

# HANSARD



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Speaker: Hon. Greg Deighan

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The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of  
Guests

**Speaker:** The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

**Mr. Murphy:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to start by welcoming the visitors to our public gallery today.

Islanders woke up this morning and over the weekend to our first major snowfall of the season. I think it's also a reminder. I was travelling last night and saw a few vehicles in places where they shouldn't have been, but it's a reminder to all people that we have to change our driving habits when winter conditions come along. Slow down and drive a little more careful.

Also, driving around the province this weekend everybody's getting decorated for the holiday season. That is very nice to see. PEI is beautiful all year round and the lights of the Christmas season certainly add to that.

I also would be remiss if I did not congratulate the new leader of the Liberal Party, Stéphane Dion, who won the leadership in I think what can only be described as a hard fought convention in Montreal on the weekend. I want to congratulate Mr. Dion for that.

I also want to, on behalf of the Government, congratulate the premier-elect of Alberta, Mr. Ed Stelmach, who had a similar type of convention. Mr. Stelmach, I'm sure, will be a good leader of the Province of Alberta and add much to the national debate.

Finally, I want to welcome our viewers on television and hope everyone has a good day

and a good week as we head into the Christmas season.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's a pleasure for me to rise today and welcome everyone in the gallery to today's question period.

Mr. Speaker, it's great to see you back in the chair. I hope you were at a great graduation over the last couple of days and I hope all that went well.

I also want to reiterate a bit of what the minister of finance said. That has to do with the roads are icy. I urge everyone to be careful. Especially be careful - as I was out at the lunch hour today I noticed a lot of our students are heading out to Confederation Centre, going to the Christmas plays. There are a lot of kids around the streets. Just use extra caution, as well, on top of being cautious about the ice and the snow for watching out for the children around.

I also, like the minister of finance, want to congratulate Mr. Ed Stelmach, the new premier of Alberta. I followed those proceedings quite carefully. I'm glad to see Mr. Stelmach was able to win that race. It shows us that even Albertans are looking for a more of a centrist sort of view. There was quite dynamics involved in that leadership. I thought it was good to see Mr. Stelmach win.

Of course, I have to congratulate the new Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and the next prime minister of Canada,

*l'honorable Stéphane Dion.* It was an incredible convention. Unfortunately, my flights got cancelled. I wasn't able to be there, but like many thousands and thousands and thousands of Islanders and millions of Canadians, I had the opportunity to watch it on television. As everyone says, it was probably one of the most exciting conventions that we'll see in a lifetime.

It was interesting. When I was coming in here people were asking who won, who lost, who supported who, and who was on the winning side. There's one thing that I can say from watching that whole leadership: Canadians were a winner on the weekend.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

**Mr. Mooney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd just like to welcome the folks in the gallery today and my parents that'll be watching on Eastlink at home. I want to wish them a very good day.

Also, as you know, I was the acting Speaker for the Rotary Youth Parliament on Friday and Saturday this weekend past. To the parents and grandparents of the students that participated, I just want to say they did them proud. Just tremendous, the quality of students that took place. I'll have to say, if that's an example of who'll be in this Legislature in years to come our Island is going to be left in great hands.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I want to welcome everybody to the Legislature today.

As the leader said, I was at the convention on the weekend. It was an excellent convention. It was very hot in the hall. (Indistinct) good scarves were given out.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I too would welcome everyone in the public gallery and those watching on Eastlink.

In particular, I'd like to send out greetings to all of the seniors across Prince Edward Island and those, particularly, in District 15 at the Beach Grove Home and at Andrews Lodge in West Royalty, where I had the pleasure of visiting this morning. I want to thank all the residents there for the warmth and hospitality they greeted me with.

I want to remind them as well that my colleague, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park, and I will be out there sometime over the Christmas holidays during leading up to Christmas for our annual sing song get together at both Beach Grove and at Andrews Lodge.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

**Mr. Currie:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to also welcome all the visitors here today. I'd also like to do a special hello to Donald King from Georgetown who's watching the proceedings today.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

**Mr. Dunn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome the viewing audience as well, especially, a couple of friends of mine in North Port, Shirley and Lane Frasier, who are taking in the activities this afternoon.

I'd also like to inform the House, as Government House Leader, that the Premier will be out of Province for two days, today and tomorrow. He's in Newfoundland at the Atlantic Premiers' conference.

Also, too, I'd like to congratulate the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira who did such a wonderful job chairing the Youth Parliament. I was here Friday afternoon for awhile. He was very patient. He has the patience of Job.

He worked very well with the young people. Got a lot of opinions from them. Before the first day was over he had them all involved and participating in Youth Parliament, which is a wonderful experience for them all. So, I want to recognize the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira for the wonderful job he did.

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

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

**Mr. Bagnall:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, want to rise and welcome everybody to the gallery today.

I rise to say hi to a lady from my district, Betty Mellish. She has had a stroke and she's recuperating now. We had a benefit Sunday night on her behalf. I just want to rise and wish her all the best and hope for a speedy recovery.

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

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

**Mr. Gillan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome back to the Chair.

I would like to recognize the gallery that is here today. In particular, there is one gentleman there who happens to be the president of my association in Parkdale-Belvedere District 11. I welcome Mr. Mike Gillis to our Assembly.

Also, late yesterday afternoon I and a number of other legislators had the opportunity to attend a seniors' Christmas dinner hosted for the 31<sup>st</sup> year by Sherwood Parkdale Lions Club. It was held at Confederation Centre. It was a packed audience, like always, it was a wonderful meal and a wonderful comradery. I certainly thank that club for sponsoring it for so many years and for putting on a tremendous dinner.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Shea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also would like to welcome everyone to the public gallery. In particular, I want to welcome Murray Perry from Tignish. Murray is a good supporter of our party.

At this time I'd also like to extend my sympathy to the family of Aldon Arsenault. Aldon was buried this morning in my district. Aldon was also a very good supporter of the Conservative party in District 27.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

**Mr. Arsenault:** *Merci, monsieur le président.*

*Moi aussi j'aimerais de souhaiter la bienvenue aux personnes qui sont ici aujourd'hui. Et puis j'aimerais aussi mentionner que Madame Rolande Arsenault de Wellington est à l'hôpital à Moncton ainsi que Madame Shirley Gallant de Cap-Egmont qui aussi est à l'hôpital de Moncton. Donc je leur souhaite un bon rétablissement très vite surtout pour qu'elles se positionnent pour s'en revenir à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard pour les fêtes de Noël et puis donc c'est ça que je leur souhaite. Bon courage à leur famille. Merci.*

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome the people who are here today. And I would also like to mention that Rolande Arsenault from Wellington and Shirley Gallant from Cape Egmont are hospitalized in Moncton. I therefore wish them a speedy recovery so that they can come home to Prince Edward Island for Christmas. That is my wish for them. All the best to their family. Thank you.

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

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

**Dr. McKenna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome all the visitors to the gallery today.

I also want to send my greetings to all the young students who are preparing for concerts over the next few weeks, for band concerts and whatever else. I know my daughter's got a band concert at Stone Park tonight.

I also want to straighten away the rumours that I've moved to the Liberal Party. According to the *Guardian* yesterday I'm a Liberal MLA, but I'm sorry to tell the Liberals I have not joined them at this stage of the game (Indistinct).

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** All right, hon. members.

**Dr. McKenna:** I just wanted to clarify that, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Statements by Members

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

#### **International Volunteer Day**

**Mr. Mooney:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On Prince Edward Island we have a strong tradition of helping others. It's a legacy that has been passed on generation to generation and something we first learn as children. We watched our parents and other family members respond during times of crises and we saw firsthand how their support eased the burdens of others.

Today, December 5<sup>th</sup> is International Volunteer Day. It is a unique opportunity for

government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups and the private sector to work together to attain common goals.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and impact virtually every aspect of our society including health, education, religious organizations, social services, youth, sport, culture, and the environment.

A recent Canada survey of giving, volunteering and participating reports that in Canada alone almost 12 million of us from aged 15 and older volunteered during a one-year period. This totals almost 2 billion hours, an equivalent to 1 million full-time jobs, that are volunteered across this country. Almost all volunteers agreed that making a contribution to their community was the most important reason for their volunteering.

It's hard to imagine what my district would be like if it weren't for the achievements of the many non-profit and volunteer groups. It is because of the efforts of such groups like the Souris Lions Club, Friends of Elmira, Knights of Columbus, Board of Directors of the Eastern Kings Sportsplex, Friends of Elmira - there's many groups in my area - and it just makes our district a great place to live, and we've been coming ahead steadily because of it.

Souris-Elmira is home to a diverse group of volunteer organizations that have one thing in common. Everyone is dedicated to making our community a better place to live.

So with this, I want to give a heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who are working to establish a better lifestyle, better opportunities, in communities throughout our province and across this world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### **Tribute to Heather Moyse**

**Ms. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, with all of the accomplishments Summerside native Heather Moyse has completed so far in her life, her biggest accomplishment did not come on the sports field.

Although she is among the world's best breakwomen in bobsledding, a speedy game breaker for Canada's national rugby team, and a Prince Edward Island track star, none of these compares to her biggest accomplishment: the two years she spent in Trinidad and Tobago teaching and developing sports for the disabled. This Islanders has her own set of priorities.

For Heather, all her medals and sports achievements rank far behind her time spent in these Caribbean Islands. Giving of her personal time and skills enriched not only her life but the lives of others and it was a great opportunity to help individuals with special needs to empower themselves. For Heather, it put things in a whole different perspective on life.

After taking some time off to compete in the Women's Rugby World Cup Championship held in Edmonton this past fall, Heather is now back at her studies in occupational therapy at the University of Toronto.

I congratulate Heather on all her athletic achievements to date. I also take this time to thank her for her dedication and efforts on behalf of the disabled.

She continues to prove to be an excellent ambassador for Canada and for Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### Wheat board

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

My statement is a two-part one. While I was on my way home from Montreal the other day, I met up with a great group of people at the airport, the NFU members who were coming from a board meeting. I had a great chat with them. One of their main concerns was the federal government's attempt to dismantle the wheat board. They're very concerned about this move by the federal government and what it would do to other marketing boards, especially the milk boards on Prince Edward Island and that.

### CBC re 25 year pins

But I also want to take a minute here to congratulate Steve Stapleton, Rob MacLean, Ian Petrie and John Jeffery. I understand they got their 25 year pins today out at CBC. Maybe you'll get a chance some day, (Indistinct). I understand that they did 6,699 stories, John Jeffery and Ian Petrie, so whoever gets on tonight will be their 6,700<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### Golfing with Nicklaus and Watson (further)

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

My first question today is for the hon. Minister of Tourism. Last week I asked the Premier about his once-in-a-lifetime golf junket with Jack Nicklaus. At first he said he got the \$17,000 spot because the province was a sponsor. Then he changed his mind and said he was a guest of a multi-national drug company.

The minister was there golfing in a group too where someone donated a large sum of money to golf with Tom Watson. I'm wondering: What entitled him to golf in that foursome?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

**Mr. P. Brown:** (Indistinct) Mr. Speaker.

The main corporate sponsor, Pfizer International, a large manufacturer of pharmaceutical drugs, was entitled to four teams in the Pro Am golfing event. Two of the pros were Mr. Nicklaus and Mr. Watson. By way of that corporate sponsorship, it entitled them to 16 players in the Pro Am event. It is true that they invited the Premier and I to be part of that. We were invited to participate in the event. They also gave two positions of those 16 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation auctioned those positions in the Pro Am and raised over \$30,000.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'm just wondering. It's a great point that some of those spots were auctioned off for charity. I know perhaps the minister thinks it's great that his department can sponsor an event like that with Tom Watson and Jack



Nicklaus and then he can be entitled to go out there and golf with them. But I'm wondering: Wouldn't he think it would have been better if he perhaps had auctioned off his position to raise money for charity?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good idea. (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I want to be clear. I think I was clear in the beginning. It wasn't my decision. It wasn't the Premier's position. These positions belonged to the major corporate sponsor that invested a huge amount of money for that right. The corporation offered those positions to us, and I commend the Premier of the province for participating in the event and being part of the event. The corporation was very gracious to offer two of those positions to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. I talked with representatives of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and they were very appreciative of that. They didn't say: You didn't give me four positions, you didn't give me six positions. No, Mr. Speaker, the Heart and Stroke Foundation were indebted to the corporate sponsor for the two positions they received.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### **Net profits from golf event**

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

That was an interesting answer. He commends his Premier for really taking the tough decision in deciding to golf with Jack Nicklaus. That must have been one tough decision to make.

