and her makeup and it would all go into the garbage bag. She was going home. It was rather tragically amusing in a way.

So, the loved ones, the family members, are quite traumatized too. They don't understand what's going on with their loved ones. They have to provide a great deal of time and a great deal of resources in caring for their loved one. They continue to worry about the public safety of their loved one and the well-being of their loved one. This

causes significant interruptions in their own lives.

Two thousand and six is the 100th anniversary of the identification of Alzheimer's disease. It was discovered in 1906 by a German psychiatrist and neuropathologist, a gentleman by the name of Dr. Alois Alzheimer. Dr. Alzheimer. That's an amazing thing, we don't tend to question where the word Alzheimer's came from. It came from this German psychiatrist. He apparently had amazing powers of deduction. He was quite skilled in the lab and had an outstanding ability to describe his findings. He soon gained an international reputation as a scientist.

He first diagnosed the disease in a 51-year-old woman. That's 100 years ago. So we can see that it's not exclusive to people who are over a certain age. Fifty-one is quite young. This lady that Dr. Alzheimer diagnosed realized that although other doctors in the asylum thought that the lady had premature senility, Dr. Alzheimer wasn't so sure.

After studying the pathology of the nervous system, he had discovered that the brain cells of people with Alzheimer's shrunk or they had disappeared, which was similar to elderly people. But unlike aging people, Alzheimer's patients had tangles in their brain cells. These tangles eventually choke the healthy brain cells.

It is amazing and also tragic that in these 100 years since Dr. Alzheimer discovered the difference between Alzheimer's and aging itself that we haven't found a cause or a cure for Alzheimer's. We can treat other forms of dementia to a degree, but the treatment for Alzheimer's is still very limited.

I've been told by a friend of mine who is a nurse and did some studying on this that in

the search into the brain, looking at the autopsy results, looking at what they show, they saw that the brain cells of people with Alzheimer's are like a tangle mass. Not just individual cells, but the whole thing is like a tangled mass.

People who think that Alzheimer's is caused from aluminum. There are those who speculate that it might be caused by the food we eat. Really, nobody knows the cause and there really isn't a very effective treatment for Alzheimer's.

We have to keep on hoping and we have to keep on having faith that a treatment for Alzheimer's will be found soon.

While we're looking for the cure, there have been other developments that made a bit of a difference in the lives of people with Alzheimer's and in the lives of their families.

One thing we have done is raised the awareness of the public in relation to Alzheimer's. It used to be that these people were hidden away. It was kind of an embarrassment, because the actions of the loved one were so strange that the family didn't want to acknowledge that there was a problem. Our understanding of Alzheimer's and the public awareness of Alzheimer's has certainly risen. So we've made great strides in that regard.

We're not so afraid of the illness. We find it easier to approach those who are in need of help.

I would encourage my colleagues to assist those whose loved ones suffer from Alzheimer's. It's quite a burden on the family. The loved one tends to want to see their son or daughter on a daily basis. Sometimes when you go in - like I remember saying to my mother: Was my sister in to see you today? Was Marge in

today? My mother would say: No, I haven't seen her for a long time, I'm really worried about her, is she okay? Then I would talk to my sister that evening and tell her what mom had said. She would say: I was in this morning. So it's really hard on the family.

I remember taking my mother on a car ride. She always wanted to go where she was raised. I remember taking her up to a place in Morell on the other side of Morell, close to Midgell. Anyway, we went down a certain road and I said to my mother: Now, we're going down this road, and I named the place, and my mother looked at me and she said: There's a place like that with the same name in Australia. I looked at her and I said: Where did that come from? My mother said: I don't know. It just came into my mind. So I get home that evening and I phoned my sister and I said: You better sit down because you'll never believe what mom said. I wouldn't have thought she'd have even remembered a place called Australia.

So it's really an insidious disease. We have health services in place for Alzheimer's and we do have some treatments. As the resolution says, we've provided some medications in our government drug program.

In Beach Grove and some of the units where Alzheimer patients are kept they keep registers of those who wander. I remember one night they phoned us from Beach Grove and told us that our mother had gotten outside. It was below zero. Somehow she had escaped. She was going home. She was out in the cold and thankfully a visitor to Beach Grove happened to notice her. They had to put an object on her clothes so that when she moved outside the door they could track her. This became quite a thing for us, because it assured us there was a bit of safety there surrounding her escaping. There are wandering patients and they don't really understand what they're doing, but

somehow their homing instinct wants them to go home.

I remember as minister of health I went out to Beach Grove one time because there had been a significant rain storm. Part of the roof in one unit had collapsed. It was actually the Alzheimer's unit. I went out to see how things were and how they were coping. It was really amazing. Because the patients were gathered around the entry way to that unit. Although they had been provided with different rooms, after they finished lunch they went down that same corridor. I commented to the nurse that these patients seemed to know that they were supposed to be down that hall. The nurse said: Yes, that's quite true. Even though they're Alzheimer's patients, something about the familiarity of the place, they knew that they were supposed to go down that hall, but they didn't know why.

So we do have respite programs, we do have some medications. We have fundraising in communities. So there is financial support for the Alzheimer's research and care.

We're really blessed to have the compassionate care and support for the Alzheimer's patients and families that is provided in these homes. I remember the day my mother passed away. The caretakers at Beach Grove were all in and they all said goodbye to her and they were all crying. They're such caring, compassionate people that we find in all these units. I happen to be more familiar with Beach Grove and that's why I'm using it as an example, but I've been to so many funerals where the caretakers were thanked specifically by family members because they're so helpful.

We're really blessed to be here on PEI and have the caring personnel that we have. We're also blessed to have the Alzheimer Society of PEI who provide care and support for families with Alzheimer's.

For Islanders families who are coping with the Alzheimer's, the services that are provided by the Alzheimer Society are just priceless. Their staff and their volunteers do understand what families are going through. They can help them understand what the needs are and how to care for their loved one. They make a tremendous difference in the lives of people. Sometimes it's a difference that enables you to keep on going and enables you to cope.

As the mover of this resolution, I ask the members of the Assembly to join me in recognizing the contributions of Dr. Alois Alzheimer and contributions of the PEI Alzheimer Society.

I encourage all of us as Islanders to help those who are coping with Alzheimer's, and I ask for the unanimous support of the House in favour of this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from St. Eleanors-Summerside, seconder of the debate.

Ms. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to stand today to speak to this motion, which focuses on a disease that has impacted thousands of Islanders over the past century.

In particular, I would like to highlight some of the contributions of the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island, which supports and assists Islanders affected by Alzheimer and related diseases.

This organization is responsible for raising the level of awareness, providing support and services, and educating the public and all those affected by the disease.

Largely self-reliant, the Alzheimer Society of PEI is volunteer driven, and is dedicated to delivering its many services while developing creative fund-raising strategies to support those services. The Alzheimer Society also raises funds for the purposes of supporting its programs and services, the on-going management of the society and research.

The Alzheimer Society has a ten-member board of directors responsible for setting policy and supporting the efforts of the agency staff. The board and staff, the board of directors for 2006, the executive, they are: Eric Kipping, past president, Lynn Loftus, president, Dr. Lamont Sweet, vice-president, Elizabeth Reagh, Q.C., secretary, Murray Stevenson, treasurer. The members are Ted Grant, Stevie MacDonald, Fran Handrahan, Dawn Reilly, Bernie MacKenna and Marcianne Gamauf.

The staff are Judith McCann-Beranger, executive director, Colleen Laybolt, office coordinator, Colette Tremblay, day respite program, Margaret Coles, day respite program, Peter Mutch, music therapist, Terri Tremblett, bookkeeper, and Gwen Horne, project worker, and she works out of Summerside.

Some of the programs and services offered by the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island include: The Safely Home-Alzheimer Wandering Registry. This registry is intended to facilitate the speedy reunion of people with Alzheimer Disease with their caregivers following an episode of wandering. It contains the names, addresses, and notification contacts for people with Alzheimer disease and related diseases. Registering someone in Safely Home makes it easier for police to find a person with Alzheimer's or related diseases who is lost and return them home safely.

