

HANSARD



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Speaker: Hon. Greg Deighan

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The Legislature sat at 10:00 a.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

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

Premier Binns: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to see the gallery full this morning. I want to welcome all of our visitors.

I notice a couple of gentlemen from District 23 Cascumpec-Grand River, good friends of the Conservative party, Mr. Arthur Hudson and Trevor Ramsay. Great to have them here with us this morning.

I want to particularly welcome all of the students. Many who are here are involved with the Rotary Youth Parliament. They will be debating a lot of important resolutions today and tomorrow. We hope they enjoy their time.

I compliment the Rotary clubs across PEI who make this event happen year after year. It gives the young people great exposure to the parliamentary system, how laws are made and produced, and we look forward to the results of their deliberations.

I want to recognize the grade 11 and grade 12 economics and Island history classes from Kinkora Regional High School. Good to have those students with us today, along with their teachers Kent England and Darrell Desroches. Our government's pleased to make major capital investments at the Kinkora High School in recent years. You know, it's a lovely facility there.

I understand we'll have the Gulf Shore kindergarten class visiting with us this morning as well. We want to invite those

young people, future leaders of our province.

In addition, we have the Morell High grade 12 history class, and teacher Ian Coffin. I know that probably at least one of those students is involved with youth parliament, Mr. Randy Byrne. I believe they're also accompanied by Lydia Affleck, the daughter of the hon. Member for the District 2 Morell-Fortune Bay. Pleased to have them here as well today.

Finally, Friday has become the day which we take a little time to recognize and support our troops. I know that Canada's lost two more soldiers in recent days, Chief Warrant Officer Robert Girouard and Corporal Albert Storm. On behalf of members assembled I hope that we'd all join in recognizing the contribution they've made. Our sympathies go out to their families. We thank all of our troops for the great job they are doing for us in Afghanistan.

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 welcome everyone to the gallery today. I know today is Rotary Youth Parliament. I'm sure you'll be participating, Mr. Speaker, and you'll do a great job of keeping everything under control. It will probably be even more under control than what happens in here most days.

I'd also like to welcome the grade 11 and 12 economics and Island history classes from Kinkora Regional High School and their teachers, Kent England and Darrell

Desroches, as well as Gulf Shore kindergarten that I'm sure I'm looking at right now. Great to see you here. Hope you enjoy the proceedings today. Their teacher is Eleanor Gallant.

As you can see, I am flying a little bit solo today, but I said I'd be the one to stay behind and help hold this government accountable. The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square is at the leadership convention, one of Stéphane Dion's main supporters up there. The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove is gone to the convention, and she's one of Bob Rae's main supporters. They'll probably be on the floor of the convention today trying to win over lots of delegates.

On a final note, I'd like to also mention that tomorrow, Saturday, December 2nd, is the hon. Member from North River-Rice Point's 21st anniversary here in the Legislature, consecutive years. The longest standing member in the Legislature. The dean of the Legislature. We know he's home recuperating. I'm sure like all members of this House and all Islanders we hope to see him back here as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. McCardle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure to welcome the grade 12 class from Kinkora Regional High School with their teachers Mr. Desroches and Mr. England. I hope you have an interesting and an informative day. Glad to see you here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Crane: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome our guests here today as well. It's so great to see the kindergarten kids as well as the students from Kinkora and also Morell High, Ian Coffin and my lovely daughter, Lydia.

I'd like to remind the students from Morell high that we actually have three members in the legislature who are alumni from Morell High. So in Morell we tend to take our politics pretty seriously. Anyway, welcome.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Park Corner-Oyster Bed.

Ms. MacKenzie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to welcome those in the gallery. I was able to pick out daughter Lydia by how red she got in the face as I greet her here as well, and all the students who are visiting. I hope you enjoy the morning's proceedings and learn a little bit about what goes on here in our Legislature. I hope the students who partake in the parliamentary proceedings this afternoon get along well.

I'd like to remind viewers who are tuning in today or listening over the Internet that today is Red Friday. Support the troops. To support the troops you can wear any clothing that is in red.

I'd also would like to mention that this week NATO countries have committed more troops for Afghanistan. This is a very welcome piece of news. It will certainly alleviate some of the pressure on those soldiers who are serving in Afghanistan.

Also, I would like to send my sympathies out to the families who lost their sons this week.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, as minister of education it gives me great pleasure to look up into the gallery and see young bright students looking down and seeing what they can learn from this August group down here.

I certainly hope that they are, and I'm sure they are, aware of the significance of this Chamber. This is the second-oldest legislative chamber across Canada. It's quite an honour for all of us sit here and see our students anticipating the days when they might well come here into the Legislative Assembly and take their place as legislators across the province.

I certainly recognize the hard work and planning that goes into arranging the busing and arranging the scheduling. I certainly also want to recognize the teachers who were able to bring their students, both the very young and the senior high school students, to this Chamber.

So welcome to the Chamber. I hope you enjoy your morning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Collins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I too would like to welcome the very young

and the youth of Prince Edward Island to the public gallery today. I'd particularly like to recognize the presence in the public gallery of a District 15 constituent, Mr. Blake Doyle. It's good to see him here today as well.

I'd certainly want to wish the Rotary parliamentarians a wonderful weekend here at Province House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I'd like to join with the other Members in welcoming everyone to the House today. It's certainly good to see the students here.

My first visit to the Legislative Assembly was as a student. I'm sure some time in the future one of you or many of you might be taking your seats as leaders in the provincial Assembly. I'm sure today may whet your appetite for that.

I also too want to commend the people involved in the Rotary Youth Parliament that we know is taking place today, the many young people. I know Luke Poirier from my own district is here. Luke served as a Page here last year. So we're very delighted to see all of the people involved in that.

This is a big weekend for politics in Canada. As already mentioned, there's a leadership convention taking place in Montreal. There's also a leadership vote taking place in Alberta where Conservatives are going to choose a replacement for Ralph Klein. There are three people that are vying for that. That will be decided tomorrow as well.

Just on a note of leadership conventions, I attended my first leadership convention

some 31 years ago when Joe Clark was chosen as the leader of the Conservative Party. So, it goes back a ways.

I got three friends in the gallery from District 23. Kent England, the teacher from Kinkora, but he lives in Richmond-Grand River. Delighted to see you here today, Kent. I also have two friends from the Conservative Association, Arthur Hudson and Trevor Ramsay. Arthur represented our party in two provincial elections. We're delighted to see you here today. We do have to acknowledge that Trevor's going through a bit of a slump with his Leafs right now, but they might be able to pull their way out of it. That's the way it goes if you're a Leafs' fan.

A special comment -

Speaker: Hon. member, this is just recognition of guests.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: I think we got the Island covered.

Mr. P. Brown: Yes, but it's my mom's 80th birthday today. She's celebrating her 80th birthday. Many people have wondered. She went through a hip operation this summer, but she's recovering nicely.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I promise I won't be that long. First of all, I'd like to welcome all the students here today. I'd also like to welcome the youth parliament. As a Rotarian in Montague I'm the representative from Montague Rotary

Club that deals with the youth parliament. I'd just like to welcome all the youth parliament students here today. Hope they have a great weekend.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacFadyen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I too want to want to welcome everybody here.

I rise to correct a misquote that was in the paper yesterday in regards to the accommodation levy bill that we introduced. The *Guardian* reported that it applied to four larger municipalities when in fact it applies to all municipalities across the province. What it is is enabling legislation for the municipalities to levy an accommodation tax.

Statements by Members

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

Rotary Youth Parliament

Mr. MacAleer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With the limited time available, I - Mr. Speaker, today, immediately following the regular sitting of the Legislative Assembly, as has already been noted by previous speakers, the 19th annual Rotary Youth Parliament will begin a two-day legislative session. The throne speech will be read by the hon. Barbara Hagerman, the provincial Lieutenant Governor, and the debate will be directed by the speaker from Souris-Elmira, you, Mr. Speaker.

Students assume the roles of Island legislators, including that of the Speaker,

Clerk, Pages, and conduct business within the guidelines of the Canadian parliamentary tradition.

By participating in actual functions, this experience gives Island students the opportunity to learn first-hand how the Legislature operates and to gain insight into issues elected officials deal with on an ongoing basis. It's very interesting. Some of the issues that will be debated include nuclear energy partnerships, fluoride-free water, obesity, tobacco products, and physician shortages.

Students have worked hard to prepare themselves for the Rotary Youth Parliament, and from what I've seen in the past, they come to listen as well as to present their own points of view.