Last week I asked the minister for the

calculation of the net profit from the organization, promotion, and staging of the Legends of Golf event. Your contract with IMG says you were to receive your payment and full accounting report of the event by December 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm wondering: What were the net profits and do you have the report with you today?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

No, I don't have the report. The report was a contractual obligation between our department and IMG, the event manager. The overall budget for the event was \$1.4 million. We recovered close to a million dollars in corporate sponsorship on that event. Ticket sales were \$150,000, and through the marketing initiatives and exposure that it created for the province, the province invested \$250,000.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

You're supposed to receive a full accounting by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We asked the question last week. We were hoping you would take the report back here and table it in the House. But also under the contract, it says that any net profit from the event would be split 50-50 between IMG and the province and that on December 1<sup>st</sup> they would be forwarding that cheque to you. How much of a cheque did you receive?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

Just before December 1<sup>st</sup> we received, as some of the expenses attributed to the event

that the province put in, a \$25,000 cheque for the use of the golf courses. We also received \$18,000 as part of the 50-50 revenue sharing around the t.v. revenues. I do want to stress to the hon. member and to the House and to the Island public that the revenues from this event continue to accumulate. There are other television networks that are interested in broadcasting this particular event and that will continue. But up until December 1<sup>st</sup> where we're closing the books on the 2006 event and now we're beginning planning for the 2007 event, the figures are as I presented them.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Obviously the minister is trying to spin his way around from an answer here. We're just looking for a straight answer from the minister. How much from IMG did you receive for a cheque for the net profits from the event? Was there any net profit or wasn't there? Did you receive a cheque from IMG for the net profit as was stated in the agreement with IMG? I'm wondering: How much did you receive, or was it just your golf game and Premier's golf game?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

No, it was not just my golf game or the Premier's golf game. This was a major event for supporting an industry that is extremely important to this province. Eighty million dollars is the spinoff revenue of the golf industry on Prince Edward Island. That's a major event. Prince Edward Island has achieved the position. It wasn't given the position. It has achieved the position of Canada's number one travel destination for

golf. Those things just don't happen. Our government took the lead on that. We're continuing to maintain our position, because if we do nothing others will pass us.

But these things are important. So we are maintaining our position by hosting events like the Legends of Golf. It's not just by consequence that Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson happened to be playing golf in Brudenell in June. This is a major accomplishment. Instead of taking shots at the Premier by his support of these events, the hon. member should be praising the government for investing in Island tourism.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'm glad to see his members are applauding for him considering I'm asking a question here with regards to the net profit from the event. You're supposed to receive a cheque from IMG by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't know if there's any cheque or not. The minister's still spinning his way around.

He talks about no coincidence that Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson were here for this great event. I'm sure that they probably have it in their calendar: Let's go golf with the Minister of Tourism and the Premier from PEI, that's the highlight of our year. Yeah, right.

I'm wondering: Was there a cheque with regards to the net profit of the event, yes or no?

**Mr. R. Brown:** That's a good one.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I would appreciate if the hon. member would listen to the answers before he starts into the next question. Because I did talk about the net revenues of the event, the expenditures and the cost to government. The net revenue - and I know he's referring to the t.v. revenue and to the benefit after the event. What we received was \$18,000, which is a revenue distribution agreement on the broadcasts to date. We continue to sell this event. The overall income and expense on the event did not realize a net profit to the province on the event from an expense point of view.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Ten or 15 minutes later and 10 questions later I think we got an answer there that there was no net profit from that event. But I'm just agreeing here from final accounting and it says here: IMG agrees that promptly after the conclusion of each annual event, IMG shall calculate the net profits from the organization and promotion. It says here that IMG agrees that the final accounting will be sent to Tourism PEI no later than that of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December of each year.

I'm wondering: Will the minister please table what he received from IMG?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

Within the information that is tabled is the agreement. I'm prepared to table the event

information. I'm not exactly sure what the hon. member is asking exactly. The contractual agreements between the participants, it was an agreement between IMG and those people, so we don't have those amounts. But if the hon. member is looking for a statement from IMG as relative to revenue and to the expenditures, it was a budget that was worked out between officials in our department and IMG. He has to be more specific.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

On page 3, clause number 8, final annual accounting, the last line reads: IMG agrees that the final accounting will be sent to Tourism PEI no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December of each year. Last Friday you indicated you hadn't received it yet, it would probably be arriving later that day at your office. That is what we would like tabled, the final annual accounting for last year's golf event. Will you table that in the House, yes or no?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I did indicate on last Friday that I wasn't sure if we had received that final annual accounting. I did inquire with my staff and indeed we did receive the final annual accounting. But as I tried to point out, because within the agreement there are third parties that are included - professional fees to professional athletes - I'm not sure if that is information for public consumption. Those were agreements that were made between IMG and those professional athletes and their appearance fees are part of negotiations that take place.

So I do have to caution the hon. member that if there's private personal information that belongs to those people as part of their negotiated agreement with IMG - we agreed to a global appearance fee for the athletes and the broadcaster and commentators and we received the value for that. The specifics of that I'm not prepared to table because that was a contractual agreement between the individuals and IMG.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Unfortunately, the minister likes to release information that he thinks makes himself and his government look good, but when we ask for just a plain document he's not sure if he can release it. He claims he's worried about what third parties might think or what's in the contract over third parties. He talks about appearance fees, I guess for some of the golfers, but I thought that he said that they were showing up here just to golf with you and the Premier.

So I'm not really sure what the minister's trying to get here at, but we would like every piece of information tabled in this House that is possible, and will he please bring that back tomorrow?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

As I already indicated, some of this information is the personal contracts between the professional athletes and the marketing group. I mean it's - we're prepared to table the information relative to the expenses but there's also a large number

of corporations that contributed money to this event and they also received the benefit of participation in the Pro Am. I'm not sure that all of those individuals that were involved need to have - and it's appropriate that they have - their names tabled in this Assembly.

I think we can do a justifiable accounting of this endeavour. It goes back to what I said earlier. It seems like the group over there want the advancement of nothing. They certainly didn't support us when we promoted airlines to come in this province, they certainly didn't promote us on this Legends of Golf event, and they're against our initiative on Sunday shopping. So they're simply against everything.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Golfing partners**

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

Another quick question here for the minister. Last Friday when I was asking the Premier about who he was golfing with on his dream vacation or his dream golf match with Jack Nicklaus, the Premier somehow seemed to have some selective amnesia on who he was golfing with. He wasn't sure if he was golfing with Peter McQuaid or if he wasn't golfing with Peter McQuaid. I'm wondering: Does the Minister of Tourism know who was golfing with the Premier that day or does he have selective amnesia as well?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

If the hon. leader would listen to the answers that I gave earlier in Question Period, he

would have heard me say that the major corporate sponsor received as part of that corporate package, which cost a half a million dollars, four teams in the Pro Am event. Now they invited myself and the Premier to participate in the Pro Am event. They gave two more positions in the Pro Am event to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. It's not my position to name the other 12 participants that a private corporation paid for. They were their business people, they were their guests, and it would be inappropriate for me to let people know who they were. It was a very public event. There was t.v. coverage of it. There was massive media coverage of it. No one tried to hide their participation one little bit.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's an easy question. Peter McQuaid is the Chief of Staff to the Premier. He is a clerk or a deputy minister in the government of the Province of Prince Edward Island. He is the Premier's right hand man for the last 10 years. We're just wondering. Because the Premier doesn't seem to remember. He has selective amnesia. We know the minister already stated that he didn't golf with Peter McQuaid. Do you know if the Premier and Jack Nicklaus golfed with Peter McQuaid that day? It's a very simple question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

As I said earlier, the people that participated in the Pro Am event with Mr. Nicklaus, Mr. Watson, and two other highly noted professional golfers were the guests of the major corporate sponsor.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the

Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** A government employee who is a paid political staffer of the people of the Province of Prince Edward Island receives a golf round perhaps - we don't know yet - with Jack Nicklaus, and this minister won't answer the question. Yes or no? Was the Chief of Staff to the Premier of Prince Edward Island golfing with Jack Nicklaus or Tom Watson?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

**Mr. P. Brown:** Mr. Speaker, my guess is that the hon. member knows the answer to the question.

But I really do believe it's inappropriate for me to reveal the identity of the guests of the major corporate sponsor. You have to respect these people. We are asking them to participate in an event that, obviously, the Leader of the Opposition doesn't believe in, that they've condemned, that they said was costing the taxpayers \$1.5 million, that they said was a waste of money, and now he wants us to reveal those people's names. Well, they invested a lot of money. They asked many people to participate in the Pro Am event and you have to respect their confidentiality.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** The people of Prince Edward Island invested a lot of money in this as well. They pay the salary of Peter McQuaid, if he did golf. If I knew the answer, I wouldn't have asked you the other day. You had to correct me and say that no, he wasn't playing in your foursome, so obviously you knew he wasn't playing in your foursome. Obviously, I didn't know where he was playing. I don't know why the minister refuses to answer these questions.

But I'm going to move on now to the minister of health.

**Seniors' assets for nursing care (further)**

As the minister knows, over the last 10 years this government has taken quite a bit of money from seniors in this province. He estimates that the cost of the new long-term care program will be about \$10 million a year. So over the last 10 years we can estimate \$100 million worth of assets have been taken from Island seniors.

I'm wondering: Will the minister please explain why it took 10 years and \$100 million taken from Island seniors and their families for your group to do anything about it?

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

**Mr. Gillan:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has a characteristic way of making something good very negative.

I think that if you would speak to those individuals over the last 10 years, 20 years, three months, whatever the time might be, that they have received very good care in the manors, in the homes, where they are. It is loving care from the staff. It is a place where their families are appreciative of having them. The cost of providing that are primarily at the hands, in many instances, of the taxpayers but that is given willingly over to that. Yes, there is a portion of that that has to be supplied by those individuals.

But to get to his question after the preamble, other provinces deemed earlier than we did here in this province to separate the income. I take you back - and this is the response in many instances from Cabinet ministers here in this Assembly. We are a small province. The resources that our province have we do not glean from oil, from minerals, from a

huge manufacturing sector. But we have to be able to provide in the main those resources that government is going to use through our own tax purposes. We have to be very careful. If there are instances where individuals have to help pay that, this is the case in this particular instance, that over the years we have asked, where seniors have that ability, to contribute.

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

**Levy on room accommodations**

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question today for the Minister of Tourism. As the minister knows, the issue of the marketing levy has generated a lot of concerns from operators and, specifically, smaller operators. Many of the operators feel that they've been left out of the process of consultation on this new tax. Will the minister and your government be legislating the 2% levy on room accommodations for visitors to pay for your failed efforts to support the tourism industry?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Good question.

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

Certainly I will not take a back seat when someone suggests that we have failed efforts in tourism. I've received from the - I just returned from a national meeting, and Prince Edward Island is doing very well relative to the other jurisdictions in the country. But no, our government will not be legislating a 2% tax.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think we just have to look at the tabled bill, Bill No. 15, that was tabled last week by the minister. In fact, there is going to be legislation put forward for municipalities. So I would like the minister to clarify this. Will visitors coming to Prince Edward Island have to be paying a room levy when they come to Prince Edward Island as of January 2007?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

The hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs.

**Mr. MacFadyen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We did table a bill here in the House last week but it was enabling legislation to allow the communities under the *Charlottetown Area Municipality Act*, the Summerside area municipality act, and the municipality act itself, to enable communities to attach a levy if they so desire.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll go back to the hon. Minister of Tourism now because, yes, the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs deals with municipalities, but this is forcing municipalities to make this decision. The reality is the failure of the marketing campaign and the department and this minister. The Liberals have been pushing for added resources for product development and for marketing for tourism here on Prince Edward Island.

I'm wondering, Mr. Minister: Why has it come to this that you are going to impose a levy on our visitors when, in fact, our numbers aren't where they should be? Why

would you impose a 2% or would be supporting legislation enabling municipalities to put forward a 2% levy?

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

**Mr. MacFadyen:** Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not being forced on the municipalities.

This legislation was at the request of the business community in the Charlottetown area. Rather than having Charlottetown levy the tax and another municipality come to the government to ask: Can we do that as well?, we want to work with the businesses in the community and allow them to implement what they figure they need in order to attract business to the province.

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

### **Driving insurance premiums**

**Mr. MacAleer:** Mr. Speaker, my question is the Attorney General and it involves insurance premiums.

It's caused by the fact that I overheard an interview by a spokesperson from the New Brunswick government who indicated that that province had dealt with the situation in which the differential between male and female had been overcome by a change in the manner in which premiums were being assessed. My question then to the minister: Is this particular application suitable for Prince Edward Island? In fact, has there been any notice given to your department concerning this issue, and would you like to clarify what I think is really a question? Has there been achieved in New Brunswick something that we should be looking at on Prince Edward Island with respect to male drivers?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good (indistinct) New Brunswick.