The personal care, this booklet provides

vital information about techniques and strategies in caring for individual needs of people. Indeed, it helps others to provide care effectively in the absence of the regular caregiver. For example, this book may contain information about an individual's likes and dislikes, life stories, what is done in a typical day and month, daily routines, meal time information, special information for safety precautions and concerns, what activities they enjoy and a personal journal.

Music therapy is also offered to the participants of the day respite program in small groups, led by a trained music therapist. Music therapy is concerned with the process of music making, rather than the product. A further part of its appeal is that the music therapy is available to individuals regardless of musical ability, age, and level of physical and/or cognitive function.

Music therapy provides a multitude of benefits to those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, including social interaction, movement, stimulation which brings about interest, awareness of self, others and environment and instrumental participation.

Staff and volunteers of the Alzheimer Society of PEI work tirelessly to raise awareness of this disease across the province. They offer a series of information sessions, or speakers' bureaus, each having a unique focus on Alzheimer's disease and the people affected by it. The Alzheimer Society of PEI also provides a resource centre which includes books, audio-visual materials, brochures, journals and newsletters about Alzheimer-related diseases. The information is directed towards all those affected by the disease.

As well as their in-house library, they also donate resources to each of the Province's public library systems.

As well, the Alzheimer Society of PEI offers day respite services in a social, home-like setting. The program helps to bolster self-esteem in the participants but is equally important to the caregiver. Indeed, knowing a loved one is safe and secure allows the family member or primary caregiver to pursue other activities independently.

In addition to providing relief, free time and support for caregivers, day respite provides participants with varying degrees of memory impairment the chance to optimize their intellectual and social capabilities. Through providing structured activities based on participants' abilities, past interests and values, this can assist with the delayed institutionalization of the family member. Indeed, it is a safe environment for interaction with others, exercise, sensory stimulation and activities.

As well, the Alzheimer Society provides telephone support. Throughout the Province, Islanders can call a number toll-free for information, support and referral.

There are also Alzheimer's support groups operated throughout the Province. Facilitated by family caregivers, these groups provide information and mutual support for those caring for people with Alzheimer's and related diseases.

Counselling is available free of charge to people affected by Alzheimer's and related diseases, as well as their families and caregivers.

Also available free-of-charge, mediation focuses on achieving practical agreements that can be reached with the best interests of the person's care in mind. The primary aim of mediation is to help family members negotiate a workable way of sharing the caregiver load or of mutually agreeing on important decisions greatly affecting the person living with the disease.

In closing, I wish to commend the Alzheimer Society of PEI, their management, staff and volunteers, for their commitment to treating Islanders with dementia, and their caregivers, with respect, dignity and compassion. As well, I wish to thank them for their commitment to empowering the people they serve with the knowledge that will enable them to make informed choices.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

Mr. Dunn: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Ronnie Costain to the gallery tonight.

Ronnie doesn't live in my district, he lives in District 25. But he's been a great supporter of our party for many years and to all districts, my colleagues in Tignish-DeBlois and myself, and all the western area. So welcome to the House and enjoy the evening.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you can hear me, I still got that bad cold. My voice goes, I'll sit down.

First of all, I think of all the diseases I know, Alzheimer's is the one I'm scared of, because I never had a good memory. Although my mother had a perfect memory, but she never passed it on to me. My mother did have Alzheimer's and I used to go into the Sacred Heart Home. We'd be sitting down talking, she'd just get up and leave. After a while she'd come back. Down the

corner was Senator J. J. MacDonald who was a cousin of hers and they could talk together like nothing. They could go way back somewhere and they'd be sitting there talking. I didn't quite know what they'd be talking about but they had a great time.

Just not too long ago I went in to see a man who I had worked very closely with in the formation of Garden Province Meat. This man is as healthy looking as anything. He reached out, shook hands, and said: I haven't seen you for two days. I hadn't seen him for months and he just didn't know anything. Talking to his wife later, he's quite a care. He's not very old, but he's the picture of health. You would really think - they tell me he goes to church and he sings in the choir. He'll pick up the book, it's maybe upside down, they used to straighten it out, but now they don't. He hums when they sing. That's a tradition. He always sang in the choir and he still hums, he's humming there while everybody else is singing. He enjoys himself and they all know that and they all help him out.

A number of years ago I was down in Souris going to the manor when I was running in an election. The nurse said: We're going to meet a man who's got the same name as you have. I've never met anybody who ever had the same name as I had, very few Wilburs around. So I was looking forward to meeting this man. When you go into the manor it's not easy. He was the last room. I went clean through from one end to the other and I was pretty well devastated by the time I got there. Here was this man laying on the bed. His memory had long since gone. She couldn't make him understand anything. But it's something I remember. Certain things stick in our mind.

But I had lots of experience going around in canvassing in meeting people who have Alzheimer's or who nearly have it. I know there are relatives of mine, fairly close

relatives, who are in the process of going through dementia. I'm never sure whether dementia is Alzheimer's or what it is, but you can see the difference in them. One of them has a very sick wife, so it's not easy. It's not easy when both family members take it. I hope that we get a cure and it could come quite easily.

In 1948 I was cured by the drug called streptomycin from TB and it cured all kinds of TB people. At that time there was TB people in the sanatorium that were there for years. One man was there for something like 12 or 13 years and he was out of there in no time.

So there is hope, (Indistinct), and you read things where they're awful close. So maybe in not too long a time they will come up with a cure for Alzheimer's. Maybe before we take it they'll have the cure and that would be wonderful for anybody. It hits so hard in some families. It's really hard.

The person who found Alzheimer's was a man by the name of Alois Alzheimer. He was born in 1864 in Bavaria - so that disease has been around a long time - which then was in southern Germany. He excelled in science. At school he studied medicine and graduated with a medical degree in 1887. He began work in the state asylum in Frankfurt, becoming interested in research on the cortex of the human brain. Here he commenced his education in psychiatry and neuropathology. Dr. Alzheimer spent the following years working on a major six-volume study describing the pathology of the nervous system. The work was published in 1907 and 1918. In 1895 he was appointed director of the asylum where he continued his research on a number of subjects, including manic depression and schizophrenia. It's amazing, they called (Indistinct) the asylum. I remember when we had one here. We don't even go close to that name anymore.

In search of a post where he could combine research and clinical practice, he became research assistant at the Munich Medic School in 1903. There he created a new laboratory for brain research. Having published many papers on conditions and diseases of the brain, it was in 1906 that Alzheimer gave a lecture that made him famous. He identified an unusual disease of the cerebral cortex which affected a woman in her 50s and caused memory loss, distortion, hallucination, and ultimately her death. This lady that he had done a lot of research on died at the age of 55. Then they did a post-mortem showing various abnormalities of the brain. The cerebral cortex was thinner than normal and senile (Indistinct). Previously only encountered in elderly people, it was found in the brain, along with nerve tangles. He was able to identify these nerve tangles which have never previously been described.

Now poor Alzheimer died very young. He got a severe cold, complicated by a disease called endocarditis - I'm sure the Clerk Assistant knows what that is - from which he never fully recovered. He died in 1915 at the age of 51. So here was a person who had a lot to give to the Alzheimer's disease and he died at the age of 51. Imagine if he had have been able to live longer.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. Dementia is a collective name for progressive degenerative brain syndrome which affects memory, thinking, behaviour and emotion. Symptoms may include loss of memory, difficulty in finding the right words or understanding what people are saying, difficulty in performing previous routine tasks, personality and mood changes. Dementia is not a normal part of aging. They tell us that if you put our glasses, for example, if you forget where you put your glasses, that's not dementia. I mean, if you kept forgetting every day and all the time, it might - we do have sort of a

problem with our memory. Almost everyone has a problem with their memory. We forget our pocket books, our purses and stuff like that.