Much of the success of this program must be credited to its sponsors. I'd like to thank everyone involved, including the Rotary Clubs of Charlottetown, and in particular, Mr. Lou Robinson. I believe the gentleman is from Montague. He's a former police officer or currently a police officer. He's been the chairman of the Youth Parliament Committee for some time and the success of this venture must be credited to him. We also have other sponsors including the provincial school boards, the Department of Education and, of course, your office, Mr. Speaker.

In particular, I would like to recognize the youth parliament premier who is Denise Beaton of Charlottetown Rural, and the leader of the opposition, Jocelyn O'Brien, who comes from Montague high.

I encourage everyone to see these youth parliamentarians in action. The proceedings begin in this Chamber at 1:30 today, I understand, and will go until 8:30 tonight, and they will begin again at 9:00 a.m tomorrow and will proceed until noon. It's

an exciting time for these youth and I'm sure that they would appreciate any of the public who would like to drop in and hear them make their presentations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Park Corner-Oyster Bed.

Islander wins Miss Canada Galaxy pageant

Ms. MacKenzie: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

What does a young lady do if she's bright, energetic, and looking for a new challenge? Well, if you are Ashley Murphy, you pack your bags and head for Toronto to represent Prince Edward Island in the Miss Canada Galaxy beauty pageant, and you win.

This isn't a first time for Ashley. In 2004 this third-year University of Prince Edward Island student, without any sponsorship, entered the Miss World Canada pageant and placed in the top 12. This time around Ashley was a bit hesitant to enter but she followed through and registered. On the big night, the pace was hectic and judging seemed to take an eternity. Needless to say, Ashley couldn't believe it when they announced Miss Prince Edward Island was chosen as Miss Canada Galaxy.

With the title comes a scholarship, photo shoot, and an all-expense paid trip to the World Miss Galaxy Pageant in Orlando, Florida, next July.

As Ashley explains, the judges not only look for physical beauty but rate the contestants on intelligence and inner beauty as well.

Ashley is the daughter of St. Clair and Mary

Ellen Murphy of Millvale in my District 18 and the granddaughter of Mary Murphy of Whisperwood Villa.

I congratulate Ashley on winning the Miss Canada Galaxy title and wish her continued success in all her future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Her, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Big Brother Big Sister program

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

Today I'm going to stand up and promote one of my favourite charitable organizations, and it is a bit of a conflict for me since I happen to be a volunteer myself. But I think it's a great organization and I just want to see if we can get more people involved. That is Big Brothers-Big Sisters.

If you have what it takes to become a part of something big, our volunteers come from all walks of life but have the common goal of wanting to help a child. It's easy to get involved. You don't have to change your life. You just have to make a bit of room for a new friend. Be a Big Brother, Big Sister, and share a little magic. If your time is limited, consider one hour per week through our in-school mentoring program. Share the experience with your spouse and become a Big Couple.

If you're thinking about becoming a Big, consider the benefits children in our program gain: 91% feel better about themselves, 65% have improved self-confidence, 67% have a better sense of right and wrong, 76% show improved school grades, 80% have a better school attendance

record, 82% develop better relationships with their teacher, and 90% get along better with their kids.

So I urge people to get involved, and if you're interested in getting involved you just have to phone 569-KIDS. Again, that's 569-KIDS.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

LEGENDS OF GOLF TICKET SALES

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

My first question today is for the Minister of Tourism. I understand that you and most of the Cabinet had a front row seat for the Legends of Golf event this year. I'm wondering: How much net revenue did the province take in from ticket sales from the Legends of Golf event?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The event was very successful. I don't have the exact number here but I'd be pleased to bring it back next week.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: A new question for the minister. That was an interesting answer considering last week in this House the minister was full of information and statistics from the event when he received a

question from one of his members of the House.

Again, my question relates to the net revenues from the event. When will the minister have this information?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: I think, Mr. Speaker, I just answered that question.

I can bring it back on Tuesday. There were 2,500 spectators on the first day of the event. There were 4,200 spectators the second day of the event. Some of the packages sold were two-day tickets or two-day passes for the event and there were some of those people that were part of corporate sponsorships. So I don't have the absolute net amount of the ticket sales today but I would be very pleased to bring that back, as I already told the hon. member.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

You'd think the minister would have that information on his fingertips considering when an hon. member from his own party asks the question he's got all that information available. But Islanders are tired of the games that this government plays.

The event management agreement that your deputy minister signed clearly states that the profits from the Legends of Golf will be shared between IMG and Tourism PEI. The agreement says, and I quote: IMG agrees that the final accounting will be sent to Tourism PEI no later than the 1st of December of each year. The agreement goes on to say: Upon calculation of net profits, IMG shall promptly pay Tourism PEI 50% of such net profits.

Mr. Minister, what are the net profits for the event? Today's the deadline. How much did IMG write a cheque to you for?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

As I stated earlier, I don't have that agreement with me here today. I will be very pleased to bring it back. But the hon. member makes a good point. This was a very successful partnership between my department, Tourism PEI, as well as IMG, the International Marketing Group, that represents many of the professional athletes, including Mr. Watson and Mr. Nicklaus. The event was very good.

IMG continues to sell the event to networks throughout the world. As I said in question last week, we expect that this event will be broadcast on networks throughout North America and the world. Indeed, Sky Television broadcast it in Europe this fall, and so the revenues continue to roll in. But IMG's a very trustworthy firm and they will be submitting the final documentation. Today is December 1st and I haven't received that yet but I'm sure that it's on the way.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The minister stands up and talks about what an important event this is. He gets one of his members to ask a question in the House so this minister can stand up and gloat about how successful he thinks this event was.

I'm just wondering: If this event was so successful and if he's done such great work with IMG, surely since today is December

1st he must have an idea on whether or not this whole event made any money for the province? Does the minister have any idea whether or not he will be receiving a cheque from IMG or not?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

This event made a lot of money for the province because these events spin off in a lot of ways. Eighty-four percent of the people who came to the event came to Prince Edward Island that particular time of the year for that event alone. That was their motivating cause. Those people stayed in hotel rooms. Those people bought meals at restaurants. They bought souvenirs. They contributed a lot to the Island economy. Of course, we know when every contribution is made to the Island economy, there's a tax revenue recovered.

But as far as the full accounting of the event itself - and I think that's what the hon. member is referring to - I'd be happy to bring that forward. Now today is December 1st and that was the deadline for that being done. It is normal in these things that that becomes the year-end of that particular event. As I've already explained to the House, this is a three-year event so we're beginning today for next year's event as well. So we do the accounting up to December 1st and when that's all done, the statements will be sent to the department.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Golfing with Nicklaus and Watson

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

Seems to be a lot of spin coming from that

minister. I'm going to ask the Premier a question. Perhaps he can shed some light on this event. After all, I understand he had a front row seat.

On June 19th, as part of the charitable program of the event, a number of lucky Canadians paid for the privilege of golfing with Jack Nicklaus. I'm wondering: Did the Premier also golf with Jack Nicklaus?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

On the Pro Am day I had the opportunity of accompanying Mr. Nicklaus and other sponsor participants, and it was a great day. It brought a lot of recognition to Prince Edward Island's golf product. Jack Nicklaus, of course, is probably recognized in the world as the top golfer historically, 'The Golden Bear,' and he brought a lot of credibility to our product. He spoke very highly of our facilities here and, of course, that television product is being aired across North America and the world, bringing even more attention to Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

As I said, a lucky Canadian bid for the opportunity to play with Jack Nicklaus and I understand those proceeds went to charity.

Mr. Premier, I'm wondering: What did you pay for your once in a lifetime opportunity to golf with Jack Nicklaus? That is quite an honour and it must have cost you dearly. I'm wondering if you can inform this House how much you paid to golf with Mr. Nicklaus?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, I was there as the government representative representing the Province of Prince Edward Island, and since we own the golf courses and the facilities and we're the major sponsor of the event, I was there as the government representative.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: That's an awfully nice perk, Mr. Speaker.

I'm wondering, Mr. Premier, I also heard that your chief political operative, Peter McQuaid, was on the golf junket as well. I'm wondering: Did he golf with Jack Nicklaus or Tom Watson?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to check back as to exactly who golfed where. I will bring that information on Tuesday.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much. Was he in your group?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: I don't believe so, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Your golfing with Jack Nicklaus must be quite the honour. You just mentioned how great he was and everything, and he doesn't even remember who was in his group, Mr. Speaker.