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

**Ms. Dover:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, I got information in relation to the proposition by the New Brunswick premier. My understanding is that we shouldn't be jumping up too high about this proposal or the statement from the New Brunswick premier and government. Because it's my understanding that the Consumer Association of Canada has slammed New Brunswick for this and said that the benefits to the consumer will be minimal but the possibility of profits remains very high.

Now, here in PEI, as you might remember, hon. member, we passed the legislation in 2003 and decided that IRAC would be the regulator of insurance rates. In 2004 they reviewed the rates, which have to be submitted every year, and on an average the rates went down 10%. In 2005 the rates went down 4% to 5% on an average. So what will happen is that IRAC will be asked by my department to review whether or not there are advantages that could be had for Islanders, but it will be IRAC who will be making that assessment, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Graduated driver licencing system (further)**

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. I'm getting quite a few questions around the graduated driver's license and I know it's still not clear on how this is going to unfold. So I was wondering if the minister could

update the House on the changes that are proposed.

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

**Ms. Shea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We haven't yet brought this bill to the floor of the House but there will be a number of legislative changes coming forward, along with changes to regulations. If passed, we hope that they will take effect early in the new year. There will be tightened restrictions around driver licensing which will include a zero tolerance for blood alcohol level. It will also include a license suspension for seatbelt violations for new drivers, and restrictions on the use of cell phones, MP3 players, and other potential distractions while behind the wheel of a car.

The new legislation will also place - the age restrictions will also be changed. Currently, you can get a beginner license at 15½. That will be extended to 16. The beginner period, which is now currently six months, will be extended to 12 months. But there will also be some changes to the number of passenger restrictions in a vehicle that's allowed to be in a vehicle with an newly licensed driver.

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

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Yeah, just another question, supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In regards to a student that has driver ed, how will that work under the new legislation?

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

**Ms. Shea:** Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that's been discussed by our caucus a number of times.



What we have in the end, I guess, decided that we would bring to the floor of the House was that the beginner period would go to 12 months as opposed to the six it is now and remain at 12 months for all drivers. Which would mean that although a person does have driver education, that they wouldn't be able to get their license any earlier. But, Mr. Speaker, that is not the main benefit of having formal driver education. There are many other benefits to receiving driver education.

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

#### **Levy on room accommodations (further)**

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to get back on the issue, to clarify, Tourism Charlottetown has approached, and the hotel association has approached, to impose a 2% levy on accommodations here in the city with 11 rooms or more. With that they're hoping to generate \$500,000 to go towards marketing and festivals and events for this region in Charlottetown. The issue is they're needing money. The regions are needing money but the Department of Tourism is failing to give them enough. If we look at the budget of \$6 to \$7 million being allocated for marketing here on Prince Edward Island for tourism, we are far less than other jurisdictions here in Canada for tourism marketing.

My question is, by imposing this, visitors are consumers, Mr. Minister; they're consumers. So by then going to impose this levy by this enabling legislation, by imposing this 2% levy or whatever it is, don't you feel that our competitiveness is going to be lacking here on Prince Edward Island?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

I want to inform the House, and certainly all Islanders, that what we're doing is what we always do as a government. We respond to industry. When an industry asks for government to cooperate in advancing their position, it's the position of our government to work with industry to create opportunities, to grow the industry, to develop the partnerships.

That's what we're doing here. In 37 other destinations in Canada there is a hotel room levy. So the industry of Prince Edward Island has certainly been observing this and they've looked at the possibility of doing that here. They have asked us if we could put in the enabling legislation that the municipality could pass a bylaw so that this levy could be collected, and we, as a responsible government, have partnered with that and have allowed it to happen.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the minister to state a "responsible government," a responsible government would be funding further the marketing campaign by the department.

My question to the minister. He stated that there's 37 other jurisdictions in Canada that are doing this, but my question is this: Of those 37 other jurisdictions, which one of those has a higher consumer tax rate than Prince Edward Island, Mr. Minister?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

**Mr. P. Brown:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I don't know the consumer tax rate in all of

the jurisdictions.

I know that many of the jurisdictions have a different municipal tax rate that they work under. In PEI we do benefit from - the residents' portion of hotel units are not taxed at the same commercial rate so there is a benefit from the property tax assessments that our operators have compared to the operators in the mainland, for example. So when you're talking about tax rate, you have to take the full basket of taxes that applies to a particular operation or business.

But the point here, Mr. Speaker, is clear. We are a government that works with industry, builds our partnerships, and when we can work together to advance an industry, we're committed to do so.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Advance in industry. The Tourism Advisory Council has been lobbying government for added resources for marketing for years and we in the opposition believe that there needs to be adequate resources allotted to that. But this decision is going to be imposing extra dollars spent on the visitor, a tax.

My question is this: Mr. Minister, what again - I want you to answer this question. Of those 37 jurisdictions, I think it's important to note, which has a higher tax rate than we have here on PEI? Answer that, Mr. Minister.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

**Mr. P. Brown:** I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

As I already stated, I don't know all of the taxation within the jurisdictions and I certainly do not know of all of the taxes that apply to the business. For example, the

Provincial Treasurer in his budget this year has pledged to reduce the small business tax for all business operators, which applies to hoteliers. Over the next five years that will be reduced to 1%, which will be the lowest in the country. So I'm not exactly aware of how the basket of taxes is applied in every jurisdiction.

But this is a levy that the tourism industry has asked for, that they will be collecting. Certainly, within their discussions and within the studies around this levy, was the whole idea of whether this would be cost-prohibitive and that consumer resistance would be caused by the imposition of the tax. They took those challenges into account and they've decided to go ahead and ask us for it, and we're partnering with them.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting. Some of the backbenchers here are making comments about this line of questioning, when in fact members from their own community that own operations have written government opposing this, who own accommodations and are opposing this. They are even addressing this in letters that they've written.

But we have to look at - we don't have the harmonized sales tax here on Prince Edward Island. Alberta, for instance, who does have a levy, doesn't even have provincial sales tax. So we can't use other jurisdictions saying: They do it, so we should do it. Because in fact we have the highest consumer tax rates here in the province.

I'm asking the minister, first of all, will you consider another way, Mr. Minister, to allocate this \$500,000 necessary to Tourism Charlottetown for marketing? Mr. Minister, can you do this, look to another way so that

money can be found so that we do not have to tax our tourists?

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

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

**Mr. MacFadyen:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify for the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square, and to answer the question from the Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

One, the City of Charlottetown, the mayor, the hon. Clifford Lee, met with the hotel accommodations and convention centres and with Tourism Charlottetown, and signed an agreement before they came to government asking government if they would support the initiative. It hinged on whether government would support it or not. The request came from that group to government asking us to allow them to initiate a tax, accommodation levy. We agreed with it, but at the same time we agreed that we would allow all municipalities to have the choice, therefore we introduced enabling legislation.

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** (Indistinct) proper support.

**Speaker:** All right, hon. member.

**Ms. Bertram:** Mr. Speaker, this question was directed to the Minister of Tourism and he did not stand up to answer that question.

Mr. Minister, will you look to other ways instead of having to impose a tax? Municipalities will have to make this decision. Will you not, Mr. Minister - Minister of Tourism, tourism - allocate money from your budget to go towards extra marketing?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

All right, hon. member.

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

**Mr. MacFadyen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We introduced and tabled legislation to allow municipalities to act in the manner that they wish to act and we allowed other municipalities, if they so desired, we gave them the enabling legislation to do so.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, the strategy that this government takes. This is - we're bringing a voice for -

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** All right, hon. member.

**Ms. Bertram:** - operators here on Prince Edward Island that are concerned with this imposition of taxes to our tourists. And here in the opposition we will suggest, and we would like to propose, that the Minister of Tourism initiate something new in relation to the revenue of the \$325 million through tourism, that 3% to 4% of the revenues taken be allocated to marketing which would see us have a marketing budget of about \$10 million a year.

Will the minister support the opposition's plea for this added resources? I think he should see where it's supporting industry and the economy in Prince Edward Island. Mr. Minister of Tourism.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

What's becoming apparent in the whole discussion is that the opposition does not support the tourism industry. They do not support the leaders of the tourism industry.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame, shame!

**Speaker:** All right, hon. members. Let the minister -

**Mr. P. Brown:** They will not support the people that come together, that spent countless volunteer hours developing policies, researching initiatives, finding out what's happening in the rest of the country, seeing how they can advance their own position.

But we do. When they come to government with ideas that they want to advance their own cause, we support it. We don't stand up against them. We don't say: Your ideas aren't worthy of our support and our participation.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** All right, hon. members.

**Mr. P. Brown:** So we work with the industry. They think they have all the answers, they can go on their own? But the question is clear. Do they support the industry and do they support (Indistinct)?

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Mr. Speaker, don't let the minister talk about imposition.

What did you do with the provincial park system here, and imposing on communities, and your failure as a department and a minister to put adequate resources to the

provincial park system? So don't talk about imposing.

But let's go back to the question that was asked. Will you support the opposition's plea for a 3% portion of the revenues taken, the \$325, \$330 million from tourism revenue, to tourism marketing for this upcoming year, Mr. Minister?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

This government has supported the tourism industry and continues to support the tourism industry. Last year I received three-quarters of a million additional dollars to market Prince Edward Island. The year before I received one million additional dollars to support tourism.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** All right, hon. leader.

**Mr. P. Brown:** We put forward the Legends of Golf event, which they did nothing but criticize. We supported airlines coming into this community and our province, which they did nothing but criticize. We're responding to the needs of the tourism industry by introducing Sunday shopping, which they did nothing but criticize. They don't have one idea. They have no support for the industry, and our record is clear.

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

**Speaker:** Final question.

The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

**Quality of paint on roads**

**Ms. Bertram:** Mr. Speaker, I think it's very clear that this government is going down with that statement by that minister today.

This is tourism. I will leave the minister on my final question and go to the minister of transportation for my final question.

I have been approached by many motorists and those in the transport industry in regards to the reflective paint on the roads that's being used over this past season, Madam Minister. I would like you to come back to the House - or perhaps you can answer this - are we putting less reflective beads in the paint? Because people are very concerned about safety. They're saying that the yellow paint, white paint, is not as visible as it used to be. So I'm wondering: Are we sacrificing safety, the cost of the reflective beads, Madam Minister? Perhaps you can come back, table some information later on in the proceedings in the next couple of weeks.

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

**Ms. Shea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Actually, I do a lot of driving and I'm also concerned about that. If the paint seems it's not very fresh, it doesn't appear to be very reflective. We did try out a new brand of paint on one of our highways just over the last six months so we are working on the problem.

**Speaker:** End of Question Period.

#### Statements by Ministers

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

**Ms. Shea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, is the National Day of Remembrance and Action

on Violence Against Women. This day of recognition was established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada and coincides with the sad anniversary of the 1989 Montreal massacre, with 14 young women were tragically murdered at l'ecole Polytechnique because of their gender.

In addition to commemorating the loss of these 14 young lives, tomorrow represents a time to pause and reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society.

It is also have a time to have a special thought for all of the women and girls in PEI who live daily with the threat of aggression or who have died as a result of deliberate acts of gender based violence.

Across the nation and here on Prince Edward Island, women and girls make up the vast majority of victims of sexual assault and criminal harassment. Female victims of spousal violence experience more severe consequences than male victims, and indeed in our province alone there have been eight lives taken by acts of violence at the hands of partners and neighbours.

Although we are a province of only 137,000 people, in one year our Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre received 65 phone calls on their crisis line. The Transition House Association and their outreach services received over 17,000 calls and services were provided to over 2,000 women and children. Those are quite alarming statistics.

Violence against women is a complex issue that touches every community and extracts enormous social and economic costs to our province and our people. There are many organizations and individuals on PEI who give endless hours and boundless energy helping victims of domestic violence.

I would like to recognize the work of the

Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. Also I welcome some dedicated individuals to the House here today. With us on the floor are: Lisa Murphy and Sandy Kowalik from the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Karin Laronde, representing Transition House Association; Cindy Ferguson, representing the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence; and Faye Martin, representing the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.

These people represent many, many more who work daily to combat domestic violence. All members of the Legislature are invited to attend the public memorial service for this national day of remembrance at Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts, tomorrow, Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon. There will also be memorial services held at noon tomorrow across the province as well, including at the UPEI Chaplaincy Centre, at the Summerside Presbyterian Church and at the O'Leary United Church.

I would encourage members of this Assembly and all Islanders to take the opportunity to attend one of these services if possible and to take the time to reflect upon the damage that violence against women does to our society.

Tomorrow, December 6<sup>th</sup>, will also be recognized in this Legislature as we will remember the Montreal massacre with a moment of silence and flags lowered out of respect for the victims of violence. I will know ask the Pages to deliver purple ribbons to my colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to respond to this. Because this was an awful event that took place in Montreal many years ago. Yet here we find every day, listening to the radio or watching television or in our own communities, hearing stories of violence against women, children. Domestic violence has many faces. It's sad that it hasn't ended. The continued work by many of the organizations across the country that are doing tremendous work, supporting women and children, getting them out of those difficult, dangerous situations.