One thing about dementia, it knows no social, economic, ethnic or geographical boundaries. Although each person would experience dementia in their own way, eventually those affected are unable to care for themselves and need help with all aspects of daily life. I must say, the government has got places where people can go. The hon. member, the mover of the motion, talked about her mother at Beach Grove. I had a first cousin who was there and she used to do the same thing. She'd get out and go back to her apartment, even though the apartment was closed and somebody else had it. But it's wonderful to have those places because there almost comes a time in almost everybody who has Alzheimer's that they need more treatment than the person at home can do.

There is currently no cure, but treatments, advice and support are available. Alzheimer's disease eventually effects all aspects of a person's life, how she/he thinks, feels, and acts. Since individuals are affected differently it is difficult to predict the symptoms each person will have, the order they will appear or the speed of the disease progression.

The following will typically be affected by the disease. Mental abilities. A person's ability to understand, think, remember and communicate, will be affected. The ability to make decisions will be reduced. Simple tasks that have been performed for years will become more difficult or be forgotten. Confusion and memory loss, initially for recent events and eventually for long term events, will occur. The ability to find the right words and follow a conversation will be affected.

I have a neighbour who I visit and he can't remember - I don't know whether it's dementia or not - but he can't remember what happened today or last week or this year. He came from Holland. If you talk to him about what it was like when he came, the neighbours he met, he'll know all that and tell you all about it. He'll talk about the first fox he saw running across the field and how he met his neighbour over the fence. Any of us who farmed years ago knows that. We always met our neighbours over the fence with the horses. Remember that? We'd come along and they'd stop and we'd stop and you'd have a chat. But it was part of the social life. You met them over the fence.

Emotion and mood. A person may appear uninterested and stop hobbies or other activities previously enjoyed. He or she may quickly lose interest in an activity. The ability to control mood and emotion may be lost. Some individuals have less expression and are more withdrawn. Emotions and the moods are very strong in some people.

Excuse me. The Leader of the Opposition gave me this cold. I told him the other day he could never say he never gave me anything because he gave me the cold. When I came in on Tuesday - was it last week? - and he was sitting here, I wanted him to go to the other side but he wouldn't move. See what happens? Then I go home and give it to my wife. So he's not very popular in our house.

Mr. R. Brown: He never was.

Mr. MacDonald: Behaviour. Changes in the brain will bring about changes in the way the person reacts to his/her environment. These actions may seem out of character for the person. Some common reaction include repeating the same words or actions and hiding possessions.

I remember my mother hiding money on my father, and she never handled money much. She accused him of stealing her money. It was a big deal one day when I went in the house and she was home. It really affected my father to think that his wife would accuse him of stealing the money after all these years. I had to explain to him that was part of it.

Physical outbursts, restlessness and inappropriate sexual behaviour. I'll not comment on that. Physical abilities. Disease can affect a person's physical coordination. As the disease progress there will be a gradual physical decline. These changes will impact on the person's ability to independently perform day to day tasks, such as eating, bathing and getting dressed.

Currently there are more than 24.3 million in the world with dementia.

I'd love to go to that convention in Montreal, wouldn't I spread the cold around. That would fix them.

Currently 60% of the total number of people with dementia live in developing countries. This is expected to rise to 71%. That's an interesting - you'd almost think that's from maybe something that we eat or whatever it is, when we get 60% of the developing countries.

I think I better stop there. But it's a subject that many people are interested in because it affects many families. Indeed, some of us in this room no doubt, eventually, will have some kind of dementia. It's to hope that the scientists and all the people who are trying to come up - there seems to be in the world today a very close breakthrough in many diseases, and much study is being done about it.

If that was a shot of rum it might fix it up.

So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Ballem: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not going to take very long tonight talking about this issue. I've had the opportunity in the past to speak about Alzheimer's disease in this House.

I guess to follow on some of the comments from previous three speakers - and they've covered off a lot of what we would want to say about it - but until you've dealt with Alzheimer's in a personal way, it's really hard for people to understand. I think it's the kind of disease that, as bad as some diseases are - and there are lots that are terrible - one of the most tragic I think has got to be Alzheimer's. It's one of those things you either laugh or cry about it. For most families, after you get over the crying part, as the minister of education said in her remarks, there's a lot of amusing stories. You get beyond it and accept that your family member does have this disease and you start seeing the light side of things.

I'm not going to put on the public record about some of the stories about dad and when he had his Alzheimer's. I've shared it with a few people, and if you've been involved with a family member or seen someone, you can understand.

What makes it so tough, I think, on the caregivers and on the family, as I think the last speaker talked about, the person physically is so healthy. Especially in the early stages. They're very healthy and your looking at them and they don't know that they have a problem. In the case when my father was in the early stages you knew there was something, but in that time

Alzheimer's was almost impossible to diagnose. They used to go through a process of saying it's not this and it's not this and it's not this. It was a case of elimination.

So when the early stages - and we knew there was something wrong but the neighbours didn't. So we went to the neighbours, especially people that would be around home, around the farm, and just say to them: If you see him wandering or if you see him doing something strange, just take him home or let us know. They were amazed. They said: We'd be in the barn and he'd say something, I thought I couldn't have heard him right, and just carry on. So it was quite hard in the early stages of how do you deal with it.

The Alzheimer's Society - and they're getting so much better than they were because they are learning so much. It's not as much of an issue of how to treat the disease as it is how to treat the symptoms. When you got a group of volunteers as respite for my mother, we used to take dad into Fitzroy Centre because they had a day program. Someone there would take him for a walk and do activities to keep him busy while my mother had a chance to do the things that she needed to do.

I remember when they would take him to the mall. I won't tell you the things he used to say, but as the member from Belfast-Pownal Bay said, they'll say things that are totally out of character, but you either laugh or cry. So once you get to the point, you look at it and you take it for what it's worth and you laugh at it.

But what makes it especially tough as well is you're not sure how much they understand. They have visions, as the minister said. She's driving down the road with her mother and this comes out about this place: The only place I know is in Australia. Then you start questioning

yourself. Does he really understand what I'm saying to him, how much is he getting from this? But you keep doing whatever you're doing. Hope that he is getting some enjoyment out of life.

It's amazing when you think that it's been 100 years since this disease was diagnosed, and yet we still know so little about it. When my father died in 1999 the doctors said: The only way we know for sure is if we do an autopsy on his brain. So the family decided: Yes, we will donate his brain to Dalhousie Medical School. Four or five months later they came back and said: Yes, it was Alzheimer's. But when you don't know what the cause is and you're not 100% sure if the diagnosis is right, it makes it real tough to find a cure.

I know when we talked about this one time before, and it was about introducing medications, I was health minister at the time. Groups would come in and plead with me: This medication will work on my family member if you would just pay for it. I've gone through it, and I know, and talking to the doctors, that yes, it works to a limited amount on some patients.

My father as a veteran was able to get his medications paid for. So when a new test drug came out he was able to have access to it. My mother wanted that to work so bad, because if he had a good day, the medication's working and it's really having an affect, and I've got to call the doctor to tell him how good this medication is working. So after awhile we called the doctor and he said: There's no change. Every month he's in, we see a progression, that it's not helping him, but it's helping your mother. So we're going to keep him on the medication. At the last, when he finally had to go into a nursing home, it wasn't the case of her wanting to let him go. He should have been there two years earlier, the doctor it.

One of the things we have to really spend a lot of time on is if we have family members who are suffering from any form of dementia, it's the caregiver. Because especially if it's a spouse, they will go above and beyond, as far as they can, because: I'm going to care for him or her, that's my job, and they end up killing themselves.

So what we have to look at, if you see people with it, what support you can give. Hardest thing in the world is put a loved one in a nursing home. But it has to happen sometimes. When you get them in there - the minister talked about Beach Grove because that's the one she's familiar with. I'm familiar with Garden Home, and I think everybody in this Assembly who has a loved one in a nursing home will use that nursing home as their example.

The caregivers that we have in our nursing homes are unbelievable, the job that they have to do every day, and yet they smile, they laugh with the patient, they go to the funerals and they cry with you. We're so blessed to have the caregivers that we have in our health system and they don't get enough recognition. I think we need to take the time to make sure that we do thank them when we have the chance.