I'm wondering, a supplementary question:

Does he know if his political operatives paid for their round of golf?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, the government participants would not have paid for their rounds of golf.

They were there as part of the government sponsorship of the program. Given that our people were involved in promoting the event, in bringing the event to Prince Edward Island, we wanted to be there to make sure that it would come off successfully. As to who golfed where, I can bring that information back. Sometimes I don't remember every detail of every event that takes place, and I think the hon. member would understand that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I've got a new question now for the Premier. One of the great things about the Pro Am was the fact that it was charitably run by the Making the Connections charity. They donated one of their spots to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The Heart and Stroke Foundation then auctioned off that spot for \$17,000, all of which went to their charitable causes. Is it true, Mr. Premier, a spot that you took for free was valued at \$17,000?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

It is true that the main sponsor, that Pfizer, the company that was the main sponsor, contributed a huge corporate sponsorship to this event offered to the Heart and Stroke

Foundation places on the Pro Am teams with Mr. Watson and Mr. Nicklaus. In fact, there were two spots on the teams that were earned by people of the auction. They originally put up one and then there was one also on the Pro Am team for Mr. Watson as well. Those were contributed by the main sponsor, Pfizer International.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Wow. A couple of charitable spots and then the Premier and his buddies, Mr. Speaker.

Quite the deal. The Premier didn't want to seem to answer the questions on that. I'm wondering: Did the Minister of Tourism also play golf with them or just the Premier?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to admit that it was an opportunity of a lifetime. I participated in the Pro Am with Mr. Watson.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much.

I'm going to go back to the Premier then, because I'm asking questions about golfing with Jack Nicklaus. But before I do that, why don't I go to perhaps the Minister of Tourism. Because he has perhaps a better knowledge of remembering that day. I'm wondering. You said you golfed with Mr. Watson. Who else played in your foursome?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: I'd be happy to bring that back. There was a representative from Pfizer. There was a person who competed

for the auction. So if you want me to bring back the names, I know we kept that information. It would be at the office.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Another minister that has a legendary day on a golf course and doesn't remember who was in the foursome. Was Peter McQuaid in your foursome?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Mr. P. Brown: No, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. Nice to know that the Minister of Tourism has a little bit better knowledge of what happened that day than perhaps the Premier did.

Mr. Premier, this raises serious questions why you and one of your ministers would take up a couple of golf spots perhaps valued in the \$34,000 range. After all, the purpose of the event, from one perspective, was to raise money for charity, not to give you and your minister a once in a lifetime opportunity to golf with Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson. With all the worthwhile charities that could have benefited from this event, what made you feel that you were entitled to such extravagance?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, it was not extravagance.

As I say, the province was the lead in terms of bringing this event to Prince Edward Island and for that reason, obviously, we were involved. For clarification, I was

actually a guest of Pfizer in the golf Pro Am and felt that because they had taken this major role in the event and sponsorship that it was probably the right thing to do to attend along with them.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: That's interesting. I hope everybody's paying attention. Earlier the Premier was talking he was golfing because he owned the golf courses, the province owned the golf courses, because they were one of the main sponsors. Now he's talking about now that he's a guest of Pfizer.

I'm wondering. Does the Premier not believe that perhaps he should have said to Pfizer: That's okay, I don't need the spot, I notice you can get \$17,000 for charity, why don't we raise a little bit more money for charity? I don't need that opportunity to golf with Jack Nicklaus.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, obviously, Pfizer brought a lot to this event.

They've invested in it. They would want their partners, being the government, to be involved, and I was asked to participate on that basis. I know he wants to create some sort of political story here. The reality is that this was a great event for Prince Edward Island. We had two of the world's best golfers come to Prince Edward Island to help bring exposure to our golf product. I mean, we have the finest facilities in Eastern Canada, sometimes recognized as the best facilities in Canada. If we don't promote that, other people around the world aren't going to know. As a result of the promotion, we do have people that come to Prince Edward Island to golf our product, to stay in our hotels, to eat in the restaurants, to attend

the theatres, to buy the crafts. So when you have sponsors of an event like that, you pay a little bit of attention to them, give them support. You work with them and that's exactly what we did, and we're proud of it.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Wow. If Pfizer agrees to sponsor the Legends of Golf event, and I guess one of the conditions for them sponsoring the event was that they wanted the Premier to golf with Jack Nicklaus. I guess the Premier must carry quite a bit of weight.

I've got the agreement here between IMG and the province. I'm wondering: Can the minister point me to the page where they wanted to make sure that the Premier was golfing with Jack Nicklaus to get that sponsorship?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

The hon. member would know that that wasn't a part of the agreement. Pfizer put forward that offer at that time. Just in response to the previous question, he asked if Mr. McQuaid was on my team. He wasn't, because every time I golf with Mr. McQuaid I always remember because we're usually in the sand.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Just one more question to the Premier. I'm wondering. Next year the event's coming up. There's going to be some new faces

here, some new legends. If you get the opportunity again to be offered to golf with someone when those spots are going for somewhere around \$17,000, I'm wondering, would you take that opportunity again or would you do the right thing and perhaps put it up for charity or allow someone else to take that position?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Mr. Speaker, I think it is my responsibility to work with these sponsors when they come to Prince Edward Island and help bring recognition to the product we have.

If I can cooperate with them in making Prince Edward Island continue to be a leading destination in terms of golf, then I will work in that regard. I make no apologies for having done that. He's trying to create a political issue here where there really isn't one, but I'm sure he thinks it's good spin. He's now trying to denigrate our golf product, our industry on PEI that we worked so hard to do.

This is a \$70 million industry. It brings a lot of revenue, a lot of attention, to Prince Edward Island. The tourism business in this province, to a large extent, depends on this industry for a good portion of its revenue, and we have no qualms about supporting it. If he wants to try and take it down, Mr. Speaker, that's up to him.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

That's quite a shame that the Premier believes that he has to be there to participate in these events when he could be offering those spots for charity. It's just quite unbelievable, but that's, obviously, a

different of opinion between that side of the House and this side of the House.

Scraping of dirt roads

I've now got a question for the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. I'm wondering: Can she inform me how many times a summer do dirt roads get paved?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I assume if a dirt road got paved, it would get paved once.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Good point, Mr. Speaker.

I meant to say: How many times does a dirt road get scraped?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That would vary depending on the condition of the road.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I've had concerns from people who live close to the Old Town Road who claim that last summer the road was scraped twice at the beginning and then after no one managed to come back. I'm wondering: Would the minister be willing to check into that information and come back and find out

why it was only scraped twice at the beginning of the summer and then neglected for the rest?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After the initial scraping in the spring and the application of calcium to the road, then we try not to scrape it again because what happens is you scrape the calcium off. So we go back and scrape it only if necessary. But I will look into that matter.

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

Employment policy re substitute teachers

Dr. McKenna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's a pleasure to give the Leader of the Opposition a break.

My question is to the minister of education. I got a few phone calls last week regarding our policy on substitute teachers. I have a young aspiring teacher, I guess, who graduated last year from the education program and is getting very few days as a substitute teacher. Can you update the House the policy on hiring substitute teachers?

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

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, and in relation to teachers who took the package, for example, the early retirement package, there's a prohibition on their returning to substitute for five years. Now we did leave the door open a little bit, hon. member. If, for example, the teacher has a certain expertise that is not easily available

when the call goes out early in the morning to find a substitute - for example, if it's a teacher who teaches advanced math and a substitute is needed, let's say, in Souris - then if no one else can be found easily, under what they call kind of a dire need that person who took the package can be called in. But unless it's that kind of a circumstance, teachers who took the retirement package are not supposed to come back into the schools for five years.

Now other teachers who retired, let's say four years ago or whatever, can go back into the school system to teach, but we try and encourage the teachers who took retirement to not do that unless it is, like I say, an exceptional circumstance. Because we do want these younger teachers who have gone through, have paid for their education, who are teachers - some might call them teachers in waiting - but we do want to get them into the classroom because that's where the strength of our future teachers will come.

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

Dr. McKenna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now what can I tell this young student or young teacher? Because she got two days in this year and the school she goes to, she says some teachers are there three times a week who are retired. Does she have to go visit the principal? What do you suggest she would do to get on the list to be called more frequently?

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

Ms. Dover: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This seems to be more of a problem in this regard in the Eastern School District, I have to say. We haven't gotten any complaints from the western or the French school

boards. We've spoken to both the superintendent, and I know the superintendent has spoken to the principals in the schools, to make sure that teachers who took the package are not brought back in unless they have a specific expertise.