Here on Prince Edward Island, the Advisory Council of the Status of Women do tremendous work. The Crisis Centre, Anderson House, Transition House, all those organizations do so much work to help individuals, women, improve their situation and provide that safety net for them to go to, to reach out to. I think it's important that continued resources are allocated to such centres and facilities and programs too.

We need to do as much as we can here on Prince Edward Island. I think it's wonderful, tomorrow, the services are being held across the province. The minister told of the different times and places. I think for us, taking half an hour or an hour out of our schedule tomorrow to pause and to really think about what happened then, and what continues to happen in maybe our own families and perhaps families within our communities or our province or nation.

We have to be vigilant, we can't turn a blind eye to it. It exists. As I said, it has many faces. But hopefully one day it will end, where everyone will be valued in our society and that violence will not be a way to an end.

So I commend all the efforts of the different groups on Prince Edward Island, the

women's groups, and I wish them continued successes and reaching out to women and children here on Prince Edward Island.

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 am pleased to announce that the government is increasing the long-term care subsidy per diem rate provided to currently subsidized residents of private nursing homes.

We're aware that costs are rising for private nursing home operators and we understand the need to provide this subsidy increase.

The rate for Level 4 residents will increase by \$4 per day to \$122.50 and for Level 5 residents the rate will increase by \$6 per day to \$137.50.

Levels range from 1 to 5 and indicate the degree of nursing care required for a resident, with 5 being the highest level of care required.

Forty-two percent of the long-term care nursing beds are located in the private sector in this province. Approximately 65% of residents in private nursing homes are subsidized.

Government values the vital role of private nursing homes in the delivery of long-term care for Island seniors. This subsidy increase will help to ensure continued high quality services for private nursing home residents on PEI.

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.

This, as the minister well knows, is probably, like himself, an issue that I hear of quite a bit in my travels, meeting with a lot of the seniors in our province, which I believe we should - whenever we get the opportunity to get a chance to get out and visit. These raises in the per diem rate are important. I commend the minister for them. I know that there's probably more demands out there for even higher increases. I think we have to do whatever we can to ensure that our seniors can live in the dignity that they so deserve for providing us with the lifestyle that we have today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. MacFadyen:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to extend congratulations to Mr. Stan Campbell, who for the past six years has done an outstanding job as president of the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities. Friday, December 8, will be Stan's last day as president of the FPEIM, and he will certainly be missed.

Since its inception in 1957, Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities has grown significantly. It now represents 43 municipalities and 85% of the incorporated population. Stan has been an important leader and has worked diligently in many areas. His ongoing dialogue with provincial

representatives and open lines of communications have made it a pleasure to work with him throughout numerous projects and initiatives.

Gwen Wyand will step into the presidency role until the annual meeting in April, and I am confident that the FPEIM will continue to serve as a strong unified voice for Prince Edward Island municipalities as they strive to further the interests of the municipalities in this province. I welcome Gwen Wyand as president, and look forward to working with her in this new role.

I would like to personally congratulate Stan on his excellent job over the past six years. I know you, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all hon. members of this House join me in wishing him all the best in his future endeavours.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to rise as well and on behalf of the opposition extend our best wishes to Mr. Stan Campbell. Mr. Campbell is a resident of District 17 and yes, as the minister stated, he has served the federation of municipalities really well and has been a great ambassador for Prince Edward Island at the national levels. I know he has travelled greatly and he has brought his message to many meetings across this country. He is truly passionate about municipalities' issues.

I would also like to extend best wishes to Gwen Wyand from Cavendish who will be taking over in the interim. I know she is a great community person in the Cavendish

area and will represent PEI well.

In closing, I'd just like to extend best wishes to Stan and continued successes in his life.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Dover:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to acknowledge a new partnership announced today by UPEI and Holland College that will be of great benefit to children and early childhood educators. A new Bachelor of Child and Family Studies degree will soon be offered jointly by UPEI and Holland College. Graduates of the Holland College Early Childhood Care and Education program will be able to transfer their entire two-year block of courses from Holland College to UPEI and finish their degree in two years.

This is a major step forward. In the past, although many Holland College graduates did want to go on and get a university degree, for them it wasn't an option. Universities would not accept college level courses and it meant they had to start all over. But now, through the collaborative initiative of our post-secondary institutions, this situation has changed. We now have a viable option that will enable experienced early childhood educators to advance their education while enhancing early childhood education and care in Prince Edward Island.

UPEI will begin accepting students from the Holland College program in January. Please join me in congratulating UPEI and Holland College on another strategic collaboration that meets the changing needs of Island students and our early childhood community.



Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is good news. I know there has been many people working on this for quite some time, and hearing the news today of Holland College and UPEI partnering together to offer this program will greatly benefit our children here on Prince Edward Island and our educators on Prince Edward Island.

The partnership between the two institutions has been, as I said, in the workings for a long time. But certainly, as the minister stated, if it's going to be available to students as of January 2007, that's great. It's not going to be - they're not going to have to wait until next September.

So it's good news and I wish best of luck to all those students that are going to go into the program and all their instructors as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Dover:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since 2006, the Government of Canada has been introducing legislation to support their new Stand Up for Security Policy, which is intended to protect Canadians. These legislative initiatives include amendments to the Criminal Code to restrict the use of conditional sentences and to impose minimum penalties for offences involving firearms. In addition, the federal government has signalled its intention to impose

minimum penalties for designated drug trafficking offences and has set out plans to work with the provinces to put at least 2,500 more police officers in communities across Canada.

I support the objectives of the federal governments crime and safety initiatives.

However, the cost and operational impact of these changes must be considered and provinces must be assisted with strategies to implement these reforms. The cost implications can be significant. We will be looking to the federal government to help with additional resources to enable our province to implement the reforms, to collaborate on ways to reduce the cost impact and to coordinate an implementation schedule.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I can tell the minister that we in the opposition will be with you on that one. We agree that it's easy for the federal government to get up and announce law and order laws, especially with 2,500 new police officers on the streets throughout Canada. That's easy for them to say because they don't have to pay the bill. We do definitely need transfers from the federal government in order to achieve that.

But I think one of the main things the Harper government should be doing is cancelling their approach towards gun control. This is a major cause of crime in Canada. Crime is caused by guns. By cancelling the long gun registry, it's

absolutely insane of the federal government to be doing this. You hear time and time again where police departments depend on this system before going into dangerous situations. They tap into the computer and they know what type of guns are in the residence, in these people's houses. I know members are going to say that a lot of guns aren't registered, but the ones that are are good. It's a tool that our police officers use.

So we really want to support our police officers and we really want to support enforcement on our streets. We would back the police association of Canada and the policemen of Canada and keep this gun registry on tap.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

As Minister of Tourism, I rise to inform members that the Charlottetown Airport has experienced yet another very successful year, in fact, their most successful year ever, setting a record for 2006. The Charlottetown Airport led all Atlantic Canadian airports in growth and was the fourth fastest growing airport in the country.

Yesterday the Charlottetown Airport congratulated passenger number 212,492, Mr. Ivan Noonan. This surpassed its previous record set in 1989. Our government has been working with the Charlottetown Airport Authority to add new carriers to our provincial capital airport. Additional carriers provide more options than ever before to travellers to and from Prince Edward Island and create a stronger tourism industry. Increasing the province's air capacity will ensure that accessible and reliable

transportation options are available to Islanders and visitors.

It is obvious that demand for air access is strong and carriers are willing to add Prince Edward Island to their list of destinations. Air Canada Jazz, WestJet, North West Airlines and Sunwing provide a diverse selection of destinations and flight schedules and enhance the appeal of the Island to both leisure and business travellers. With the busy Christmas season just around the corner, we can expect continued growth for the Charlottetown Airport and even more impressive numbers to close out the year.

In closing, I wish to commend the hon. Premier and Mr. Mike Campbell, as well as my deputy, Kent Scales, for the continued efforts to attract new carriers and increase traffic through the airport. The work done by the Government of Prince Edward Island and the Charlottetown Airport Authority has provided a wide range of travel options which greatly enhance this Province's profile in the tourism industry.

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.

First of all, let me say I'm glad to know that Kent Scales has been found and I hope that - the hon. Member from North River-Rice Point has been looking for him for two years now to come before public accounts and I'm glad to know that he's been located.

But on a serious note, I really want to thank the people responsible for this. Unlike the minister who gets up and likes just taking credit for himself and his Premier who really

put us in this situation where our tourism numbers have been declining consistently for the past 10 years.

I really want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mike Campbell out at the airport for doing a fantastic job on behalf of the city of Charlottetown or the municipality of Charlottetown and the people of Prince Edward Island.

One of the things I found the most interesting was I thought when they said we broke a record that was set two or three years ago, or something like that, but they have to go back to 1989 was the last time we've had this many passengers. It's really quite unfortunate that after 10 years of Tory rule it takes us that long to set a record that was set back in 1989.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Some Hon. Members:** All right, members.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I find it quite unfortunate that it takes us so long to set a record. We should have been setting records year after year after year, because that's what Islanders deserve and that's what the next good government of this province will offer, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism.

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

Consistent with government's initiative to support industry and major events on Prince Edward Island, I want to inform all members, and invite members of the general public, to join me and the organizing committee of a major sporting event, the press conference to announce the event, tomorrow morning at 10:00 at the Confederation Centre.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

That was quite the minister's statement: Please come join me at an announcement to announce something. That just goes to show, 10 years of government and they've got nothing to announce.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to table a letter dated September 15 from the Hotel Association of Prince Edward Island. I would also like to table a letter written by seven or so operators from the Charlottetown area to the minister, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. I'd also like to table a letter written by those same people on November 19<sup>th</sup> to myself.

I would also like to table the background on the accommodation levy. I would also like to table the Memorandum of Understanding to the City of Charlottetown.

There are two other documents. Table a briefing document that was prepared for the Legislative Assembly members by those operators that were opposing this, and as well, the August 29<sup>th</sup> release for the Memorandum of Understanding.

Those are all seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Speaker:** The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, by Command of Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I beg leave to table information required pursuant to sections 28, 30, 32 and 47 of the *Financial Administration Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

**Speaker:** The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 13<sup>th</sup> Order of the Day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act*, Bill No. 13, ordered for Second Reading.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Mr. Murphy:** 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 Off-Highway Vehicle Act*, Bill No. 13, read a Second Time.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**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 Winsloe-West Royalty, Chairperson of Committee of the Whole.

**Chair (Collins):** 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 Off-Highway Vehicle Act*.

I believe the minister has a request first to make before we go any further.

**Ms. Shea:** Can I bring my staff onto the floor?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** Go ahead.

Mr. Graham Miner is the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Province of Prince Edward Island. Welcome, Mr. Miner. Good to see you again.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** All right, shall we have an overview from the minister first?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** Madam Minister.

**Ms. Shea:** These legislative changes deal with ATVs. These changes reflect what came forward in the report from the Committee. A number of the changes are regulatory in nature, so you won't see them in here because they're part of regulations. These are the changes that need to be in the enabling legislation for changes to regulations.

**Chair:** I thank you, Madam Minister.

**Ms. Shea:** So, if you have any questions as we go along as to what might be in the regulations, feel free to ask (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Did all members hear that?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Chair:** All right, thank you.

1 Clause 1(g) of the *Off-Highway Vehicle Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. O-3 is amended

(a) by the repeal of subclause (v);

(b) by the addition of the work "and" following clause (vi); and

(c) by the repeal of subclause (vii).

Shall it carry?

Question?

**Ms. Shea:** This section amends the definition of off-highway vehicle to drop the idea of a miniature motor vehicle, which would be a toy, from the definition.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 2 The Act is amended by the addition of the following after section 16:

16.1(1) Where a peace officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed under this Act or the regulations, the peace officer may seize the off-highway vehicle with or in respect of which the offence was committed.

(2) If a peace officer is satisfied that the seizure of an off-highway vehicle under subsection (1) would

(a) jeopardize the safety of the operator or any occupants of the off-highway vehicle; or

(b) leave the operator or occupants stranded,

the peace officer shall arrange for transportation of the operator and any occupants of the off-highway vehicle to the nearest safe area where they can summon an alternative form of transportation.

(3) Personal property present in an off-highway vehicle that has been seized under subsection (1), other than personal property attached to or used in connection with the operation of the off-highway vehicle, shall be returned to the owner on request.

Questions?

Yes, the hon. Member from Glen Stewart-Bellevue Cove.

**Dr. McKenna:** Does that mean the peace officer can come onto private land and seize a vehicle, or is it just on trails and stuff like that?