The last part that I just wanted to talk about is the toll that it takes on the next generation, and I'm one of that next generation. When you have a loved one and the doctors can't tell you a lot and they say we're not sure what causes it and we're not sure if it's the right diagnoses. You start doing your own research and you start reading things and then you find out that they now can identify a gene that tells you if you are predisposed or you're a potential candidate. Then your sitting there, saying: Gee, maybe I should be tested to see if I have the gene, but what if I have the gene? Then every time you forget, oh, I was suppose to get a loaf of bread, that's it, I've

got it.

My brother drives himself crazy. If he's got to do five things and he only does four, he goes home to his wife, who's a nurse, and say: I think I'm starting. You start laughing at him, but at the same time in the back of your mind, maybe it is happening. But it does extract a toll for the next generation. Because you're always thinking. What's going to happen is the Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay, hopefully by the time some of us get to that stage - but when you look in the resolution and these people who are in their 50s, there's a whole bunch of us here that are at that stage.

But I think if we continue to make our contribution, whether its financial or with our time, we continue with our prayers and our hopes, not only a cure but maybe a prevention for this terrible disease will happen and happen in the near future. In the meantime, I think it's a real feat and we need to congratulate the Alzheimer's Society of PEI and all those volunteers and staff for the terrific job that they do.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacAleer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to comment on this resolution. While I don't mean to poke fun at this disease or anything, but I've seen a lot of people with this type of sickness and you have to look at the whole issue rather optimistically. They say when you have Alzheimer's, even though you live in familiar surroundings, you have a new friend every day. So that's certainly one of the benefits.

I can't recollect, but I remember walking

into that nursing home that the former speaker just talked about, Garden Home, which is in my district. I go there frequently to conduct singsongs. The gentleman I met at the door was somebody who always attended every one of my singsongs and I thought he was there to greet me. But anyway, I walked up to him and I said: Jack, we're here, are you coming to my singsong tonight? He sort of shook his head and I sort of looked over my shoulder as I went down the hallway and I said: Are you coming? Then I went back to him and I said to him: You know who I am, Jack, Wes MacAleer and so forth. He sort of looked at me and he said: You want to know your name? I said yeah. Oh, check at the desk they'll tell you. Even though they have Alzheimer's or maybe they get a little forgetful, they're still pretty sharp people.

We're here to celebrate 100 years of the anniversary of the identification of Alzheimer's disease. I wanted to stress two points this evening. One is related to the fact that we are leading, as a country, in terms of research, but also the leadership that Islanders are presenting in terms of this disease. I'd like to mention a few people particularly.

But for those who may be afflicted with this disease, I would point out that 95% of the research that we currently know about Alzheimer's has occurred in the last 15 years. The advance has been quite dramatic. As a matter of fact, since 1993 we now know that there is a genetic link in the disease and that gene has been isolated. Those of you who really want to know, it's an apoe gene, according to my notes here. But I think what's important to know is that, in fact, it has been isolated and there is a number of therapies, first of all, means of detection. One is a blood test or a cerebral fluid test to be done. New drugs are being identified to repair damage that has occurred, new drug delivery techniques are

being developed, and even a vaccine now is being developed to retard the disease.

In the local scene here, one of the major leaders with respect to the treatment of people with Alzheimer's, there is a lady by the name of Judy McCann-Beranger, and she has written a book called *A Caregivers Guide*. She's donated the money derived from the sale of that book, which is about \$22,000 currently, to the local society. I would also point out that she's one of two people chosen to provide criteria or standards for the treatment of Alzheimer's patients, one of two international people.

So we're very fortunate to have had this lady in our midst. I understand she is retiring to her home province of Newfoundland, but she has certainly left her mark in this community. I'd also point out that while the Alzheimer's Society on Prince Edward Island has done great work here, it also has made a significant impact on the national scene and has been a real leader in terms of developing criteria, etc., with Health Partners, which is a foundation which has Canada Customs approval. Through that relationship you cannot donate money to the society.

Like all problems mankind has, we're making major steps to overcome them, and as we must realize that in a very short time over 10 million Canadians will turn 60 - a few of us are already among that group - but this disease, because it's linked to age, will grow in significance, and the research will become even more important and the cure for it even more respected in the community.

I think that we're very fortunate in this province of having people who care about individuals who have this particular disease, and I'm quite optimistic that in the near future that we will have even more advanced means to cure it.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacAleer: Mr. Speaker, I'm asked here to adjourn the debate on this issue.

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Ballem: Mr. Speaker, I move that the 7th Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 7, *Archaeology Act*, Bill No. 8, in Committee.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park to chair the committee.

Mr. MacFadyen: Permission to take on my director?

Chair (MacAleer): Permission to take director on the floor?

The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a Bill to be intituled *Archaeology Act*.

Is it the pleasure of the Committee that the Bill be now read clause by clause?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: My understanding is that we've now reached and carried to 7(8).

Mr. MacFadyen: Carried.

Chair: And that was carried.

8(1) A person who wishes to carry out any work at a protected archaeological site shall apply to the Minister for a work permit by submitting

(a) a completed application in the prescribed form;

(b) such information respecting the application and any proposed work at the site as the regulations or the Minister may require; and

(c) the prescribed fees.

(2) The Minister may, on an application made in accordance with subsection (1),

(a) issue a work permit to the applicant to carry out work at a protected archaeological site as specified in the permit; and

(b) place such limitations and conditions on the work permit as the Minister considers necessary.

(3) The Minister may

(a) refuse to issue a work permit under subsection (2) for any work that, in the Minister's opinion, may detract from the archaeological value of the protected archaeological site; or

(b) at any time amend, suspend or cancel a work permit issued under subsection (2), by serving notice of the amendment, suspension or cancellation on the permit holder.

Shall it carry?

Mr. Collins: Question?

Chair: Question.

The hon. Member from Winsloe-West
Royalty.

Mr. Collins: Under the prescribed fees, any idea yet what it will cost for a permit?

Harry Holman Director: No. At the present time we have no fee structure and it is not contemplated that this would be a revenue area. As I say, there is no fee at present, this merely gives the minister through the regulations the opportunity to set a fee should and when it become necessary. It is not contemplated we're looking at a fee at this time.

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much.

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

Mr. MacDonald: In two places here, 2(b) and 3(a), it says the minister's opinion or the minister considers necessary. Now, Mr. Minister, you may not be minister of this department five years down the road or -

Mr. MacFadyen: True.

Mr. MacDonald: The next person may not be as well educated on this as you are, because you've gone through this whole bill, I'm sure, a couple of times. So will that be pinned down in regulations or will it be more specific in regulations?

Leader of the Opposition: We hope Mr. Holman will be around for a long time.

Mr. MacFadyen: He's only a kid yet.

Mr. MacDonald: Pardon?

Mr. MacFadyen: I said the director is only a kid yet.

I would say that once the act is approved with these changes that regulations may define certain conditions, but the restrictions in regards to what the permit would say would be defined in order to protect a site

that is designated as an archaeological site.

Mr. MacDonald: You would think that would be in the bill, wouldn't you?

Mr. MacFadyen: Well, it is. It says the minister may on an application made with accordance with subsection (1), and subsection (1) is a person who wishes to carry out work at a protected archaeological site shall apply to the minister for a work permit.

Mr. MacDonald: By submitting an application. How long before the regulations will be brought in? Are they ready now?

Mr. MacFadyen: No. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations, and I would assume that there will be some regulations that will go with it that will clearly define what's spelled out in legislation.

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

Ms. Bertram: I know we're on section 8, but I've done some research since we sat down with this the last time. If you look at Nova Scotia, they have special places protection act, is what they call theirs, and New Brunswick calls theirs historic site protections act. In regards to this committee and this advisory panel, both of those provinces have an advisory panel. It's not an option, it is a must. It's clearly defined who those members on those committees are.