But in regard to the young lady that you're talking about, she should be sure that she has her resume in. It might be useful for her to go to the principals and talk to them about her special qualifications, and make sure that when the call comes in the morning that she is available. Because obviously they're going to go back to someone who is available upon the call. So those would be the kinds of things that I would urge the young lady to keep in mind.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Clark Mill bridge

Mr. McCardle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question this morning is for the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. The Clark Mill bridge over the Wilmot River on the MacMurdo Road has been closed to all but passenger vehicles for this past year. This bridge is in the very heart of the potato growing districts of 19 and 20 and is of major importance to farmers and commercial truckers alike. Can the minister update the House on a replacement structure for this very important transportation link?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am happy to report that we will be replacing yet another bridge structure. These structures are very expensive to replace, and I guess we only realize their full value to our highway system when a bridge fails and the

road has to be closed. So the design for the Clark Mill bridge is currently being worked on over this winter and we expect the replacement work to start in the spring of 2007. The work will take approximately four to five months to complete.

I want to thank the public in that area, the travelling public, for their patience. I know it's been inconvenient but I'm sure that the modern new structure will be well worth the wait.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Youth addiction treatment

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

My next question is for the minister of health. I've had the opportunity recently to attend some meetings with some parents who are very concerned in this province about youth addictions. I'm wondering: Can you go through the process on exactly where a child who does have an addiction, what the process is to get that child treatment, where the facility is on Prince Edward Island for them?

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

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The issue which the hon. leader is referring to is a serious one and the government is certainly taking it seriously. In recent years, as you are probably very well aware, youth substance abuse as opposed to addictions - not all of the individuals are addicted at this early age - but there is a substance abuse issue which the parents often will bring to the attention of either school authorities or to the government.

The solutions are not readily found. We do have individuals throughout the province who will work with our addiction support program, i.e., the government officials who are trained in this substance abuse and who offer counselling. Some of the schools do have programs, and teachers and guidance staff work with those individuals. But over and above that, this problem is getting more widespread rather than disappearing and the government, along with interested parents' groups, are now taking a look at a more long-term better solution.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

This is a very serious issue. Substance abuse and youth addictions are becoming much more common today. I believe, as government, we should be moving in a direction to help out these families and to help out these youth. I'm wondering: Right now, a youth who does have a substance abuse program or an addiction program, is there a facility in Prince Edward Island for them to go to?

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

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, there is a facility, and I believe that most individuals in the province who are suffering from this at some time or another have contact with, and maybe entrance, into the Mount Herbert Addictions Centre.

That is the provincial centre treating addictions: alcoholics, gamblers - we've talked about that - and also those who are suffering from drug abuse, not only the youth but more particularly, that treatment centre is aimed at helping adults. There is the crux of the situation. There are a couple

of beds, depending upon the population at any particular time, which the youth could go for a limited number of days and receive some help, but really what we are looking at now is to have a separate facility to be able to address the needs.

Presently, if an individual, a youth that is, is of the extreme case where they do need emergency-type help and they do need it now, individuals have been sent to New Brunswick. There is an establishment there, a treatment centre there, that we can have access. It is of long term. It is also at the voluntary admission state, meaning that only those individuals who want to go to be treated do go. It can last anywhere from one to three months.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I find it quite unfortunate that here on Prince Edward Island our youth really don't have their own facility to go to. As the minister mentioned, they can go to Mount Herbert. There's a couple of beds there, but that's a facility with adults as well. As we all know, when you're looking for treatment along those lines, it's not good to mix the adults and the youth together.

I've met with many parents, especially in the east Prince sort of area of the province, who are very concerned about this. They mention there that the youth custody facility in Summerside is not being utilized to its full extent and some are hoping - and I believe it would be a great move on government's part if they turned part of that facility into a youth addictions' centre. I'm wondering: Can the minister tell us whether or not he thinks that would be a good idea?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health,

Social Services and Seniors.

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, in my previous responses I have indicated that it is a relatively recent idea in the last 10 years, and we do want to take our time to be sure that we're making the very best possible use of funding opportunities, of existing facilities.

We are very pleased with the programming that was offered out of province but it doesn't apply readily to everybody, and these families would prefer to have their youth closer to home, i.e., in the province.

We have looked at the program need first of all. That led us then to examine the possible facility options here in the province. The Summerside correctional area institution there is one of those which we have looked at. The quick difficulty is that as a centre that would, again, have to be shared. There are both advantages and disadvantages. But it is one of the areas that we have looked at, one of the facilities, along with a number of other areas. We want to do the very best thing for these individuals.

While I am responding at this time, I would also mention the fact - and the Leader may not agree with this point - but with the law presently as it is, this has to be voluntary. We're cognizant of that, that it is a voluntary entry into a facility no matter where it is located in this province or elsewhere. If the individual did not want to stay, then there is no law that can force that individual. So we're looking at that as well.

We are definitely wanting to work with the parents. We definitely do need a type of facility which we do not have now and that is the area which we are pursuing.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The minister mentions that this has been a relatively new problem over the last 10 years. I disagree with that as well. I think youth addictions have been around for quite awhile now. Whether or not we're talking one month, one year or 10 years, every day longer that we wait to help get these kids treatment is being more detrimental on their lives and on the lives of their families and on society in general.

I'm wondering: Does the minister have any time lines on when his government is willing to move on this? I urge him to move as quickly as possible.

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

Mr. Gillan: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we do have a time line.

We now have a strategy. We have listened to, I'm sure, the very same people, the youth group, parent group, that the Leader of the Opposition has heard from. We have been listening to and working with those individuals. We are now at the policy stage. We will be pursuing for sure. It's not something that we are going to say: We will sit on it for awhile to see whether there is a deepening need or a worsening need. We know that the need is there. We are going to work on it. It's now at the point of where best should it be located, what it will look like, who it will serve. All of those details we are now looking at, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much.

One quick question just back to the minister

here. This is an important issue. I know you said you have a time line and you have a strategy. If you do that, you should be able to tell this House: Are we looking at one month before a facility opens, are we looking at six months, or are we looking at a longer period of time?

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

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, we would be in a position to fairly early in the new year indicate to these individuals exactly where we are looking for a facility to be located, what the type of programming would be offered, and then it will be a matter of, I'm sure, only months before we are actually able to do the necessary physical renovations and/or adjustments to a facility to get it ready for occupancy.

So this is not something that we are wanting to sit on. As I said, early in the new year information now will be able to be shared with those individuals. The policy is pretty well firmed up.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Special warrant re credit losses

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

I urge from this side of the House the minister to move as quickly as possible, because I've had the same meetings and I know this is a very pressing issue here in Prince Edward Island.

But I've now got a question for the minister of development. In early November a special warrant was passed by Cabinet for \$2.3 million. It's to cover, and I quote: provisions for possible credit losses. Will the minister please explain why you need

\$2.3 million for possible credit losses?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, it's an accounting principle that we have to apply on loans that we have out, and it's money that we set aside for possible losses in the future.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I find this particular special warrant puzzling. On the one hand it talks about possible credit losses, yet on the other hand, it also covers the last fiscal year. So will the minister please explain why \$2.3 million was put aside from last year's budget to cover possible credit losses?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, it's a standard procedure that you have to apply when you lend money, that you have to set aside a certain amount of money for possible losses, and it's just an accounting principle that we apply when you lend money.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Is it standard to always put it out through special warrant or isn't it always included in the budget for these losses?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, as the hon.

member should be aware, anything over a million dollars that's put out in this case when it goes through Executive Council is posted.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I realize that, but a special warrant is something that happens outside the budget. I'm wondering why these provisional losses aren't included in the budget.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, in this case, it's the amount of money that we have owed and we have to apply it and we do it every year.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

So last year, did you loan out extra money that was not included in the budget and that's why you had to issue the special warrant?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, it's the size of a portfolio, and you have to account a certain percentage of that for possible losses, and that's what we apply.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: So are you telling this House that in the budget you don't provide any special provisions for losses? You wait till the next year and do it all through special warrants?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, we do have a line in our budget estimates for provision for losses, but as our account grows or decreases from year to year, it's applied accordingly.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. I understand that. So you would have a certain amount in the budget for loans and then you would have a certain amount for provisional losses. You would think that they would match up. I'm wondering: Does that mean that last year you in fact put out more loans than you were anticipating on putting out?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: I believe the hon. member is starting to understand, Mr. Speaker, and that's exactly what we have done. Certainly I think by the look of our economy and the way jobs are created on this province and our faith in the private sector, it shows.