**Ms. Shea:** If an offence is occurring on private land, yes.

**Dr. McKenna:** He can come right on (Indistinct).

**Ms. Shea:** It's only where an offence is occurring.

**Dr. McKenna:** Okay. What do you define as a peace officer in this case? Like, RCMP, trails officers? Peace officers?

**Ms. Shea:** Trails officers, any peace officers.

**Dr. McKenna:** Conservation officers?

**Ms. Shea:** Yes. Highway traffic officers.

**Dr. McKenna:** The whole gamut.

**Ms. Shea:** Yes.

**Dr. McKenna:** Okay. Great.

**Chair:** Further questions?

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 16.2(1) Where a peace officer seizes an off-highway vehicle under subsection 16.1(1), the peace officer shall cause the off-highway vehicle to be taken to and impounded at a place directed by the peace officer.

(2) A peace officer who seizes an off-highway vehicle and causes it to be impounded under subsection (1) shall, as soon as possible after the seizure, give the owner of the off-highway vehicle a written notice of the place where the off-highway vehicle is impounded.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), it is sufficient for a peace officer to give a written notice of impoundment to the person who the Registrar believes, on the basis of

the records of the Department or otherwise, is the owner of the off-highway vehicle.

(4) An off-highway vehicle that is impounded under subsection (1) shall remain impounded for a period of 24 hours from the time it is seized.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (4), if an off-highway vehicle that is impounded under subsection (1) is owned by a person who, within 2 years before the day of the impoundment, was the owner of an off-highway vehicle that was impounded under subsection (1), the off-highway vehicle is to remain impounded for a period of 30 days from the date it is impounded.

(6) For greater certainty, where an off-highway vehicle is impounded under subsection (1), the unpaid vendor of the off-highway vehicle, if any, is not entitled to again obtain possession of the motor vehicle until the relevant period of impoundment imposed by subsection (4) or (5) has expired.

(7) The following costs and charges constitute a lien on an off-highway vehicle impounded under this section:

(a) all costs and charges for the transportation, towing, care and storage, respecting the impoundment of the off-highway vehicle;

(b) all charges for searches and registrations under the statutes governing security interests that are reasonably necessary to fulfil the obligations of the person who has custody of the off-highway vehicle under the impoundment.

(8) The lien described in subsection (7) may be enforced under the *Garage Keepers' Lien Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap.G-1.

(9) The person who has custody of an off-

highway vehicle that is impounded under this section shall notify the Registrar of the sale of that motor vehicle under the *Garage Keepers' Lien Act*.

(10) An off-highway vehicle that has been impounded for the 24 hour period required under subsection (4), or for the 30 day period required under subsection (5), shall remain impounded, if on the expiry of the relevant period, the off-highway vehicle is still subject to a lien described in subsection (7), until

(a) the lien is paid; or

(b) the vehicle is dealt with

(I) under the *Garage Keepers' Lien Act*, or

(ii) under subsection (11).

(11) The person who has custody of an off-highway vehicle that has been impounded for the 24 hour period required under subsection (4), or for the 30 day period required under subsection (5), shall keep the off-highway vehicle impounded, if on the expiry of the relevant period, the owner of off-highway vehicle is not able to produce, for the inspection of that person, a certificate of registration issued under this Act or by another jurisdiction of the off-highway vehicle.

(12) If an off-highway vehicle that is impounded under this section remains impounded for at least 90 days after the expiration of the relevant impoundment period referred to in subsection (4) or (5), the person who has custody of the off-highway vehicle under the impoundment may, with the approval of the Registrar, dispose of the off-highway vehicle by sale or otherwise, if the person

(a) surrenders to the Registrar any number plate, issued under this Act, from the off-

highway vehicle; and

(b) files with the Registrar

(I) a statutory declaration in the prescribed form declaring that

(A) the amount of the person's lien on the off-highway vehicle exceeds the person's estimate of the value of the off-highway vehicle, and

(B) the person, at least 14 days before making the statutory declaration, sent to the owner of the off-highway vehicle, by ordinary mail, a notice that the person intends to dispose of the vehicle if the lien is not paid, and

(ii) a certificate showing that no security interest is registered against the off-highway vehicle under the statutes governing security interests.

(13) If the Registrar approves the disposal of an off-highway vehicle under subsection (12), the Registrar shall

(a) issue a new certificate of registration for the off-highway vehicle to the person who has custody of the motor vehicle under the impoundment; and

(b) forward any refund from the cancellation of the registration to the previous registered owner of the off-highway vehicle.

(14) On application by the owner of an off-highway vehicle that been impounded under this section, the Registrar may if the Registrar is satisfied that the vehicle was not impounded because of any fault of the owner,

(a) terminate the period of impoundment imposed by subsection (4) or (5), as the case may be; and

(b) direct the person who has custody of the off-highway vehicle to release the vehicle to its owner immediately on payment of the lien described in subsection (8).

Questions?

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

**Mr. MacAleer:** I understand now that a vehicle should be licenced. The problem begins if the vehicle isn't licenced, but has been impounded.

Now, my understanding is that in order to get that vehicle released it first of all now has to be licenced.

**Ms. Shea:** That's correct.

**Mr. MacAleer:** How does a person go about licensing that vehicle? In other words, proving that in fact they are the owner of the vehicle? They haven't licensed it, it's not a new vehicle, they may not have had purchase documents. Is it sufficient, then, that the person would declare a statutory declaration that they own the vehicle?

**Graham Miner Registrar:** You're very close to the process when that occurs. There is an affidavit process that is set up currently in these cases where person has ownership of the vehicle but never registered in their name. They are asked to produce a bill of sale from the previous owner. If that isn't possible, on top of that or with that also they sign an affidavit or prescribed form at Motor Vehicles stating who they purchased from and, of course, within our systems we do a full search to ensure that the vehicle isn't stolen, registered elsewhere or in any other names before we transfer the registration.

**Chair:** Further questions?

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 3 Section 20 of the Act is repealed and the following substituted:

20 Except as otherwise provided in this Act or prescribed in the regulations, a person who is guilty of an offence under this Act or the regulations for which a penalty is not otherwise provided is liable on summary conviction,

(a) for a first offence, to a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,000; and

(b) for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine or not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000.

Questions.

The hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Could the minister just review with us, before we accept this, what these fines will cover?

**Ms. Shea:** Any violation of this act.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Any violation -

**Ms. Shea:** Yes.

**Mr. MacDonald:** What would they be particularly?

**Ms. Shea:** That would be driving an unregistered vehicle, driving a vehicle on the highway, or things of that nature.

**Mr. MacDonald:** And in the act, is there no penalties for all these?

**Ms. Shea:** Yes, the current penalty is a fine of \$50 which we're proposing we move to \$250.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Okay, so you're raising



the fines.

**Ms. Shea:** Yes.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square, did you have a question?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

What is the current fine?

**Ms. Shea:** Fifty dollars is the minimum fine.

**Mr. R. Brown:** And there's a max on it?

**Ms. Shea:** Thousand. I think it's \$100, hon. member.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. One other topic on if the members want to pass. But what about the registration of these vehicles? It's not in this act.

**Ms. Shea:** They're required to be registered now.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So how come a lot of them aren't registered?

**Ms. Shea:** That's a good question.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So you weren't enforcing it?

**Ms. Shea:** It's very difficult to enforce because they are very hard to apprehend, right.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Some kid going up the road with no plate, that's pretty easy, isn't it? To find out where that -

**Ms. Shea:** Law enforcement agencies tend not to give chase for safety reasons, is my understanding. That's why we've included seizure in this document. It actually wasn't

in the committee report, but I didn't think it was fair that we ask our law enforcement agencies to try and apprehend violators of this act and when they are apprehended give them a slap on the wrist, or warranting, and say: Don't do it again.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So if they get caught with no registration it was a \$50 fine. Is that correct?

**Ms. Shea:** It was a \$50 fine, yes, now it will be \$250.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So when they get registered will they also have to get insurance like cars?

**Ms. Shea:** It's not mandatory, no.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Do you think it should be mandatory as minister? Some of these people are out on the road, now, or they run over somebody? We require everybody that drives a vehicle on our highways to have insurance on their vehicle, mainly because of the other person that could be injured because of this. So you don't see any need for the same to apply to these vehicles.

**Ms. Shea:** These are off-highway vehicles. Bicycles drive on the highway but they don't require insurance.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Bicycles don't have motors that go -

**Ms. Shea:** No, I know.

**Mr. R. Brown:** I haven't seen a bicycle that goes 70 miles an hour.

**Ms. Shea:** But it doesn't mean they can't run into a car or a car can't run into them.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Are snowmobiles required to have insurance?

**Ms. Shea:** Because of the trail, is my understanding.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So these are the only motorized vehicles that do not require insurance?

**Graham Miner Registrar:** The only time the off-highway vehicles are allowed on the highway is to cross a highway and at this point, in terms of insurance, there's no insurance to operate the vehicle on the highway. But I believe you may be able to get insurance for the ATV. I know we've had this decisions with insurance on that and it was a question around theft of ATVs that they would insure. But at this point I'm not clear, Richard, if there's liability on collisions that may occur with ATVs or if insurance companies would fund those type of liabilities.

**Mr. R. Brown:** I guess what I'm concerned about is if a person is going over a highway to get to the other side of the highway on one of these vehicles and some person is coming down the highway and they swerve to avoid them or they hit them and then go into the ditch and get severely injured, what recourse does that person have? Their insurance isn't going to cover them because it's the ATV's fault, so that person is left without any insurance.

**Ms. Shea:** It would be the same as hitting a pedestrian.

**Mr. R. Brown:** What?

**Ms. Shea:** It would be the same as a pedestrian crossing the highway, they'd be - they won't have any liability insurance.

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, my point is -

**Ms. Shea:** It's a good point.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Take it under advisement.

Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

**Mr. Mooney:** If a kid is caught driving - with the new legislation coming through on ATVs and under the age of 14, they're not allowed to drive? If they are caught under this, the vehicle would be seized and they would have the \$250 fine.

**Ms. Shea:** That's right. They would get a \$250 fine, the vehicle would be impounded, and they would also pay for the cost of the impoundment.

**Mr. Mooney:** Okay.

**Ms. Shea:** So we are getting serious about the ATVs being on the highways.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** I know probably I should have asked this question a little earlier, but when you talk about off highway vehicles, I had gotten quite a few e-mails in regards to - like the motocross bikes. So if I was using my motocross bike for the same thing, if I went on the highway or whatever, the fine still applies.

**Ms. Shea:** That's correct.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** The majority of the questions here - and I guess because I have a motocross park in my district. Again, in this - and I know it doesn't really break that down. That would be in regulations.

**Ms. Shea:** That would be in regulations, yes, and there will be an allowance for the motocross sport to continue on closed courses. There will be some regulations around that.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** So will there be any age limit on that?

**Ms. Shea:** Not inside closed courses, but they'll have to have training, wear the proper equipment, and they will have to have the proper size machines.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Yes, because in the e-mails that I have been getting they talk about a lot of young drivers and they talk about it being a family sport. So that was one concern that I just wanted to - that won't be a concern.

**Ms. Shea:** There will be allowances made for the motocross. It doesn't seem to be the problem with the motocross bikes or dirt bikes as much as there are with ATVs being on our highways.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Okay, so there'll be no age limit as long as they have the proper training and the proper equipment.

**Ms. Shea:** Yes, and driving the proper sized vehicle.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Just looking at this last one here to see - I guess the other one is in regards to ATVing families who are - this gentleman says, again, it's a family sport where they go ATVing together. But under this act there will be no one, whether they're with a family or without, under the age of 14, right?

**Ms. Shea:** No, and I guess all of us can think back to tragedies that have happened. I know that there's been some 10 year olds and 12 year olds and 13 years old. I know as a parent, the parents of those children did not think it could happen to them either. So as legislators I think we have a responsibility to bring some regulations in around safety around these vehicles.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Okay, I guess that was it. I just wanted to be sure I covered all the

questions.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 4 Section 22 of the Act is amended

(a) in clause (g), by the deletion of the words "under a specified age"; and

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

(g.1) respecting off-highway vehicle safety training;

(g.2) respecting the maximum engine size of an off-highway vehicle that a person of a specified age or weight may operate.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Why are you taking out "under a specific age"? Right now the clause reads: government restricting prohibiting the operation of a off-highway vehicle by any person under a specific age.

**Ms. Shea:** This will allow us to amend the regulations to be more specific, I guess, with the age. Because in the regulations they will refer to persons who are between the age of 14 and 16 and those over 16.

**Mr. R. Brown:** During the discussion, Madam Minister, the medical society and the people from the IWK made a case on age 16. What do you feel about that request of the medical society and the doctors and the physicians that treat these injuries? Are you going to take their recommendation or the committee's recommendation? The medical society is quite specific. They said 16 and they're adamant on that one.