Last week when we had this on the floor of the Legislature you couldn't tell me whether the other places had it. It's quite detailed. The roles of the advisory committees are quite defined and I think quite important in terms of their legislation. So seeing that time has passed, and maybe you've look back on other provinces and what they are doing, are you prepared to change the wording in your

legislation here today?

Mr. MacFadyen: No. The explanation that we did the other day, when we were dealing with Section 2(5), it still has the word: may establish the advisory committee. I would assume that if we wanted to seek assistance in regards to a matter that is connected with an archaeological site or an archaeological find, that if we needed to call in expertise, then the discretion would be there to be able to do so.

Ms. Bertram: Can I just share this with you, just for information for all members?

Nova Scotia has - and this is section 10, it says: there shall be established and it goes onto the board, representatives of New Brunswick museum from the university - (Indistinct) New Brunswick Historical Society, two representatives - and the list goes on. It's very defined.

In New Brunswick it also states that: hereby established a committee to be known.

So it's very clear.

Mr. MacFadyen: It could be for the two provinces that you looked at. But I believe, without going back into the reasons we spelled out on Friday, I believe when we addressed the matter at that time, there are provinces that do not have shall in their legislation. There may be the two provinces that you had mentioned and -

Ms. Bertram: But I guess what didn't set well with me is when you stated that we didn't have the expertise here on the Island.

Mr. MacFadyen: No, I clarified that, hon. member. I said we had people who had the expertise. Whether they were going to be asked to sit on the advisory committee and they in turn put themselves in a conflict -

Ms. Bertram: Okay, yes, that was the second part to it. But I felt by even looking at the perimeter that the other provinces set - but I'm not going to stay on this issue. But it just shows you that the other provinces, it's there, it's a definite. I thought I'd just do some research in that respect.

The other part is in regards to shipwrecks. The first section of the act where it deals with -

Mr. MacFadyen: Definitions.

Ms. Bertram: The definitions of - section 1

Mr. MacFadyen: Under (e).

Ms. Bertram: Now why does your act - and Nova Scotia went into quite long detailed - even talking about - the *Canada Shipping Act* is part of their legislation. Should that not maybe be included in this as well?

Mr. MacFadyen: I'll ask the director to answer it.

Harry Holman Director: The wording in this is with the advice and recommendation of the legislative draftsman. The reason the *Canada Shipping Act* is not referenced is because the *Canada Shipping Act* is not provincial legislation, it's federal legislation.

Ms. Bertram: Do we have the legislation, though, to actually put it in this document here?

Harry Holman Director: There is some conflict between all the provinces and the federal government with regard to the exact boundaries and jurisdiction. The *Canada Shipping Act*, the archaeological sections of the *Canada Shipping Act*, are currently under review and are being rewritten by the federal government at the present time. So I would think it would be fairly unwise of us to reference legislation which is in the

course of being changed.

Ms. Bertram: Now you may be able to explain this further to me. They also have in their legislation - and maybe we have to, I just didn't check today - someone brought this forward. The *Treasure Trove Act*, Nova Scotia has.

Harry Holman Director: Yes.

Ms. Bertram: Do we have that?

Harry Holman Director: No. Nova Scotia is the only province that has that type of legislation.

Mr. MacDonald: Is that because of our Island (Indistinct)?

Harry Holman Director: Certainly the experience in Nova Scotia has been for well over 100 years that there has been plundering of shipwrecks off the Nova Scotia coast. They felt it was necessary to deal very particularly with the issues that arose out of those situations. We do not have a similar situation here on Prince Edward Island. Simply to enact legislation in order to deal with issues and events which are either rare or non-existent is probably a bit of legislative overkill.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 9(1) No person shall

(a) undertake an archaeological investigation in the province unless the person is authorized to do so under an archaeological permit;

(b) undertake any work at a protected archaeological site unless the person is the holder of a work permit issued by the Minister under subsection 8(2) that

authorizes the work to be undertaken at the protected archaeological site;

(c) remove any archaeological object or palaeontological object from an archaeological site except as authorized by this Act;

(d) interfere with an archaeological investigation on an archaeological site;

(e) contravene a stop order issued under subsection 5(1) that is directed to that person;

(f) contravene an order issued under subsection 5(3) that is directed to that person;

(g) contravene a term or condition of an archaeological permit or a work permit; or

(h) contravene any provision of this Act or the regulations.

(2) For greater certainty, subsection (1) does not prevent employees or agents of a permit holder from undertaking or participating in an archaeological investigation, or work, on an archaeological site that is the subject of the archaeological permit.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 10(1) Every person who discovers an archaeological object or palaeontological object shall report the discovery immediately to the Minister stating the nature of such an object, the location of the discovery and the date of discovery of the archaeological or palaeontological object.

(2) No person, except in accordance with an archaeological permit, shall move, destroy, damage, deface, obliterate, alter, add to, mark or interfere with the archaeological

object or palaeontological object or remove that object from the province.

Mr. MacDonald: Can you describe what is palaeontological?

Harry Holman Director: I'm sorry, I missed the question.

Chair: He wants to know what palaeontological is.

Harry Holman Director: A palaeontological object, in common usage, refers to fossils.

Mr. MacDonald: Is what?

Harry Holman Director: Fossils.

Mr. MacDonald: Oh, a fossil.

Mr. MacFadyen: And it means no backbone.

Chair: We've all been educated here tonight.

Mr. MacFadyen: If you look under, hon. member, (k) of the definition. Did you find it?

Mr. MacDonald: I do. I missed that.

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

Mr. Collins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It says: "shall report the discovery immediately to the Minister..." Is there any prescribed way of reporting here? Are we talking about a phone call? A letter? A fax?

Harry Holman Director: At this point we have not established a specific method. What we're interested in is the information, rather than establishing a regimented

method of communicating.

In general terms, the importance of archaeological objects is not the object itself, it's the information that that object brings with it. Knowing where archaeological objects are located is extremely important in interpreting the significance of those materials.

For instance, many of us have probably found an arrowhead, maybe in plowing a field. The arrowhead when it's removed from the location in which it's found loses a great deal of the information that it would carry with it.

For instance, archaeological objects associated with a native encampment. If they're removed from encampment, we have no way of knowing exactly where that encampment took place, whether or not there might be an opportunity for further excavation or further discovery of information.

The same thing if you're talking about a native burial site. If the objects in that burial site are removed from the site, the information about the site is lost.

What we're interested in, and this whole piece of legislation goes towards, is the preservation of information. It's more important to think of archaeology as a process of learning about our past than it is about the specific object. Specific objects are a method whereby we learn information about the past.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 11(1) The property in all archaeological objects and palaeontological objects, whether or not such an object is in the possession of the Crown, is vested in the

Crown in right of the Province, as represented by the Minister.

(2) A sale or other disposition of Crown lands shall not operate as a sale or disposition of an archaeological or palaeontological object unless the sale or other disposition expressly states that it does so operate.

Mr. Collins: So, someone who has at home right now an archaeological object or palaeontological object that they may have had possession of for quite some number of years, might even have passed on from father to son, when this act is passed, who owns that?

Harry Holman Director: This act is not retroactive in its application.

Mr. MacFadyen: He owns it now. He still owns it. But if he found it tomorrow and the act's proclaimed, it becomes the right of the Crown.

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 12 No person shall buy, sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of, or remove from the province for the purpose of selling, trading or otherwise disposing of, an archaeological or palaeontological object found in, or taken from any land in the province.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Collins: I want to clarify this again. If someone is holding one of those archaeological or palaeontological objects, this is not retroactive, you say. So what they have in their possession today is saleable?

Harry Holman Director: Yes.

Mr. Collins: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 13(1) The provincial museum shall be the official repository for archaeological and palaeontological objects acquired by the Minister under this Act.

(2) The Minister may provide for the care and management of specific archaeological or palaeontological objects with other agencies, organizations or individuals for the purposes of

- (a) long-term care and management;
- (b) display and interpretation; or
- (c) research.