Some Hon. Members: Her, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I wish the minister just had have said that at the beginning. We could have saved a little bit of time here. But I'm wondering: Can the minister please tell us which extra loans that you gave out last year were not included in your budget?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of

Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, we lend a lot of money to the private sector across PEI.

I think you can see that this government has engaged the private sector over the last number of years and we've been very aggressive on rebate programs, certainly to make them competitive and to compete across the world. I think it shows in the amount of jobs that were created on PEI and, certainly, I think we're very proud of what the private sector has done and very proud to support them.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I guess he didn't hear my question. I'm wondering: Can he bring back a copy of the extra loans that you obviously loaned out last year on why you need these provisional losses now?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, I'll probably bring back the sectors. I don't think I'll be specific in what companies we're loaning money to.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Can you bring back how much in additional loans you put out next Tuesday in the House?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, yes, I'll bring that back.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Cornwall bypass

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

I'm going to go back now to the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. Way, way back in the late 1990s the former minister of transportation said a bypass around the community of Cornwall was a major priority of this government, yet the project has stalled. For several years now this government has blamed Ottawa for its inability to move forward on the bypass. Now there seems to be a change in Ottawa with a new government. I'm wondering: Are you ready now to start construction on the Cornwall bypass?

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

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wasn't around in the late 1990s when the former minister was there and I wasn't privy to the conversation that was had between the minister and the federal minister at the time. But I do understand that the federal minister at the time had made a commitment to the Cornwall bypass which was never followed through on.

Since that time we have focused on upgrading route 2 and we have focused on trying to get route 2 to become part of the national highway system, which we were successful in doing. Any of the travelling public who travels route 2 would know that there has been some very major upgrades happening and we hope to continue that.

We have made our case to Ottawa for additional funding that does include the Cornwall bypass but, first and foremost, our

top priority is route 2 and secondly is the Cornwall bypass.

Speaker: Final question.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Seniors' emergency home repair program (further)

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

I'm not sure who to go to now. I think I'll go back to the minister of health because I've got an important question for you. We were having this debate last week and it was over the seniors' emergency home repair program, the one that during the last election your government had promised to double, and then for some reason shortly after the election, a year or so after the election, you cancelled it.

I'm wondering: When can we expect to see that program reinstated? Will it be reinstated in the next budget?

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

Mr. Gillan: Mr. Speaker, again reverting back to the previous conversations - and we did have a number of them on this very worthwhile and practical program - we on the government side of the House are as anxious to be able to reinstate that program as is the opposition.

Obviously - and I know that the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows this - there is a procedure to go through and it's called Budget Cabinet. I certainly, on behalf of my Department of Social Services and Seniors, will be putting forth that as an initiative and it is hopeful that we will be able to reinstate it.

Speaker: End of Question Period.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: Beginning with the hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to recognize the great insight of the leadership of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and its decision to finally restore the local supper hour news broadcast to one hour.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier Binns: Like many Islanders, I fought to have *Canada Now's* contraction of the program restored under the previous Liberal government, and unfortunately that did not happen. But the decision marks an abrupt turnaround in the reduction in CBC's local television news broadcast, particularly in 2000 when Islanders from one end of the province to the other banded together to protest cuts by the previous Liberal government.

So I congratulate the new government, the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and his ministers for their foresight in recognizing the importance of local programming.

I want to wish all our friends here at CBC Prince Edward Island all the best as they begin to put together this one hour show for the new year.

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 too want to say that it's great to have CBC back to one hour coverage, but I have to take offence by the Premier's remarks. He should know that the CBC is a nationally run Crown corporation that is separate from political ties involved in government. So for this Premier to stand up and start making political accusations like that just shows the extent to which this Premier goes with political involvement, and it's probably why he's going to have on the history of his record the largest human rights cases in the history of this province at 759. Because he can't separate government from politics, and it's shameful, Mr. Premier.

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

Mr. Gillan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today is World AIDS Day. Each year this day draws worldwide attention to AIDS issues. In the weeks leading up to December 1st, awareness activities take place in almost all countries around the world with mass participation.

World AIDS Day has achieved such a level of recognition worldwide that it is set to remain a primary vehicle for reinforcing AIDS awareness at the national and international levels.

HIV/AIDS impacts the globe with an estimated 40 million people living with AIDS or HIV worldwide. This global epidemic requires a worldwide effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS has designated an independent organization, World AIDS Campaign, to oversee and unite global efforts for World AIDS Day through a worldwide campaign and theme on December 1st of each year. This year's theme is: Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.

World AIDS Day 2006 provides an opportunity to fight against HIV/AIDS and highlight continued efforts in the delivery of HIV prevention programs, services and care.

In recognition that the fight against HIV/AIDS will be won by scientific research and effective prevention, people are encouraged to keep the promise and ensure they are informed and educated about the risks of HIV.

It is my pleasure to welcome members of AIDS PEI to the gallery of the House today. I would also like to recognize the work of staff and volunteers at AIDS PEI who are committed to supporting and improving the health and well-being of persons living with HIV and AIDS in this province. I commend this group on their tireless efforts to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS, to educate the public, and to provide a supportive environment for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

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.

It's my pleasure to rise today and recognize World AIDS Day as well. I want to recognize all the volunteers in this province who go out and promote awareness of AIDS and how you contract AIDS and the things you can do. Especially the organizers - this year I had the opportunity to attend the opening of the AIDS Walk here in Charlottetown, and for all those organizers that go out and help raise awareness, I want to congratulate them.

I believe there is more we can do as a

province. I know there are some movements towards a full needle exchange program, but I believe we need that more involved directly with the AIDS office here in Charlottetown, not so much just out at the hospital. Because a lot of it has to do with counselling. Once you get someone in the door and you can start to talk to them you can start to help them out, and that's what we need. I also believe we need some more core funding for our AIDS organizations here on Prince Edward Island so that they're able to go out and spread more awareness to all Islanders on this terrible disease.

But I really wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for all the great work that they do in awareness in organizing the annual AIDS Walk.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacFadyen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased this morning to announce that government has adopted an Ethical Behaviour in Sport Policy and Reference Manual for Prince Edward Island. I will table the policy manual during Tabling of Documents.

It is very important that participation in sports is offered to our youth and others in an environment that encourages productivity, is free from harassment and where the dignity of each person is respected. This policy and reference manual will help sports organizations, and leaders and administrators in the sports community, create and adopt thoughtful, pro-active strategies which will prevent injury and define expectations for acceptable conduct.

I want to acknowledge Mr. Ray Malone for his tireless efforts which led to the publication of this document. Ray is to be commended for his dedication to this project and to addressing the challenges dealing with abuse and harassment in sport.

Ray was assisted by a number of people and I want to extend thanks to them as well. They include: staff of the Sport and Recreation Division within my department; staff from Sport PEI; Ken Bagnall of Canadian Sports Centre Atlantic; Rob Newson, Hockey P.E.I.; Linus Kelly, facilitator with the Speak Out Program; Greg Howard of the PEI Human Rights Commission; Michelle Dorsey and Frank Gillan from Human Resources Associates; Rona Brown, Prevention of Family Violence; and Rebecca Doiron, Head Pediatric Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The issue of harassment and abuse in sport has been around for a long time. This document offers a common sense approach to issues of safety and risk reduction and outlines strategies that can be adopted by sports organizations so that all children and all participants can participate in sporting activities in a safe environment.

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, too, would like to recognize Mr. Malone and all the people who worked on this document. I think the more we can do in our society to get rid of harassment anywhere, but working especially with sports with our young people - and to think that harassment

and abuse is taking part in sports and what we can do to help prevent it and eliminate it - I think it will help our society in the long run. Because it's been proven that the more kids get involved in sports, the more they're interactive, the more they learn the team approach, the better off they will be in the long run, and we don't want to do anything to discourage them from that.

So I believe that anything we can do to eliminate harassment and abuse in sports is a good thing and I congratulate the committee on the report.

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 rise today to inform the House that Sunday, December 3rd, is the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This day began in 1982 to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities exists to remind us of a simple truth, that people with disabilities are important and equal members of our community. In Prince Edward Island, people with a disability form a significant portion of the population, 14% of the population or approximately 19,000 people.

I recently met with the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Disability Issues and their message was clear. We need to continue to welcome, include and accept people with disabilities actively into Prince Edward Island society.