**Ms. Shea:** I was at that meeting, hon. member. I certainly appreciate the medical society and the doctor coming from the IWK in particular. This legislation, for the most part, mirrors what the committee has recommended, so there's nothing to say that we can't go from 14 to 16 in the future. But I think requiring that between the ages of 14 and 16 they be under direct supervision of an adult is moving in that direction, in the right direction.

**Mr. R. Brown:** We haven't seen the regulations yet and this is giving the authority to regulate. Will you be putting in your regulations exemptions?

**Ms. Shea:** Not to my knowledge. Do you have a particular exemption (Indistinct) -

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, I'm just wondering. There is going to be no exemption, then?

**Ms. Shea:** No. Not for ATVs, no. In our regulations, though, we will allow for the operation of motocross carts.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay.

**Chair:** Further questions?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Just one other question.

When are the regulations going to be done? This act is basically just - 95% of it just seizure of the unit itself. Today what we're really doing is very little in terms of regulations. When will the regulations be in place?

**Ms. Shea:** Yes., That's right. I'm not 100% sure because our Legislative Counsel office, hon. member, is very busy. But there has been drafts and drafts of them. Of course, you know the process. It does go to legislative review. So I don't expect that it will be much longer before they're completed.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Much longer. Like, we passed legislation here in 2004 for contaminated sites and the regs have just gone through last week or the week before. Is it going to be that long, two years, one year, six months, six weeks?

**Ms. Shea:** I would expect it will be in 2006.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Oh, this year.

**Ms. Shea:** This year.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Ms. Shea:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act.*

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Ms. Shea:** I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Ms. Shea:** Mr. Chairman, I move the Speaker take the Chair and that the Chairman report the Bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle 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 11<sup>th</sup> Order of the Day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 11, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, Bill No. 12, ordered for Second Reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, Bill No. 12, 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 St. Eleanors-Summerside, Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole House.

**Mr. Murphy:** Madam Chair, before we begin, I'm wondering if I could have permission to bring Nigel Burns on from my department.

**Chair (H. MacDonald):** Can we have permission to bring Nigel Burns on from the department?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** 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 Income Tax Act*.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. MacAleer:** Can we just have an overview of (Indistinct)?

**Mr. Murphy:** We're trying to accomplish a number of things with this bill, hon. member.

We want to be able to pass on the - we're going to introduce a new child tax credit. As you know, the federal government had announced they were going to do a federal universal child care benefit. We said that we would pass 100% of that benefit on. We have to do that through a child tax credit, so this bill seeks to establish that.

This also is related to some dividend tax credits that have been announced by the federal government. We have to make some amendments to our act to coincide with that and to also coincide with our committed reduction in the small business corporate tax rate. So there are amendments in here to address that.

We also presently have on PEI a low income tax reduction program. So we're making amendments to this act to make sure that the universal child care benefit is not calculated as taxable income for the purposes of that program.

The last section of the act really deals with some technical amendments in the application of the act which we have been using in practice but which needs to be changed in legislation.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Just one question.

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

**Mr. MacDonald:** Did we bring in legislation in the last couple of years to bring our disability on the income tax equal to that of Ottawa?

**Mr. Murphy:** What we have done, hon. member, is that we have agreed to pass - because we're decoupled now, we have an independent decision to make with regards to allowing that deduction. I believe we have passed those deductions on.

Mr. Burns informs me we've done the medical expense and the disability allowance in previous legislation.

**Chair:** Okay?

**Mr. MacDonald:** Okay.

**Chair:** Okay.

1 Section 9 of the *Income Tax Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. I-1 is amended by the addition of the following after subsection (4):

(5) For the purpose of computing the tax payable under this Part by an individual for a taxation year, there may be deducted by an eligible individual in respect of each qualified dependant an amount determined by the formula

$A \times B$

where

A is the appropriate percentage for the taxation year and

B is the product obtained when \$100 is multiplied by the number of months in the taxation year, beginning with July of 2006, that the individual is the eligible individual in respect of the qualified dependant on the first day of the month, but only one eligible individual may claim the amount determined by the formula in respect of the same qualified dependant for any given month, and, in this subsection,

(a) "eligible individual" means a person who, on the last day of the taxation year was resident in Prince Edward Island, and who, at that time,

(i) does not have a cohabiting spouse or common-law partner as defined in section 122.6 of the Federal Act,

(ii) has a cohabiting spouse or common-law partner, as defined in section 122.6 of the Federal Act, whose income for the taxation year is greater than the individual's income for the taxation year,

(iii) has a cohabiting spouse or common-law partner, as defined in section 122.6 of the Federal Act, whose income for the taxation year is equal to the individual's income for

the taxation year and the cohabiting spouse or common-law partner renounces his or her entitlement to deduct an amount determined by the formula under this subsection; and

(b) “qualified dependant” means a person who, on the first day of the month,

(I) has not attained the age of six years,

(ii) resides with the eligible individual, and

(iii) is not a person in respect of whom a special allowance under the *Children’s Special Allowances Act* (Canada) is payable for the month.

Shall it carry?

**Mr. MacDonald:** Question.

**Chair:** Question, the hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay.

**Mr. MacDonald:** It’s a little confusion here. Number (iii), could you define that a little better?

**Mr. Murphy:** Number (iii) simply says that if your income is equal to your spouse or common-law partner’s income, then you have a decision to make which one of you is going to claim the benefit.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Exemption of the \$100 or more.

**Mr. Murphy:** That’s right. If your income is the lower of the two, then the lower income must claim it. If you’re the sole income, then obviously you don’t have anything to compare it to, so you’re eligible to claim the benefit.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you. So what we’re saying is the higher income earner, there’s a choice between the parents which takes the credit.

**Mr. Murphy:** Hon. member, if the salaries are equal then there’s a decision. If the salaries are not equal there is no decision.

**Mr. R. Brown:** It goes where? To the higher?

**Mr. Murphy:** Lowest.

**Mr. R. Brown:** But Harper is allowing them to go higher or lower. They let the family choose.

**Mr. Murphy:** No. It’s the lowest.

**Mr. R. Brown:** You’re going with the lowest.

**Mr. Murphy:** No, we’re following - my understanding is that the federal government is not allowing, go to spousal choosing. It goes to the spouse with the lowest income.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. The forms are on CCRA now. Are these - and the forms that are on CCRA now, 2006?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes, what we’re doing is that if the Legislature passes this -

**Mr. R. Brown:** Right.

**Mr. Murphy:** - CRA will develop these forms for the Prince Edward Island taxation. Ourselves, Nova Scotia and Nunavut are the only jurisdictions that are passing this credit on. So when the 2006 tax forms come available for PEI, this child tax credit exemption will be on those forms.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. So if I’m making \$100,000 a year, I have to take the \$1,200 in as income first, do I?

**Mr. Murphy:** It depends on your domestic situation.

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, but okay. My wife's making \$150,000 and I'm making \$100,000, I'm the lower income.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's right.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So I have to take the \$1,200 in as income first.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's right.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. Then the credit I'm getting, is it at 9.8 - like the extra \$1,200, I'd be in the 30% bracket with that \$100,000. Do I get the credit on the high rates or the low rates? Or just the 9.8 rate?

**Mr. Murphy:** It's the nine point eight rate where you get the credit.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So this is about a hundred tax saving for that person. It's the same across the board for everybody.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Because we're all going to use the low rate.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. So really the person that's in the high brackets, this additional income, which they're in the higher bracket now, they're paying, like, what is it, 15.5, 22, 29?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes, it depends on what your (Indistinct).

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, I mean hours, is 9.8, 13.48 -

**Mr. Murphy:** Sixteen point six.

**Mr. R. Brown:** I don't think I'm beyond the 9.8 yet. But okay, so it's about a hundred dollar saving.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yeah, if you're in that income bracket.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

**Mr. R. Brown:** (Indistinct) matter what income bracket you're in, it's \$98 savings.

**Mr. Murphy:** Not necessarily, it depends on what your income is. What the tax credit does is that it basically passes it on so - for the most part, it's offsetting the income that your declaring.

**Mr. R. Brown:** It's offsetting the taxes on the income, but if I'm in a high bracket, the extra \$1,200 will put me up - let's say I (Indistinct) creep into the next bracket, which is 13.48 -

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. R. Brown:** - but I'm only going to get the credit on 9.8.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's right.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So there's a loss there.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes, exactly.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

**Mr. MacAleer:** The two variables here, you get \$100 a month and the person that qualifies to get the \$100 a month has to be below the age of six years, correct?



**Mr. Murphy:** Well -

**Mr. MacAleer:** Right so far?

**Mr. Murphy:** No, it says for every child under the age of six -

**Mr. MacAleer:** Under the age of six.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. MacAleer:** Is it possible, then, to get a partial credit?

**Mr. Murphy:** It is.

**Mr. MacAleer:** It is?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. MacAleer:** In other words they'll prorate it? If the child on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month turns six, does that mean you get \$50 for that month or if the child turns six you're disqualified at the start of that month - at the end of previous month in which the child was five.

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes.

**Mr. MacAleer:** It's a technical question but I'm sure -

**Mr. Murphy:** If you look at the definition in this section it says: "qualified dependant" means a person who, on the first day of the month..." Okay? So that's part of it. So if you are five -

**Mr. MacAleer:** At the start of the month.

**Mr. Murphy:** - on the first day of the month then turn six -

**Mr. MacAleer:** You'll get the full \$100.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's correct.

**Mr. MacAleer:** Okay, fair enough.

**Chair:** Okay.

Carried?

**Mr. MacAleer:** Yes.

**Mr. MacDonald:** I just want to ask a question. There is a lot of men gone to Alberta, the wife may not be working, and she will be the one home on the last day of January, of December. Is she qualified without an income?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yes. In that situation it says here -

**Mr. MacDonald:** How would she do that?

**Mr. Murphy:** We went over it here. I mean, the household has an income. Somebody is filing income tax.

**Mr. MacDonald:** But he may file it in Alberta.

**Mr. Murphy:** If he's filing income tax in Alberta, this is available for residents of PEI. It's not available for residents of Alberta.

**Mr. MacDonald:** No, I'm saying, like, there is a number of people have gone west, especially they go like - the truck drivers go now, pretty soon, and all that will (Indistinct) so on. By law they'd have to file their income tax in Alberta, would they not? Because the last day of December -

**Mr. Murphy:** No.

**Mr. MacDonald:** No. So you have to be over six months in Alberta?

**Mr. Murphy:** No. The federal income tax act says that you can file your income tax or your - as a normal place of residence is as of

December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. MacDonald:** So we should be doing a little better with some of these people who have gone west now because they're making a considerable amount of money and they're filing their income tax here. It should be a positive thing for PEI in that respect.

**Mr. Murphy:** We'll see when we tabulate the results of the income tax.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Okay. There is no problem then for getting that deduction, even though the person is not here? So he will have to file his income tax - the wife would have to look after that part, probably.

**Mr. Murphy:** I mean, she is eligible for the deduction. If in that case the lowest income spouse remains on PEI, they're eligible for the deduction, the tax credit on tax paid. If you're not paying any tax, then the credit obviously is not doing you much good.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you.

So you're saying - no, but under the feds, the feds are counting it as income. They have no credit, the feds aren't putting the credit through for this, they're taking the tax off.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's correct.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So they have no restriction between what income - are they saying in their act, even though they're collecting the tax, that it goes to the lower income?

**Mr. Murphy:** Yeah.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you.

**Chair:** 2 Section 20 of the Act is repealed

and the following substituted:

20 For the purpose of computing the tax payable under this Part for a taxation year by an individual who was resident in Prince Edward Island on the last day of the taxation year, there may be deducted an amount equal to 32.5% of any amount required by subparagraph 82(1)(b)(I) of the Federal Act to be included in computing the individual's income for the year, and 33.8333% of any amount required by subparagraph 82(1)(b)(ii) of the Federal Act to be included in computing the individual's income for the year.

Shall it carry?

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, I got a question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Just one question. Okay, when I'm filing my income tax - and like the member said, if I'm in Alberta on December 31<sup>st</sup> and I was there for four months, I'd still file a PEI return.

**Mr. Murphy:** That's up to you.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So if I'm in Alberta I'd be crazy to file here because they have no income tax out there pretty well, don't they?

**Mr. Murphy:** They have no sales tax.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Yeah, but their income tax is quite low, isn't it?

**Mr. Murphy:** They're income tax rate is lower than ours, yeah.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So it would be advantageous to file out there.

**Mr. Murphy:** It depends on your circumstances. We wouldn't recommend

you file there.

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, I know. I agree with you 100%. But, okay, let's say I work here six months and I gave my income here for six months, I'm in Alberta for the last two months and December 31<sup>st</sup> I'm there. The six months I work here, that income is taxed under Alberta rate. All income, it's not split.