(3) All archaeological and palaeontological objects subject to care and management under subsection (2) shall be on the basis of a loan only and shall be accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

(4) The Minister may acquire, through donation or loan, archaeological or palaeontological objects associated with the human or natural history of the province.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 14(1) The property in, and title and right of possession to, any human remains found by any person, is vested in the Crown in right of the Province, as represented by the Minister.

(2) Any person who finds an object this is, or that the person believes to be, human

remains, shall forthwith report the find to the police and the person shall not handle, disturb or do anything to such remains except in accordance with such requirements as the police may direct.

(3) The police, having jurisdiction in an area in which human remains are found shall, in a timely fashion, advise the Minister of any object that is, or is believed to be, human remains.

(4) The Minister

(a) may determine whether excavated or naturally exposed human remains may be used for

- (i) scientific examination, or
- (ii) research or educational purposes; and

(b) shall appoint a person who will be responsible to ensure that the human remains are reinterred after their use for a purpose authorized under clause (a).

(5) The Minister may enter into agreements or develop protocols with the aboriginal community to

(a) ensure that deference is shown to traditional Mi'kmaq approaches for the handling of human remains, where the Minister believes such human remains are of Mi'kmaq ancestry; and

(b) provide, notwithstanding subsection (1), for the title and right of possession of human remains shown to be of Mi'kmaq ancestry to be vested with the aboriginal community.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 15(1) Compensation is not payable by the Province to any person for any

reduction in the value of that person's interest in land or for any loss or damages that result from

(a) any order made by the Minister under this Act; or

(b) the exercise in good faith of any power or authorization conferred under this Act.

(2) An incentive or agreement provided under subsection 2(4) shall not be considered as compensation for any reduction in the value of land as a result of the exercise of this Act.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: 16 Every person who contravenes any provision of this Act or the regulations, or any order made or given pursuant to this Act or the regulations, is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction:

(a) in the case of a corporation, to a fine not exceeding \$250,000;

(b) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

Shall it carry?

Mr. Collins: Question.

Chair: Question.

Mr. Collins: I just want to have a brief explanation and the rationale for the maximum (Indistinct) of these fines?

Harry Holman Director: If I may, the maximum value is what may be taken into consideration by the courts up to a maximum. These maximums are placed at the level that they are so that this becomes not simply a cost of doing business, and it is

viewed by either a corporation or an individual as a real disincentive.

If the penalties are too low - and we have seen situations under some legislation where if the fine was \$500 and you were building a shopping centre and you wanted to bulldoze the Aboriginal remains or an Acadian house site, \$500 is no problem. There was a variation between corporations and individuals given the nature of the types of projects that either corporations or individuals are usually undertaking.

Mr. Collins: Thank you very much.

Mr. Dunn: Question here.

Chair: Okay, sorry. We'll take (Indistinct).

Mr. Dunn: I guess my question is: Can you not put a stop order on that excavation site or that building site?

Harry Holman Director: Certainly the legislation contemplates a stop order, but, again, if someone decides not to stop, the penalty is set forth in the legislation.

Mr. Dunn: It just seems like an awful big penalty.

Harry Holman Director: I think one of the things that it is useful to keep in mind with regard to these penalties is you are talking about objects that cannot be replicated or replaced. If an Acadian house site is destroyed, they're not making any more of them. If human remains are interfered with or end up riding around on the front seat of somebody's car, you're not going to be able to replace the dignity accorded to our ancestors.

These penalties, as with any penalty for a court, the judge assessing the penalty is going to take into consideration all of the factors surrounding the case. If this is a very

minor offence against the legislation, the expectation is that the court will assess a very minor penalty. But this does give the court the flexibility if there's an egregious thumbing of the nose, I guess, with regard to the legislation. The opportunity is there to provide a real disincentive for either a corporation or an individual, as the case may be.

Mr. Dunn: There wouldn't be any type of compensation. The fine wouldn't be a compensation, or anything.

Harry Holman Director: No.

Mr. MacFadyen: We have other legislation where we have changed, where we've increased the maximum of a fine, and it's always used as a deterrent. The judge will make the determination as to what dollar value will go with the charge that's being laid by the court in regards to the importance of the issue. I guess it's what value you place on the heritage of our past in regards to making sure that it doesn't, in the future, if somebody is guilty of that offense.

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

Dr. McKenna: (Indistinct) for the maximum, but why would we not put a minimum in there as well to make it - the minimum could be \$1?

Mr. MacFadyen: That discussion is with the judge because -

Dr. McKenna: Yeah, but shouldn't we decide here - if you're going to decide a maximum, I think you should decide a minimum as well. I thought a lot of acts do that, don't they?

Mr. MacFadyen: No, just up to.

Dr. McKenna: You wouldn't want to go to zero?

Mr. MacFadyen: No, but if you put a dollar amount as the minimum, then there's not - depending on the severity of the charge, the judge would not have the flexibility to assign a level of a fine based on the violation that had occurred. When you're putting a cap on it, it gets (Indistinct) from zero to that amount.

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

Mr. MacDonald: I'm not satisfied with section 15. Like, it's all the minister may make an order, go into somebody's property, damage may occur, and so on. I think there should be a (c) there that the minister's orders - you're talking about property in rural PEI. You have no idea where it might be, you might have to cross fields, you never know. You can do a lot of damage. So I think the minister's order should be made to something, like, have as little damage as possible because there is no compensation.

Yet the minister can order somebody to go through your property wherever, whatever part of the property, to reach this site, which could be down by a river, which could be in the back field. You might have to cross fields. Depends on the time of the year. Why don't we put a minimum, something there to make sure that the minister does whatever's necessary to keep the loss at a minimum?

Mr. MacFadyen: But I would say that part (2) of 15 defines that in the exercise in good faith, that what we're doing in order to protect the archaeological site is to protect to archaeological site but also to respect the rights of the landowners.

Mr. MacDonald: It doesn't say that.

Mr. MacFadyen: I would say that that would be what the definition in good faith would mean in the context of how it is written.

Mr. Dunn: That doesn't cover neglect which, I would assume, would be a court issue. If something happened on the property, they could go to court and charge you with neglect and do it that way.

Mr. MacFadyen: Then I guess what was said on Friday - that if there was an archaeological find then there may be restrictions placed on that land, because the land and the area around the discovery would in all probability be an archaeological site - it could not be used by the landowner. The province or the Crown would exchange a piece of land in exchange for that parcel that they're taking from the individual.

Mr. MacDonald: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacFadyen: I thought we covered it back under 2(4).

Mr. MacDonald: Do you think you covered it 2(4)?

Harry Holman Director: I think there is another section that may come into play here, and that's the requirement under the permit that any permit holder is required to return the property at the conclusion of any investigation to the state which it existed in prior to the investigation taking place.

Mr. MacDonald: That should cover it.

Harry Holman Director: And that's already in the legislation in regard to an archaeological (Indistinct).

Mr. MacFadyen: Hon. member, 2(4) spells out: "The Minister may develop programs to support and encourage the conservation of archaeological sites and archaeological or

palaeontological objects, including....," and it lists (a) to (e). It means that we'd enter into an agreement "with an owner, municipality, or other body respecting the matters referred to in clauses (a) to (d)."

Chair: Carried?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) respecting the designation of an archaeological site as a protected archaeological site;

(b) respecting objections to the designation of an archaeological site as a protected archaeological site;

(c) respecting appeals from the designation under subsection 4(1) of an archaeological site as a protected archaeological site;

(d) respecting archaeological investigations;

(e) respecting inspections of an archaeological site;

(f) respecting archaeological impact statements;

(g) respecting palaeontological sites or palaeontological objects;

(h) respecting offences and penalties for the contravention of this Act or the regulations;

(I) prescribing forms to be used and procedures to be followed in carrying out the purposes of the Act;

(j) defining any word or phrase used in this Act but not defined in this Act;

(k) respecting any matter considered necessary or advisable to carry out the intent

and purpose of this Act.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: I'll read these next two sections combined.