Individuals with disabilities demonstrate great strength and courage as they seek to become self-dependent. In doing so they are assisted by family and friends, by their neighbours, their community and their government. Including people is the responsibility of all of us, and it is an active process. It means reaching out and doing the extra needed to make someone welcome and involved.

In this year's budget, the Department of Social Services and Seniors has been allocated an \$850,000 increase in the level of funding to community organizations which provide residential and/or vocational programming to adults with intellectual disabilities.

A number of new housing initiatives for person with intellectual disabilities have been proposed by the community and announcements will take place in the near future.

The Department of Social Services and Seniors continues to work with the community organizations to plan for the future. Of particular concern to government and other partners is our aging population, and with that aging parents and caregivers.

In closing, I want to acknowledge that there still remain very real challenges for persons with a disability and their families in our Island communities. I commend the work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee over the past two years and I look forward to continuing to work together with community to provide meaningful support to persons with disabilities.

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, too, would like to recognize December 3rd as persons with disabilities day. I think it's important that we do what we can to help out persons with disabilities. But I think we also have to realize, too, that there's a lot of the time when there are people with disabilities that we can't see those disabilities either and we have to make sure that we're there doing everything we can for all people with disabilities.

I'm glad here in Canada we have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protects minorities, that protects and makes sure that each and every Canadian is treated equally. Regardless whether or not you have a disability or you don't have a disability, you're still viewed the same in society. I think it's up to government to make sure that we do our best to make sure that we treat everyone fairly and everybody has the same opportunity in life. So I encourage government to continue this funding and perhaps increase it, but I was glad to see the additional dollars in the budget.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Binns: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I stand today to provide an important update on a significant development in the ongoing struggle which we have in achieving fairness for Islanders through the repair of the fiscal imbalance.

As hon. members are well aware, addressing fiscal imbalance has been a long-standing challenge for this and other provincial governments across the country. Drastic cuts

to federal transfers for health and education in the mid-1990s by the federal Liberals caused considerable financial challenges for provincial governments as we struggled to maintain important services in the areas of health and education in the face of that reduced funding.

So this did lead to a situation where the federal government would amass major surpluses year after year while the provinces, which delivered the bulk of public services, would wrestle with mounting fiscal pressures. For years the province tried in vain to get the federal government of the day to recognize that fiscal imbalance existed and that that fiscal imbalance created a very unfair situation.

Prime ministers came and prime ministers went. It didn't seem to matter who was in the PMO, the same inflexibility remained. But after a change in government in Ottawa there has certainly been a new attitude adapted towards fiscal imbalance. Ottawa has engaged the provinces now in looking at ways to redress the fiscal imbalance for the benefit of Canadians.

We've seen this week yet another milestone achieved. I want to congratulate the Liberal Party of Canada at their leadership convention, having placed a resolution finally recognizing that a fiscal imbalance actually exists in Canada, of course, following the leadership of the federal Conservative Party.

Yes, after years of arguing to the contrary, after years of deny, deny, deny, the federal Liberal Party has seen the light and recognized the reality of the fiscal imbalance. While long overdue, this conversion on the road to Montreal is certainly welcome. As we know from experience locally, Liberal Party conventions can sometimes produce surprising results, and this matter is a good

example.

With this new policy direction I trust that we can finally look forward to receiving support from our Island MPs to collectively meet the challenge of the fiscal imbalance after years of denial and roadblocks. I would also hope that this new approach would lead to a new spirit of cooperation in this Chamber as well on the issue of fiscal imbalance.

I know in the past there's been spirited debate in this House over the issue of fiscal imbalance, but with this new policy I would of course expect that the opposition would reconsider their position on the issue and apply the same vigour to helping resolve the fiscal imbalance that they used to deny even existed.

With tongue in cheek, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Liberal Party of Canada for adopting this new enlightened approach to this important issue facing Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I must admit that was one of the more interesting comments ever made by the Premier in this House.

It just goes to prove my theory that I'm not sure which planet he's from. I heard the Premier talk about fiscal imbalance, I heard him talk about engaging the provinces. I don't know how many first ministers' meetings that I watched our Premier on television with Paul Martin, and health conferences, at equalization conferences, I don't know how much he praised up the fact that there was going to be the equalization committee going out to look at these things.

I'll be the first one to admit: I want to see more dollars come to Prince Edward Island. I want to make sure we get our fair share in this country. But if the Premier is so bent on depending on his friend, Stephen Harper, the only thing that I'm concerned about are the wealthy are getting wealthier and those vulnerable in our society being left behind.

You just have to look at what we've seen recently. Cuts to the Status of Women, cuts to the Court Challenges Program. For people that don't know what that is, that is a program that helps minorities in our society challenge laws put forth by government so that they can take them to the courts of Canada to protect their own rights. A national childcare program that took I don't know how long - too long - to implement, but yet it was cancelled.

When I think of dropping the ball, I think back to three or four years ago when we saw side deals being done in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, being done everywhere in Canada except for right here in Prince Edward Island. Because we had a premier at the time that was more concerned with playing partisan politics, like we've seen today with two of his ministerial statements, instead of fighting for what's best for Prince Edward Island.

I believe we need a government in this province that's going to put partisan politics aside and start standing up with what's best for all Islanders.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Currie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the holiday season approaches, I am pleased to present you with a copy of the *Host* booklet, a new guide to responsible

entertaining. As both a retailer and a regulatory body, the PEI Liquor Commission developed this initiative to provide individuals with tips about responsible hosting.

If you are hosting an event and/or a party during the holiday season, I encourage you to pick up a copy of this guide to use as a resource tool. It covers a variety of topics including party planning, stocking your bar, serving tips, common myths about alcohol and liability.

Educating people about the responsibilities of hosting an event or party helps them to be well prepared for a fun but safe environment. The more information you can provide the public, the better equipped a planner can be hosting his or her guests responsibly.

Host is now available at all liquor store locations across the province. I encourage you to pick up a copy on your next visit. Let's make this year's holiday season a safe one.

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 want to echo the hon. minister's comments. I think it's important that people look for responsible entertaining this time of the year. I know there is going to be lots of parties, but I think we have to make sure that we're going to be responsible with our drinking, responsible especially if anyone is considering getting behind the wheel. It doesn't cost that much money. If you can go to the store and you can spend \$10 or \$20

for some booze, surely you can spend \$10 or \$20 for a taxi ride home.

So I encourage all Islanders to please be safe this holiday season. Have a great time, enjoy your family, enjoy your friends. You can also go - just one last thing I want to get in. If you can spend the \$10 or \$20 on booze, you can also spend the 10 or \$20 on some charities to make sure that everybody can have a good Christmas holiday.

I know the hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty will be getting up and talking about the turkey drive later on. But I had the opportunity to drop off some turkeys this morning. So if you can afford to go to the liquor stores and view those new pamphlets, surely you can afford to give a little bit to charity to make sure that we all have a great holiday season.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

Mr. MacFadyen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the report Ethical Behaviour in Sport Policy and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Development and Technology, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I beg

leave to table the annual reports for 2005-2006 for the Summerside Regional Development Corporation Ltd. and the Charlottetown Area Development Corporation and I move, seconded by the Honourable Provincial Treasurer, that the said documents 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I beg leave to table the 2005-2006 annual report of the RCMP L Division and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Reports by Committees

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

Dr. McKenna: Mr. Speaker, as vice-chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee and I move, seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the same be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Dr. McKenna: Mr. Speaker, I move,

seconded by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that the report of the committee be adopted.

This marks the first time in many years that the hon. Member from North River-Rice Point is not moving this motion. I will be remiss if I did not mention that fact, and also that the members of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts look forward to his speedy recovery and returns to his duties as chairman.

In this report, your committee is updating the House on its activities over the past six months, which were centred on hosting a highly successful annual conference on the Public Accounts Committee from across the country.

I would also be remiss if I did not recognize the Clerk of Committees for all the hard work she put into this conference. She put in countless hours above her regular workload, and I must say, from all accounts, it was probably the most successful Public Accounts Committee conference ever held across the country. The seminars were extremely well attended and were very informative. The hospitality and social activities were second to none. I know, being a Public Accounts Committees, she made sure our expenses did not exceed our budget, and actually we were well within our budget.

I want to thank the Clerk of Committees for all her capable work and I'd like all the members of the Assembly to stand up and recognize her for all her hard work.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I would just like to echo the comments of the deputy chair, the hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove. I especially want to mention what a great opportunity it was. This was the first time that I've had an opportunity to attend the public accounts meeting for Canada.