**Mr. Murphy:** It's taxed at where you file your income tax.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Yeah. So if I'm - I worked here for six months, I made my money here for six months, then I head to Alberta for two months and December 31<sup>st</sup> I would - if I wasn't a good Islander I'd probably file out there because tax-wise I'd save a lot of money out there.

Just one question on this, tax dividend. So I get a \$1,000 dividend and it's grossed. What's it grossed up, 125?

**Nigel Burns Manager:** The federal government announced the two-tier dividend tax credit structure, one for basically small businesses, one for the large businesses.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Yeah.

**Nigel Burns Manager:** And the standard 25% gross up (Indistinct).

**Mr. R. Brown:** For small businesses.

**Nigel Burns Manager:** For small. And for enhanced dividend credit is offered for larger corporations and the gross of the 45%.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So you gross it up 45 in the large?

**Nigel Burns Manager:** Your dividends received are grossed up at 45% and that's

what you're including now in your income.

**Mr. R. Brown:** So is it Aliant or Maritime Electric, a large corporation or a small corporation under this definition, because a lot of people from PEI own -

**Nigel Burns Manager:** It's an income trust.

**Mr. R. Brown:** I'm sorry, yeah, Maritime Electric is - or Aliant is an income trust, which I warned you last year about. I knew the feds were going to have to cancel it. But for Maritime Electric, is that a large or a small (Indistinct)?

**Mr. Murphy:** We can't give you that information. That's confidential information.

**Mr. R. Brown:** They file under Fortis.

**Mr. Murphy:** You know what the definition of a small business and a large business is.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay, so I have shares at Maritime Electric, I get a \$1,000 dividend - not that I do, I get a \$100 dividend - what do I do?

**Nigel Burns Manager:** Gross up at (Indistinct) percent.

**Mr. R. Brown:** One twenty five and then take the credit. Okay, that's what this is doing.

**Nigel Burns Manager:** Yes.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thanks.

**Chair:** Okay.

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 3 Section 23 of the Act is amended by the deletion of the words “subsections 9(1) and (2),” and the substitution of the words “subsection 9(1), (2) and (5),”.

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 4 Section 26 of the Act is amended

(a) in clause (a), by the deletion of the words “subsection 9(3)” and the substitution of the words “subsections 9(3) and (5),”; and

(b) in clause (b), by the deletion of the words “other than substitution of the words “(other than subsection 9(3),” and the substitution of the words “(other than subsections 9(3) and (5)),”.

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 5(1) Clause 32(1)(a) of the Act is amended by the deletion of the words “if no amount were included in respect of a gain from a disposition of property to which section 79 of the Federal Act applies in computing that income” and the subsection of the words “both calculated as if no amount were included under subsection 56(6) of the Federal Act or in respect of any gain from a disposition of property to which section 79 of the Federal Act applies in computing that income and as if no amount were deductible under paragraph 60(y) of the Federal Act in computing that income”; and

(2) Section 32 of the Act is amended by the addition of the following after subsection (6):

(7) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a person shall be deemed

(a) not to be an eligible individual for a taxation year;

(b) not to be a qualified dependant of an individual for a taxation year; and

(c) not to be a qualified relation of an individual for a taxation year,

where the person

(d) dies before the end of the taxation year;

(e) is, at the end of the taxation year, a person described in paragraph 149(1)(a) or (b) of the Federal Act; or

(f) is, at the end of the taxation year, confined to a prison or similar institution, and has been so confined for a total amount of time in the taxation year exceeding six months.

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. MacAleer:** No, hold it.. I want to ask a question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park.

**Mr. MacAleer:** This section 5 maintains a low income tax reduction program which was available. Is that going to be maintained?

**Mr. Murphy:** It simply means that for the purposes of that program the income received under the universal child care benefit will not be calculated as income in terms of determining eligibility -

**Mr. MacAleer:** Just a minute, hold it, I can't hear. Okay, go ahead.

**Mr. Murphy:** What it means is this. For the

purposes of determining eligibility for the low income tax reduction program, any income received under the universal child care benefit program will not be calculated as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for that program.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Good clause.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Mr. MacAleer:** Okay, thanks.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Chair:** 6 Section 33.1 of the Act is amended by the deletion of the words “subsection 9(3),” and the substitution of the words “subsections 9(3) or (5), or”.

7(1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act is deemed to have come into force on January 1, 2006.

(2) Subsection 5(2) of this Act is deemed to have come into force on January 1, 2002.

Shall it carry?

**Mr. R. Brown:** Question.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Mr. R. Brown:** I just want to understand. You're going retroactive right back to January 2002 on 5(2)?

**Mr. Murphy:** I'll explain the reason for that.

**Mr. R. Brown:** No, you don't have to. I understand. I just want to know: Did you explain it to the Minister of Tourism whose got the H.O.N. and the PhD? Did you explain that to him, the retroactivity of this, and how we agree to that in Cabinet?

**Mr. Murphy:** I don't know if we've had that conversation (Indistinct).

**Mr. R. Brown:** Okay. I hope some of you did.

**Chair:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**Mr. Murphy:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act.*

Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

**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:** 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 had under consideration a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Income Tax 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 know I just finished speaking on energy the last time I spoke to this, but I want to revert back again to the health section for a moment.

I had the opportunity last night to attend the annual meeting of the Community Hospital Board in O'Leary. Although it was a stormy night, I was glad I was able to get out. Again, it just helped me understand the challenges that are happening within the system.

I talked earlier about the whole plan around a new central acute care facility for West Prince. As I looked and listened at their annual meeting, although it wasn't a very good evening and not many people got out, again it just reminded me of the dedication and commitment of the staff in these institutions that provide quality care to the residents of the area.

I want today to give special thanks to all those who make this service possible. When

I think of all the staff, whether it be physicians, nurses, therapists, support staff, dieticians, pharmacists, diagnostic staff and managers, again, I want to give special thanks to all those individuals who provide the great care.

As I was looking through the report, I look at all the challenges again in regards to providing the health care to the citizens of the area. It's not only a challenge recruiting physicians. It's a challenge recruiting nurses, it's a challenge recruiting lab technicians.

A lot of times people don't realize how busy these institutions area. When I was looking through the statistics and after attending a meeting here probably a week ago, some people sometimes think that these little hospitals aren't busy. I just want to make note of a few statistics here under the diagnostic services report.

This past year (Indistinct) the commitment of the community, the foundation auxiliary purchased a new hematology analyser for the lab department last year. Right now, all the labs across this province are working on the new client information system, which most people called CERNER. A lot of work has gone into this by staff. This is another great investment into the health care of Islanders.

When I looked at the work that was done in the lab in Community Hospital, total in-patient and out-patient collections was 9,009. Total number of tests done on site was 90,557. The number of tests referred out was 21,280. Total workload units alone, there was 304,308.

Then, when I went down and looked at the amount of X-rays or ECGs done at Community Hospital, it was just amazing to see the work that the staff does there at Community Hospital.

There was a presentation done as well by the management of the Margaret Stewart Ellis Wing. That was the wing that we opened in October of 2003. It's just celebrated its third anniversary. When I look at the average age for females in the long-term care, 87.3 years. Now, that's truly a miracle to think that the average age of people now in our long-term care institutions is 87.3. Males are a little bit younger, 82.8.

Again, when we look at the commitment by our government, this past summer they were excited to have nine health care future students working at the Margaret Stewart Ellis Wing. They were approached just recently by UPEI asking them if they would consider having some of their first-year nursing students come out to do some training at our local hospital. These are young people from the area that are training at UPEI in the nursing program. So that was a new venture for us to have people be contacted by UPEI to have people come out and work in our institution.

Again, I just wanted to make note of that and commend the staff for the great service that they do provide. I really appreciate all the efforts that have gone into planning for the health care in the future of West Prince.

Now I'm going to refer back to the rest of my report. The one that was really exciting for me this year, a lot of exciting things going on in our government, is moving to restore a balance in our Island forests. The report that came out just recently talks about vision, mission, principles and goals. I had the opportunity to go on a tour this past spring in regards to our forests and the work that's been done across the Province.

I guess a lot of times all a lot of us see is maybe truckloads of wood going by our door or heading off Island. A lot of us Islanders get concerned and we keep thinking: Will there be any trees left?

It was in May of this year when the hon. minister organized a tour. There was quite a few members of caucus went on that tour. When I looked at some of the work that's been done. The tour we went on was in Queen's County.

First we saw, I wouldn't say (Indistinct) and these may not be in a particular order, we saw a plantation managing individual trees for high end value. A lot of times what I remember back in my childhood was we chopped the wood down to keep us warm. Never thought a lot about the value of the forests. We would see a tree, just one tree alone, and the value of that one tree.

We saw people that started planting these trees in 1985, planting for the future of their children and their grandchildren. Each one had a different plan.

Then, another one we went - and this was in Valleyfield - was on row thinning. I always thought as I drove by that the woods just grew up and everything happened the way from a natural point of view. Now, there's a lot of people taking quite an interest in the forest. When I looked at the individual tree selection for removal, people plan their plantations. Like I say, they thin them and they prune them and then they determine when these trees will be ready for market.

On our tour there was a young man there, and I can't think of his name right now, but seeing the young people taking such an interest in the environment and the effects this will have for future generations. All the different species that are planted.

I know in this report, if anybody hasn't had the opportunity to read it, it's certainly quite exciting to see some of the work that's being done.

I know I have attended many meetings of the Public Forest Council. There's people

right across the province that participate in this and spend a lot of time in this. I just was going to mention these Forest Council members: Dr. Ian MacQuarrie - and I'm sure everybody knows Ian quite well from Hazelgrove - Gerald MacDonald from Monticello. Now, I didn't realize there was a Monticello in the Province. I hope I'm pronouncing that right.

**An Hon. Member:** Yes, Monticello.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Then we had Lily Baker from Beach Point, Jim Cook from Belle River, and Carol Livingstone. She's the lady from my district, from the West Point area. They spent countless hours meeting with the public and the forestry industry and developing their recommendations based on the input and the ideas they received.

This was truly information that was gathered as they went across the Province. I know when we look at a document like this it truly shows me and all Islanders that we do have a vision for the future.

I'm looking in the areas of managing our ponds. I know when I'm looking here, the minister of environment and the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, they have just completed the first major project under the Province's new five-year capital budget for management of ponds. I'm sure that the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche is very excited about this project.

I've been watching this one quite closely because I have a pond in my district that I've been working on for a long while. So I'm going to take a page out of his book and I'm hoping the next pond will be included in this.

So when I look at the work that's been done for environment across the Province, then, as I move through, I wanted to talk just a little bit about the farmers in our area. I

know, as everybody knows this year, our farmers have had quite a challenge, but overall, after a lot of hard work, the majority of them got their crop out of the ground this year.

Sometimes all we hear on the news is about the damage. There's a perception of the damage that all farmers do to the environment. Well, that's not true. When I read about the work that's been done across the Province by our farmers - some notes here - when I look at different things they're doing in order to protect the environment, there's a lot of work going on.

For example, one quote here says: Farmers are really getting excited about maybe having another crop that they can turn into biofuels. Over the past several months there's a group of farmers from Prince County and they were looking at using agricultural products for fuel. I know there's been a good investment by the Adapt Council and a lot of young farmers and all farmers are looking to the future.

I know our new generation of farmers program. I know I talk to the young farmers in my area as well as the older farmers. The Future Farmer newsletter, if anybody hasn't had a chance to read it, it's quite exciting to see how these young men are exploring what farming will look like as they move into the future. I know even with all the challenges the people that stay in the farming industry today do it right from the heart.

As we saw over the past number of years the challenges that they've had, whether it be with potato wart or whether it be blight or whether it be scab or whether it be a fall like we've had this past year, there's a lot of challenges in being a farmer. But I know without that great desire that they have for farming - and I know we have some of them right here in the House. I certainly, and I've



told this story before, growing up on a small farm, but yet I truly -

**Mr. R. Brown:** Did you have a horse?

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Two.

**Speaker:** Question Period is over.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** On our little farm we had two horses, seven cows. We had a henhouse where we had our own eggs, we had a piggery, we had our own pigs. I really thought I wanted to be a farmer. But today I'm not so sure. Things seem to have changed.

So when I look at the work that they're doing whether it be in - they do a lot of environmental work. Sometimes it doesn't get noticed.

Then in my area, as you know, there's a lot of fishing as well. But one thing that's really been exciting for the fishermen in West Prince is MacLeod's Ledge. I know there was a lot of lobbying by the minister here in this province, and a lot of work done by the province in ensuring that this (Indistinct) protection for Island fishermen.