18 The *Archaeological Sites Protection Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap A-7 is repealed.

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

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Collins: Just before we conclude our work on this important bill, I'd certainly like to take the opportunity, as a member, I know, of the Legislative Review Committee, to commend the minister and members of his department, in particular Mr. Holman, for the passion and expertise that he's brought to this work.

I think what we've done here this evening, and what we will do with the writing of these regulations - and I wish you well on that endeavour, Mr. Minister and Mr. Holman - I think we've done something really good for ourselves and for future generations.

I thank you very much.

Mr. P. Brown: I'd like to echo those comments. (Indistinct) particular piece of legislation that we don't always give a lot of attention to with the busyness of government and it took a lot of dedicated work to keep this file alive, so you're both to be commended.

Mr. MacFadyen: I move the title.

Chair: *Archaeology Act.*

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

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.

Mr. MacFadyen: Mr. Chairman, I move the Speaker take the Chair and that the Chairman 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, *Archaeological Act*, I beg leave to report that the Committee has gone through the said Bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the House to revert to motions.

Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent to go back to motions?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Government Motions

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Motion No. 3.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: It's been read, Mr. Speaker.

It has been debated and adjourned by the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park had adjourned the debate.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, you had adjourned the debate on the Alzheimer's motion. Do you wish to continue speaking or are you done?

Mr. MacAleer: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I've completed my comments.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCardle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Alzheimer's is a terrible affliction. My grandmother died when I was 12. She lived in our family and she had Alzheimer's. It's a disease that is difficult to find a word to describe. The torment and anguish that it causes to a family and to the individual is terrible.

In those days there was no senior homes or places like these people have described. Grandparents just lived in the home with our family.

Can't some of you boys hitch the horse and take me home? That was said 25 times in our house every day. It was terrible to see a person under that kind of stress. There were lots of children and we were charged with telling our mother when Nanny left the home, and it was a challenge. There was lots of us, but she still got around us. You'd find her up the road with a pillow case full of clothes. It's a terrible affliction.

Last year I attended a funeral for a lady in our community. She'd been a wonderful citizen, a great contributor to the community, had a large family, and in later years she lost her memory to Alzheimer's and was put in a nursing home for many years. But the priest said at the funeral that he was so happy that this individual was reunited with her own identity. It was a lovely way of expressing the feelings that we all had that day at the person's funeral.

It's a terrible affliction. I've told my wife if I get it to poison me immediately. It's a real scourge to the people that have to live with it, and the people that tend to these people are saints, as has been said here. But the anguish and the torment that disease causes is remarkable. I remember the calm that settled in our home after my grandmother had died. It was a remarkable change. It's a terrible affliction, Mr. Speaker, and I hope they can find a cure for it.

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 pleasure for myself to rise this evening to support this motion. I must admit, family-wise, I've been quite fortunate - knock on wood - with regards to this terrible disease. I first encountered it, though, as a young

person working at Brudenell Golf Course. I remember there was a couple who came and golfed almost every afternoon, and it was an elderly husband and his wife. The husband had, I believe, the beginnings of dementia. Every day I would go and I would talk to him and there be some days he'd know who I was and some days he won't know who I was. I remember his wife used to say to me: Today's a good day or today's not a good day. But she would take him out every day and take him around the golf course, it was amazing. Some days he knew exactly where he was and other days he had no idea really where he was. So I know it's a terrible disease.

In this province right now there are a lot of families, and it would be tough not to find a family - I know I got married back in June and my wife's grandmother, Jean MacKay, is actually a woman I never met. She's alive, she lives out at the Garden Home, she's got Alzheimer's and she's just not in good shape. Some day, my wife said, I'll take you out and introduce you to her, but she's at the stage where she doesn't know who anybody is.

So it's quite the disease where it can affect a family like that where you still have a loved one there. But they're not the person you knew, or that you know. I think anything we can do in terms of research, in terms of prolonging their - when they develop the disease, I think it will be beneficial in the long run. I know it was mentioned a couple of times this evening about Judy McCann-Beranger. I know that many times - I know myself and many members here - always the Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, I know the Premier, pretty much every member - Alzheimer's luncheons, that they have to raise money. There's many fundraisers take place. I know there's a lot of great fundraising. I know that the Murphys, Danny Murphy and his wife Martie Murphy, host a big fundraiser out at

their home that raises a lot of money for research. I'd just like to congratulate all those people that do do the fundraising. I think it's important, and if we can do anything to help the families, to help these people with this terrible disease, I think it's a good thing.

As we've seen, there has been motions before in this House calling for new drugs to be added to the formulary. I know some have been added, and I congratulate the government on that. I think anything that we can do as legislators and as Islanders in terms of fundraising or anything like that to raise more money will be beneficial in the long run.

But I just want to take this opportunity to say that I will be supporting this motion. I think it's something that hopefully some day we will get more answers and we will be able to find some cures. As the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry indicated about genes and things like that, the more research that's being done, the more technological advances we have, hopefully some day we will be able to find a cure for this.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other speakers to the motion?

The hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove.

Dr. McKenna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a privilege to also stand here today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Alzheimer's disease, although I don't have any direct members of my family that suffers from Alzheimer's. When they get older, they may get contrary, but I don't think they ever became Alzheimer's

patients. So I think I'm so far spared. But that doesn't mean I'm going to be spared.

I was just thinking as I was listening to people discussing this issue tonight, although it's primarily a disease over age 65, it's surprising that more and more cases of people in their 50s are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It's really hard, especially for families at that age when there is still some time for them. Younger family members at home or a young spouse that may be living at home with this person. I know it's a pretty devastating disease at any age, but when it starts in the 40s and 50s it's pretty sad. We're seeing more and more of that all the time.

I want to echo the Leader of the Opposition's comments as well for Martie and Danny Murphy. I did attend a couple of their fundraisers out at Gingerwood in Stanhope where they host well over 100 people at a fundraising event. I remember the first year they had it. At that time Martie's father was probably just starting to show some early signs of Alzheimer's, and she spoke that night and it was a pretty emotional night for her. First of all, to acknowledge that her father did have the disease, and secondly to do a public - with people she didn't know all that well. Since that time - that's probably been four or five years ago - they've been very much involved in Alzheimer's, especially for fundraising. I think I would like to give them special mention for that.

Also, each year they do also provide an award, I think it's called the Danny Murphy Leadership Award. I attended a luncheon for that this year, and this year the winner of the award was Dr. Tim Stultz. He's the geriatrician at the province here now, and I guess he's showing outstanding leadership and commitment to promoting excellence in the field of Alzheimer's. I think it's really a very good coup that our province was able

to bring him here because he's got lot of expertise in this area, and certainly able to help a lot of family members and especially patients with the disease. So I just wanted to recognize Dr. Stultz as well and the great work he's doing.

I know there's a lot of accolades made out here for Judy McCann-Beranger. She also developed a book - I think it's called Help for Day. Hope for Tomorrow - which is certainly an excellent book for family members especially who suffer from Alzheimer's. It's also, I think, a bit of a fundraiser for the organization as well. I think it's a well done book that I would probably advise everybody in the House to get a hold of. Because it certainly gives you an understanding what people with Alzheimer's live through and how to deal with it and stuff like that as well.

While I'm on my feet, I just want to recognize probably what our own department is doing as well with - it's actually the local association. They've been recognized for a lot of work they've been doing here with people with Alzheimer's disease. I remember the member from Summerside indicated all the people on the board and they do a lot of yeoman service. Most people on the board are probably people who have family members with Alzheimer's, whether its mothers, fathers or spouses, and they put a lot of time into the organization.

So I really want to just first of all say that it's a disease that's probably going to become more and more prevalent as we see - I think the numbers indicate it may be triple in 30 years' time. That's a pretty astounding number with the bulge of the population getting a little bit older. Right now we have a great unit at Beach Grove called the Meadow Unit where most of them are probably housed in a lot of cases when they go to an institution, but I'm not sure what

we're going to do in 30 years' time if there's going to be that many more out there. It's certainly going to be a concern that we as policy makers have to really look at. Because it's quite a strain on the families to have these people at home with them for an extended period as well.