I want to thank the hon. deputy clerk for her great work on it and for actually also giving me the opportunity to chair one of the committee meetings. I think it might have had something to do with I was the only member from PEI who could speak French, but it was still an honour for me to be able to chair one of the committee meetings. I thought it was very informative to hear what goes on in other provinces.

So I just want to take this opportunity to thank the deputy clerk.

Like the hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove said, we're looking forward to having the hon. Member from North River-Rice Point back chairing those committee meetings. Because I think he's been chairman for at least six or seven years now and it wouldn't be the same if he wasn't there.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from St. Eleanors-Summerside.

Ms. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Privileges, Rules and Private Bills, I beg leave to introduce a report of the said committee and

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from West Point-Bloomfield, that the report of the Committee be received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Ms. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, this is a interim report dealing with progress to date on the annotation and restyling of the rules of the Legislative Assembly. Significant progress has been made to date and it is the Committee's intention to complete its work between the first and second setting of this session and submit a final report for the consideration of all members during the spring 2007 setting.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from West Point-Bloomfield, that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Also, on behalf of the members of the Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Clerk and the Clerk Assistant. The standing committees of the Legislature have been very active and we want them to know that we are grateful for your efforts as well as their expertise.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Introduction of Government Bills

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

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *An Act to*

Amend the Retail Business Holidays Act and the Employment Standards Act and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the same be now received and read a First Time.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Retail Business Holidays Act and the Employment Standards Act*, Bill No. 14, read a First Time.

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

Ms. Dover: Mr. Speaker, the act essentially has three sections.

Section one has two effects, to allow Sunday shopping in the province from the Victoria Day weekend until Christmas, and to prohibit shopping in the morning hours on Sunday during the above described period. Section two provides persons who were employed before the act comes into course with the right to refuse to work on Sunday and prohibits employers from penalizing an employee who makes such a refusal. Section three provides for the commencement of this act.

Government Motions

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that Motion No. 19 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. Leader of the Opposition had adjourned the debate on

Motion 19.

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

I know that yesterday, if I'm on the right one here, I'm pretty sure we're debating the Status of Women. But I know yesterday we worked on a motion in this House. I'm just going to sum it up for the general public here.

We're of the opinion here where both sides of the House believe that it was wrong for the federal government to cut any funding to the Status of Women, I hope we are anyway. The reasons why these cuts were made, according to the federal government, was because of advocacy and lobbying reasons.

I just want to point out that advocacy and lobbying for the Status of Women is something we need in this country. Imagine if we didn't have it. Would we have pay equity in this country? Would women be recognized as a person? Would women have the right to vote? Of course we need to have advocacy and lobbying, and I believe it's imperative that what we do here in this House is return the money to the Status of Women groups here on Prince Edward Island to make sure that they're able to carry out all the functions that they were before.

In fact, if the federal government was even so committed, they should increase that funding. I'll even go a step further. They got a \$13 billion surplus and I believe that if they want to concentrate on an area where it's going to help people, help our society, here in PEI, here in Canada, we know right now that women make 71 cents for every dollar that a man makes. We know in our federal parliament and our provincial legislatures that women account for 20% of our population.

So like I said I hope all members want to see

this funding reinstated. I know that on that side of the House, and on this corner of the House, they don't want to condemn the federal government. I know the minister has written letters, I know the Premier has written letters. But I believe it was a bad cut to be made and we have to send a strong message to the federal government that it was wrong.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Any other speakers to the motion?

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works to close the debate.

Ms. Shea: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to thank all the members who spoke to this motion. I think it's very important. We are all concerned with recent changes made to the Status of Women Canada budget which will be detrimental to some of the good work that's being done here by our women groups on PEI. I know every member in this Legislature supports these women's groups and wants to make sure that the good work is ongoing.

So I invite all members to demonstrate that support by supporting this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. members, are we ready for the vote?

An Hon. Member: Standing vote.

Speaker: Standing vote.

Ring the bells, please.

[The bells were rung]

Speaker: All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, the hon. Minister of Development and Technology, the hon. Provincial Treasurer, the hon. Government House Leader, the hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors, the hon. Member from Park Corner-Oyster Bed, 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 St. Eleanors-Summerside, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, 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: (Indistinct).

Clerk: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Speaker: The motion is carried.

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 12th Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 12, *An Act to Amend the*

Environmental Protection Act, Bill No. 11, ordered for Second Reading.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act*, Bill No. 11, read a Second Time.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield to chair the debate.

Chair (Rodgerson): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act*.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Ballem: Do you want me to give an overview?

Chair: Yes.

An Hon. Member: They just want you to read it.

Mr. Ballem: You want to read the whole thing?

Anybody else want an overview?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Ballem: These are minor amendments to the act. It clarifies essentially what's going to be required in section 1 for someone before they do a clean-up of a contaminated site. Sections 3 and 4 of this amendment will allow contractors to make alterations to wetlands and watercourses without a permit if they're licenced to do it.

What we've being doing in the last couple of years is running a pilot project with a number of contractors who are in the business that allows them to take a training course on what they have to do. They can make these alterations and we go and inspect them and audit them after the fact. It reduces a lot of the paperwork and allows for professionals in the field, in the private sector, who are doing this work to do it under their licence.

More than half of the alterations are done by Transportation and Public Works anyway. So it's contractors that work with them or the department themselves. We want to take it out of the situation where we're doing it as a pilot project and make it part of the law.

Chair: They want me to read it clause by clause.

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the

Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:

1 Subsection 7(3) of the *Environmental Protection Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-9 is amended by the repeal of clause (a) and the substitution of the following:

(a) meet with a representative of the Department and other persons for such purposes as may be required by the order;

(a.1) permit inspection;

2 Subsection 7.1(3) of the Act is amended by the repeal of clause (a) and the substitution of the following:

(a) meet with a representative of the Department and other persons for such purposes as may be required by the order;

(a.1) permit inspection;

3 Section 10 of the Act is amended by the addition of the following after subsection (2):

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a person may, without a permit, alter a watercourse or wetland, or any part thereof, or water flow therein or the land within 10 metres of the watercourse boundary or wetland boundary, in any manner mentioned or not mentioned in that subsection, if

(a) the person holds a licence issued under the regulations; and

(b) the alteration is of a type permitted by the regulations.

4 Section 28 of the Act is amended by the repeal of clauses (b) and (c) and the substitution of the following:

(b) impose terms and conditions on any order, licence, certificate, approval, permit,

permission or other authorization issued under this Act; and

(c) alter any terms and conditions of any order, licence, certificate, approval, permit, permission or other authorization issued under this Act.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park

Mr. MacAleer: What's the cost of the licence to the contractor?

Mr. Ballem: I don't think there's any fee attached to it. There's not at this point, and I don't think we're proposing a fee. It's asking them to do the training. They're doing the work. It's hopefully to save us some time.

Mr. MacAleer: Okay, so, the training offers them the window of opportunity.

Mr. Ballem: Yes.

Chair: Any further questions?

Dr. McKenna: I know in my district Pond Side Park continually gets problem siltation, which we think is from development. No one can ever figure out where it actually comes from. I know this year I had good cooperation with the both Transportation and Public Works and your department (Indistinct) the siltation in the Pond Side Park.

I know when developers who are developing put these berms in place there to prevent the siltation from occurring, but it still occurred under conditions of heavy rain or what have you.

Does this have anything to do with that? The watercourses have been altered or changed somehow because the silt goes in the stream around there.

Mr. Ballem: No. Most of the siltation that would go in in your example on Pond Side Park from development, any developers are supposed to submit an environmental plan. One of challenges that we have, we have municipalities that have their own official plan and their own regulations. We don't issue the permit from Community and Cultural Affairs. It may come directly from the community. In your case, the Town of Stratford has its own official plan and its own bylaws.

There may be a time that the development is well under way before we even know that it existed. Then you go in after the fact and there's a plan in place, but it's not been implemented. So, yes, sometimes it's a real challenge.

This is in terms of altering watercourses or wetlands. I don't think the siltation that's happening in Pond Side Park comes from altering a watercourse. It's just runoff that's going into the stream.

Dr. McKenna: I don't know, but it wasn't as bad this year. I think because a lot of the development that's closer to the stream has been filled up with development. It's getting further up the field, I guess.

I must admit I had good cooperation from your department and the department of transportation, but that's the problem. We have three or four different levels of departments and levels of government. I don't know where you take leadership on the whole thing. Everybody's got a certain job to do, but no one can seem to bring it all together. I find that very frustrating.