So I just wanted to say I certainly appreciate the work that is done on this disease. I know in my own practice I see patients coming in with Alzheimer's on a fairly regular basis. My goodness, looking at them you can't tell. They look as good as you or I do. You talk to them, they can carry on a conversation, and you probably go out the door and they wouldn't remember they saw you. It's pretty devastating, and it's just amazing what they have to live with all the time.

Basically I just want to say it's a great motion and I just hope that all the members will support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to speak just for a few minutes just to share my thoughts in support for this resolution brought forward by the minister of education.

It's hard to believe that it's the 100th anniversary of the identification of this disease. I think from everyone that spoke tonight, everyone has a personal experience - friend, family member, someone that they know that has experienced this or gone through, or they themselves have gone through, dealing with a family member or friend that has the disease. It's really sad, and how so many spoke, age has no

limitation with it. There are so many that we're hearing in their early 50s that have the onset of the diagnosis of this disease, and the stress that it is putting on their spouse, family members. In terms of: Okay, we see the beginnings of it, they have been diagnosed, but the long term impact and what they are in for in terms of their loved one, in terms of: Will they know me in five years, ten years, or maybe shorter periods of time than that?

There is a friend of mine that I work with whose parents - one who is presently at Beach Grove Home who has Alzheimer's. She shares with me the stories of her and what she has to go through, and her sisters and brothers. Her parent just doesn't recognize them and she's been suffering with the disease for many years. But it's funny how the brain works. When we talk about neurology and the study of the brain, it's just hard to believe how some people diagnosed with Alzheimer's can go back into their childhood to think that they are ten years old, two years old, and then act like that. That's just the phenomenon of the disease and how the brain has changed. Certainly I think there are wonderful people working for the benefit of promoting the study of it and certainly looking towards the medical side of things to see what can be - in terms of medicines that could be used.

Take a look at the drugs Aricept, Exelon, those drugs that are now presently part of the provincial drug formulary. Those drugs are helping with the - I guess timing-wise, it's giving people with their family member, with their cognitive abilities. Yet however, this person I was talking about, a friend of mine that I work with, there is a criteria for those individuals to go on those drugs. For example, her parent does not fit the criteria when they were analysed or however tested, so they themselves, the family, have to pay for those drugs out of pocket. But they feel that there is a benefit, they do see some

change, and they have chosen to pay for that drug themselves.

But I think anything that can be done with the new drugs that are coming through Canada and the US as part of ongoing research is certainly welcomed. I think the Alzheimer's Society of Canada - and I know many people spoke about Judy McCann-Beranger tonight and the society here on PEI, the chapter here and across Canada that does so much to get the message out and to assist families. And find, too, the different avenues of support. That's what is so important. Because we can think of the family member, the friend that is suffering from the disease, but at the same time we have to be very vigilant in the family members that have to be dealing with it. This can lead to stress and many other health concerns. I think the support systems that are out there here in our communities are very important.

But I'm not going to speak too long here tonight. I just wanted to stand and support the resolution, and I think it's important to recognize this. Hopefully we will see a cure for this because it seems that every day there are scientific findings. But there are cures being found for different things. I know we were just talking a little earlier, the member from West Royalty, we were talking about Parkinson's disease and the findings on that disease.

So I think there is progression being made for Alzheimer's, and let's hope it just continues and hopefully one day there will be a cure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Along with the other members, I would like to rise briefly and just add a few thoughts in support of this very important resolution as well. In working with my capacity with the volunteer members of the Alzheimer's society, it certainly is encouraging that we have made, of course through the efforts of researchers and then through their advocacy, some very small gains for the families of and the supporters of the patients suffering from this debilitating disease.

It has been noted by most of the speakers, that there are some medications there that at particular periods of the disease's progression are helpful. We all know that families certainly gravitate to that and hope that the assessments would indicate that this particular medication will be helpful for at least a period of time. As we well know, in the research now they are getting closer. The disease is still very elusive. They have been able to identify the gene that the disease, it can be found, but of course what to be able to do from there is still a quantum leap. It's going to be sometime, no doubt, before we're able to progress to find out why and then, of course, more importantly, is there a solution?

So the medications that are there, the government certainly has been forthright with the patient, families and such as to able to try to be able to provide those that will be helpful to the patients. Everybody seems to have an individual or family that they can identify with in one way or another that has been a sufferer of this disease. I am no different. As a teacher, a fairly young teacher, I got to know the MacKay family, and the hon. Leader of the Opposition - I know that other speakers would have mentioned the MacKays as well, Mrs. Mackay of course, the Alzheimer's sufferer.

I can remember her coming to parent and

teacher interviews. I was very fortunate to teach a number of their family, and she was a beautiful person in every sense of the word. She supported, obviously, her husband in business and all of the family, her children, and I got to know her quite well. It was great because she showed up at all the school activities and was a tremendous supporter. To think that it could happen to her, that it could happen to us. This is the fact that through no fault of our own we seem to be struck down by this disease. So it is very unfortunate, and the families that have to go through this, they need our support as well.

In passing, I, too, want to mention the name of Judy McCann-Beranger, because the book that she and the other volunteers penned has become really a textbook on care of the patient and how the family and the friends can offer the support around that family. It's been very important and I have worked with and been proud to be able to support Judy, and she has been a very staunch, of course, advocate. We in government here, in fact all of the Legislature, certainly did listen to her and listened to the wonderful advice that she provided. As I said, some of the medications that they were advocating for are now available and they are bringing some relief.

So in closing, I think that as the researchers continue in the laboratories to find the solutions and the medications that are going to provide a little bit more relief, that they need to know that the governments, including ours, are supportive of and cognizant of the need to reach out and to be able to help these members of society.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Fortune Bay.

Ms. Crane: Thank you.

I, too, would like to rise and talk a few minutes on this particular motion. We're lucky in our family, we have no people that suffered directly from Alzheimer's, but I do have a sister of mine that actually works in a nursing home out in Saskatchewan with an Alzheimer's unit. I also have a good friend of mine, a lady by the name of Estelle Squires who is from our district, who actually works as a RCW worker in one of our provincial homes. I think, like all the other people mentioned, we really need to pay great tribute to the support staff and also caregivers.

There is also a young man from the district who suffers from the condition that's called frontal lobe degeneration. Unfortunately this person is only in their mid-50s and he has recently been moved to a nursing home, which is kind of sad. People have been talking all night about research that has been done in the area of Alzheimer's. I actually at supertime was out at Garden Nursing Home visiting with my mother, Margaret Crane.

So I don't know if people already gave a tribute to our PEI alliance on bio-resources and the good work that they're doing at NRC here in the province and also at the University of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Michael Mayne and Dr. (Indistinct) have both made great contributions so far using some of our land- or marine-based resources, especially in the area of Omega 3 Paks to take a look how they can actually offer protection to Alzheimer patients.

So I think as we're talking about the work that needs to be done, it's also nice that PEI is working towards some solutions. With that I'll sit down.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Any other speakers to the motion?

The hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General to close the debate.

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to say thank you to my colleagues here in the House for supporting such an important resolution. It's certainly one - as we've obviously been listening this evening and hearing the other speakers recite personal episodes related to Alzheimer's, and the devastation, not only for the patient, but for the family members. I know that in my case it was particularly difficult and it obviously is particularly difficult for anybody who has to watch their loved one go through this.

So I do want to extend my appreciation to the members of the House who supported the resolution and who recognized the work of the Alzheimer's society. I have to tell my hon. colleague who referred to a comment made by a priest at a funeral for an Alzheimer's patient, I found the statement "reunited with her own identity," very peaceful and very comforting. To think that each of our loved ones was reunited with their identity - a very comforting thought.

So I do want to thank you for bringing that to our attention and, Mr. Speaker, with that I close the debate.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour (Indistinct), say 'yea.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: Contrary, 'nay.'

The motion has passed unanimously.

An Hon. Member: I'll call the hour.

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

[There was a commotion in the gallery]

Speaker: Sergeant-at-Arms?

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, that this House adjourn and stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