The residents call me complaining because the stream is again as red as tomato soup in a lot of cases. Although this year it's been looking a lot better.

I just want to know, is there an easy answer?

How do we handle all those type of problems?

Mr. Ballem: There's no easy answer. We are looking at how we can streamline so that if a permit is applied for, a building permit or a permit for a subdivision is applied for, that other things have to be done before the building permit is issued.

Right now, for example, if Community and Cultural Affairs issues you a building permit you don't have to have your sewer and water permit. This is in a stand-alone lot where there's onsite sewer and water. You don't have to have those permits prior to getting a building permit from Community and Cultural Affairs.

They do their best to contact us and say: Have you people been involved? We're trying to formalize that so that transportation will have to give an entrance access permit, Community and Cultural Affairs gives a building permit, we're involved with the sewer and water, so that it's all in one package.

When the contractor gets the permit they know that here's where the house goes, here's where the sewer and water go, here's where the driveway goes, so it's all done at the start.

Dr. McKenna: Okay.

Chair: Are there any further questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Ballem: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act.*

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Ballem: I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Ballem: Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the Chair and that the Chair 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 under consideration a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection 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. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 8th Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 8, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 9, ordered for Second Reading.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Chair (McCardle): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2)*.

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

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. MacAleer: (Indistinct) an overview?

Mr. Murphy: Very simply, this is to allow people, registered non-profit organizations such as the Rotary, to be exempt from the tax when they build things such as the dream home. So when the deed transfers ownership and that it's exempted from the land transfer tax.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2).*

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

1 Subsection 4(1) of the *Real Property Transfer Tax Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. R-5.1 is amended

(a) in clause (p) by the addition of the period and the substitution of a semicolon; and

(b) by the addition of the following after clause (p):

(q) a deed by which real property is transferred from a registered non-profit organization, to the recipient, as a gift, donation or prize.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

How was this overlooked at the beginning?

Mr. Murphy: Well, it wasn't put in the original bill. I guess it's just an oversight of the department and then it actually came to

our attention. That's why it wasn't in the original bill. That's why we're doing a second amendment to the bill.

Leader of the Opposition: Anything else that we forgot to put in the bill?

Mr. Murphy: No. There are some other things that we have to deal with. For example, this is for a non-profit organization. But sometimes we have individuals who for example - we have one individual who's donating a parcel of land as a fundraiser. There is a person in the province going for an organ transplant and part of paying for that is a private individual who is donating a parcel of land as a fundraiser. So we have the ability within the act to do that. We don't provide an exemption, we provide a full rebate. So it's money in and we give the money back. That's how we're treating individuals. But not for profit organizations. We're just not charging the tax.

Leader of the Opposition: Have you ever considered getting rid of this act at all?

Mr. Murphy: No.

Leader of the Opposition: I'd just like to say that I'm for this amendment to the act but I'm still against the act.

Mr. McCardle: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Murphy: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2).*

Mr. Murphy: I move the enacting clause.

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

follows.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Chairman, I move the Speaker take the Chair and that the Chair 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 *An Act to Amend the Real Property Transfer Tax Act (No. 2)*, I beg leave to report that the Committee has gone through the said Bill and has agreed to same with amendment. I move that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 1st Order of the Day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 1, Adjourned Debate on the Draft Address.

Speaker: The hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield.

Ms. Rodgeron: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm just gathering my thoughts here. I know I just finished the section pretty well on health, I guess. Most of my discussion had been around the proposal to build a new hospital in West Prince. That was certainly quite a highlight of the report for me.

But when I looked through the report and see things that our government has done - and again, when we talk about a great place to raise families. I know this year our government gave a great contribution towards youth centres in my community. I know that is certainly - it's really what they call an inter-generational centre, but for the most part the centre is open most nights of the week where they have programs there where a lot of the youth go. They're even doing things like offering free guitar lessons, some good healthy activities. I think that every dollar that we can invest in our youth has a long-term impact.

So I know as I go through the throne speech and see the things that we have done across the province I guess, sometimes people take it for granted the things that we do. It seems that the only things that get mentioned are the things that sometimes people don't agree with. But overall when I look at this and look at all the improvements - when I'm looking at education in this province, just on the 29th of November the minister had highlighted the progress to improve student achievement.

I was glancing through this today. When I look at, again, the supports, I know how much these supports mean to my family. I have a little grandson in grade 2, a granddaughter in grade 1. I know over the past summer he was able to go to the summer tutoring program because he was really having a bit of challenge with his reading.

As we all know, if we struggle with our reading it affects every other subject. So I

know with the summer tutoring program, it's just been an excellent program to help the children with their literacy skills. But I also note in the minister's highlights here two student achievements. Early literacy mentors have been hired, and they're working with elementary schools to improve literacy from grades 1 to 3. Again, I can speak first hand about this because my grandchildren are benefitting from this program. Three school psychologists have been hired to assist children at risk for learning disabilities.

If there's anything in the report that really stands out for me it's working with these children at a very early age to help really assist what their disabilities might be and put the supports in place.

So when I look again at the education report, I'm very pleased to see again about - it reads here: Minister Dover commends the staff of the department of education and the school boards for working quickly to put these plans in place following the April budget announcement of \$9 million. I'm very pleased with the high volume of excellent work that has been done in a very short time. I am confident that this will result in great success of students.

Many times governments gets criticized for dragging their feet and not moving on things faster. So this is just one example of how you can see that when we say we're going to do something, it starts to happen. So that's been a big plus for me, this whole improving student achievement.

Then when we look at the reduction in the small business tax. Again here it reads out: My government is committed to a five-year reduction in the corporate small business income tax rate. This year the rate was lowered to 5.4% and will be reduced further in each of the next four years. By 2010 Prince Edward Island's small business tax

will be 1%, the lowest in Canada.

When I look at that I know, as I drive around my district, most of the business in my district are small business and there are many times the backbones of the community. So I'm pleased to say that is ongoing. I know it's always a challenge for small business. People seem today to be able to kind of be so mobile. But I can tell you there's a real interest in small business.

Just two or three weeks ago I was able to participate in a meeting where the minister of development came out to meet with small business owners, or all business owners, in the area and he wanted to know from them what they needed him to do or to change as far in any of the programs, like in the budget planning for the year.

So when I think of that, it's a rare occasion - or has been for a lot of years up until we became part of this government - where ministers come and sit personally in front of a group of people in your community and say: What can we do to help. So that's just as early as three weeks ago. I have to say that that kind of communication is well received in the community.

I know there's so much we're doing. Sometimes it's hard to know when to stop or start. But when I'm looking at made in PEI energy solutions, well, I guess I don't have to tell you. I'm sure that tour last Sunday was a huge success, and I know it's really exciting now having the opportunity to go east and look at the wind farm there. It's been kind of a normal thing in West Prince, but to go to the eastern part of the province and see again the work that's being done in regards to wind energy in this province, and to see now that its going from one end of the Island to the other.

I'm just looking for my sheet on that day because I was really excited to be able to see

this whole thing on wind energy being a provincial initiative. It really is a great support for all these communities. When I look at all the work that's going on in this development - it's going to take me a minute here, I got too many notes I think. But anyway, when I went east and for the tour I was just totally amazed again. When we look at the amount of people that are benefitting by this, the economic benefits to this province, approximately \$10 million worth of construction associated with the wind farm that will stay on the Island. Project management, road construction, land clearing, turbine foundations, concrete supply, site security, general contractor for operations building, substation construction, turbine erection, Custom Metal Works Inc., electrical distribution. The list goes on and on.

So when I look at the excitement - and this is really, truly planning for the future - and when I know now just this past week with the announcement where people can now purchase their bonds, again it's truly an investment that includes all Islanders. Right at the present time while this is on going in the eastern part of the province, in West Prince every morning, and sometimes before I'm up, cement trucks are rolling into West Prince.

So this whole file on wind energy, I'm just truly amazed that this little province is leading the country. I'm just going to read a little note here that was in the news. It says: PEI's reputation as a leader in renewable energy, research and development was highlighted recently at a recent international - do you hear that, Mr. Speaker? - international energy forum.

It says here: Jamie Ballem, PEI's Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, was one of the featured speakers at the International Sustainable Energy Forum in San Francisco, California.

An Hon. Member: Call the hour.

Speaker: Call the hour?

The hour's been called.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Dunn: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Park Corner-Oyster Bed, that the House adjourn and stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Hon. members, before you leave I just want to remind you once again, if there's anything in your desks you want to take with you, just do that before you head out.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m.