This last fall our fishing industry has not gone without its challenges either. I know how much this means to our area. I know right now - and everybody's heard me talk about what the fishing industry means to West Prince. I cannot not speak about my little fish plant in Howard's Cove. The last I heard there was 121 people on payroll there and they're planning on working through the winter.

**An Hon. Member:** It's your fish place?

**Ms. Rodgeron:** I kind of feel like it is. But anyway, it's pretty exciting to see those people going to work every day. So I know again what the fisheries means to the people

in this province.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** All right, hon. member, you'll have your turn speaking on the throne speech.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Moving on, I look at this year additional funding for the RCMP. I know there's been quite a challenge in regards to the whole situation around the trafficking of drugs and the challenge it's causing for our young people. So I'm really pleased to see that more work is being done there. I've had an opportunity to meet with community councils and with the RCMP and they're really starting to make a difference out there with this extra support.

Then when I go along - investing in Island communities. We talk about the investment in our highways, and every day now, Mr. Speaker, as I'm sure you notice, as we're driving to the House here, to the Legislature, what a difference it's making to be getting some work done on Highway 2. That didn't go without a lot of effort put forth by our minister here and our government here in this province.

So as I'm looking through the throne speech -

**Mr. R. Brown:** Can't find much, can you?

**Ms. Rodgeron:** I can find lots, Mr. Speaker. But I know I've taken a lot of time, and I'm trying to give other members an opportunity to speak.

One thing in every day when I look at the waste watch program, there's not a day that I'm not excited when I sort, whether it be my compost or my waste. To think of the protection for future generations. It was something I was worried about, leaving something for our children and our

grandchildren.

I know there's always areas for improvement, but I would say back in the early 1990s I went to a seminar in Truro, Nova Scotia when we were all interested in waste watch and saw what was happening across the country, across North America. Which wasn't a lot. Again, I'm proud to say that we're leaders in this whole management of waste in our province. I don't think that Islanders have seen this go unnoticed. Especially the younger generation. Because I know they're all very conscientious when it comes to trying to protect the environment for the future.

So as I look through this throne speech, and also know in the area of development and technology and see the work that has gone on there. Whether it be here at our technology centre in Charlottetown, see the new jobs. It's just, again, truly amazing, the amount of things government has done and plans to do. I know as I talked to people out in my community they're very pleased with the work that our government has done and see that we do truly have a vision for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with great pleasure that I rise today to reply to the forward-looking, action-oriented Speech From the Throne presented by my government. I commend my colleagues for this positive approach to governance.

I wish to use this occasion to extend thanks and appreciation to those in our society whose selfless hard work and dedication

enhances the lives of thousands of Islanders each and every day. Their generous efforts help to build healthier, more vibrant families, neighbourhoods and communities across this province.

I speak of course about those who volunteer day in and day out contributing their time, their talent, and yes, even their money to worthwhile causes, and to projects that they believe in. Voluntarism has long been a way of life in our province. In fact, many Islanders often don't even realize that when they take a neighbour to the local grocery store or shovel a person's walkway that they are indeed volunteering. They are just being good friends, just doing what has to be done, doing what they have always done. For this is what Islanders do, and they do it without recognition.

It was with this in mind that our government created the Volunteer Recognition Awards in 2002 to provide Islanders with a method of celebrating our volunteers and their contributions to our society. I am proud that our government has taken steps in the last few years to recognize the contribution of our volunteers. For example, the Community Service Bursary is an opportunity for students to receive tuition credits while volunteering in their communities. This program was designed to offer Island students a tuition credit and encourage voluntarism in our Island communities.

This is a wonderful program where everyone comes out a winner. Youths develop a sense of community responsibility while earning money to use towards their education, the communities and service organizations get some much needed help, and a new generation of Islanders learn first hand the value of giving of themselves. I am also proud to say that here on Prince Edward Island, as in Atlantic Canada, we are among the nation's leaders in volunteer activity.

Volunteers on Prince Edward Island contribute nearly \$300 million worth of services to the Province's economy each year. They represent all ages, and carry out work for their places of worship, sports organizations, health and environmental groups, seniors and youth groups, cultural activities, and most other aspects of Island life.

When we stop to think about the value one person has, the contribution one person can make, we can be truly overwhelmed by the responsibility. We can also be struck by what an honour it is to serve others in a volunteer capacity. Indeed, volunteers give of their time freely. Their contributions enrich the lives of people all across our province, while encouraging caring and giving without consideration for remuneration.

We see these benefits throughout the year during the various food bank drives, the Easter Seals campaign, bottle drives, the Terry Fox Run, and the door-to-door canvassing, among many other fund-raising activities.

I would like to share a shining success story that perhaps best exemplifies the true spirit of Islanders in giving back to their communities, and yes, I'm proud that it happens to be in my hometown, the City of Summerside, and also yours, Mr. Speaker.

Since its inception 12 years ago, the Lights for Life annual campaign at Prince County Hospital has raised over \$1 million for medical equipment at the hospital. That's right, over \$1 million raised by the community for the community, with countless hours from dedicated volunteers.

I am aware, as many in this House are aware, that there are lots of folks who give of themselves to the benefit of others. Folks

who do not think of themselves as volunteers but rather they just want to be good neighbours. I am proud to live in a province that has been built on such a great and storied history of community involvement, and neighbours helping neighbours.

I was born and raised on a family farm in Prince Edward Island where we relied on the goodwill of our neighbours for their aid and assistance in a time of crisis. Neighbours who were always there to help. I dare say that being a good neighbour is what volunteering is all about.

As we look around, we find that there are volunteers all around us and, in each and every case, volunteers have a profound and positive impact on all of us, whether directly or indirectly. Those who give so freely of their time - for example, as coaches in various sports, guiding our youth and preparing them for challenges they will face as adults - are indeed vital to our society, and we as their elected representatives must be mindful of their continuing contribution to their communities.

Try as I might, I will no doubt fail to mention all of those who so freely give of themselves to the benefit of others. However, I am compelled to recognize those who, as members of various service clubs, take on projects that benefit us all. As well, across the province our volunteer firefighters are there to help keep us safe in our homes.

It is hard to imagine what health care in this province would cost were it not for those who volunteer in that sector, especially the special people who dedicate their time in palliative care, offering compassion, empathy, and end of life understanding to the gravely ill.

I would also like to commend the various

community-based volunteer organizations across our province that are providing essential front-line social services to Islanders. Whether helping our seniors, those with disabilities, victims of family violence, and families in crisis, our communities are indeed stronger due the dedicated volunteers in these organizations.

Our government also acknowledges the vital role of these organizations in maintaining healthy, vibrant communities. This year alone our support for these organizations increased by a solid 20%. As well, I hasten to mention that the very political system in which we rely in this democratic society would not function as it does if it were not for the dedicated efforts of those who volunteer for their respective political parties.

Speaking for myself, I can tell you that without those who have volunteered their time and worked so hard on my behalf in District 22, I would never have made it into the Legislative Assembly. As many in this place do, I continue to rely on the advice and information I receive through my volunteer network to keep up on the concerns of my constituents.

The benefits of helping others are not limited to the recipient, rather, volunteering also builds self-esteem, introduces new people, makes one feel valued, offers work experience, develops new skills, and in some instances it may even improve one's health. Active people are often happy people.

In closing, I want to re-emphasize the importance of the volunteer sector within our society. Their efforts continue to impact all of us in a personal way. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to publicly recognize all volunteers. Many associations and organizations hold volunteer appreciation nights or banquets, but it is impossible to reach each and every person on Prince

Edward Island who volunteers in various capacities.

That is where each one of us can help. It is important for each of us to make an effort to thank someone else for their volunteer work. Indeed, as politicians, as Islanders, and as neighbours, we must communicate our appreciation to our volunteers and how valuable their efforts are to our communities.

While we formally honour some through public presentations such as Citizen of the Year, the Order of PEI, and other awards, I am pleased to have this time to just say thank you to all our volunteers on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Dr. McKenna:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to reply to the Speech From the Throne.

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

**Dr. McKenna:** It seems to me to be the perfect time to reflect on the many strengths and accomplishments of our province and its people have gone over in the last few years.

I look at this budget and I think this throne speech is one of the best throne speeches I've heard in quite a number of years. I'm really pleased to be able to stand here and talk about it for awhile. I got a few notes here and I got a few things I'm just going to run through here, so I'll keep it going for awhile.

**Mr. R. Brown:** At least you're honest.

**Dr. McKenna:** That's right.

It's been our government's long belief that the diversity of our economy must be centred around taking our natural resources and adding value, whether it be through creating new opportunities with technology, adding value to products through research and development or extracting material from our products for uses in pharmaceuticals.

Our traditional dependence on our primary industries of fishing and farming is being complemented by a new economy which is dynamic and knowledge-based.

The opportunities for Islanders today are virtually limitless, and I am proud of our government's forward-looking approach to diversifying the province's economy by building on our (Indistinct) strengths.

While maintaining our investments in our primary industries, we have also put a large emphasis on new emerging sectors, particularly aerospace, bioscience, research and development, information technology, export manufacturing development and of course the new financial services.

Since 1986 our government has remained committed to creating and supporting businesses which focus on business development, job creation and economic growth for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Our efforts are paying off. As my hon. colleague in the Provincial Treasury recently reported, the Island's labour force is the largest it has ever been. Additional good news for Islanders is the fact that we are currently experiencing our lowest unemployment level in 26 years.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** Hon. members, I'm having a hard

time hearing.

**Dr. McKenna:** I think 26 years is a long time to see such great growth. I think Prince Edward Island last year was second only to Alberta in job growth per capita last year at 4%. Prince Edward Island can also boast the most jobs created in Canada per capita since 2000, with an astounding 11,000 jobs.

Our focus is working, and we will continue to introduce measures, such as the progressive tax rebate, to ensure that we continue on that path. I think with the progressive tax rebate I know there's been probably - I've seen it recently, at least 400 or 500 jobs added since that was introduced about a year ago, in a variety of industries around the province. So this certainly shows that it's certainly working.

We are pleased, but we are not content to sit and rest on our laurels. The global marketplace is very competitive. To remain competitive, Prince Edward Island has to be one step ahead in the way we think and do business. Already, we have learned that foods like blueberries and cranberries may have significant potential to prevent or even cure illness. For all we know, there may be other many naturally occurring products in our province we may have, or enjoy, even greater potential.

If you think back when our early settlers and First Nations lived here, they lived off the land, they ate all kinds of berries, they ate all kinds of natural vegetables and stuff, vegetation out there, that we never even ate for years. So there's lots of potential out there. They stayed good and healthy and I think - I mean, there's a lot of these products that are basically used nowadays for antioxidants. When we think of antioxidant we think of - it helps slow the release of free radicals in the body that can cause a lot of destruction of cells and ultimate illness in an individual. I think if we look at all these

things, simple little products can go a long way in helping our bodies stay healthy.

I'm also proud of the fact that our province has been successful in creating a cluster of bioscience companies, companies that not only provide jobs and opportunities for Islanders, but also help to make our province an important player in the research and development field throughout North America. I'm very pleased that the minister was able to bring in the - the minister and the Premier announced about a few weeks ago the bioscience tax incentive which will help to promote and further growth in this dynamic sector, extending the bioscience opportunity to all corners of the province. I think we're just starting to see this industry really emerge.

I was out to see an young entrepreneur recently. Shane Patelakis has a business out at the industrial mall out there in West Royalty, a company called Progressive BioActives, and he was very pleased to have myself through there, and the minister of development was there as well. Shane recently received - it's called the BDC's Young Entrepreneurship Award, and I believe he got another award called the Emerging Business Category of the Chamber's President's Excellence Award. So he's been doing really well the last number of years.

He's just an example of a young Canadian, he's in the group between 19 and 35. He started at the Food Technology Centre and he's got probably a master's level in science and worked there, and saw the potential of getting into business on his own with some of the research he was doing. I think in less than two years he's turned his concept - which is basically using a yeast as - it's a immuno-modulator. It modulates or increases the immune system so that poultry and swine and a variety of animals like that will not have to be using as much

antibiotics. So it's using natural products in the system. So us as consumers don't have to be buying meat that's full of antibiotics.

I'm really pleased that he's got this system going really well. He's selling products all over the world. I know he's got a big business going down in the United States there selling the product. I think it's under a name called Provale. I think it's used in fish farmers, poultry, swine and whatever. It just shows that - this didn't happen two years ago. He's got about six full-time staff and a couple of part-time staff. Also in his building where he's working he's got three or four other scientists working there on separate products as well. Sort of incubator stage, trying to get it to the next level which is commercial development. So there's certainly big potential in that, and I'm very pleased that our government sees that this is an emerging trend for us out there.

So there's certainly lots more we can do in the research and development. I know we've worked with other partners like ACOA, like Atlantic Veterinary College, and we've attracted companies like Novartis which is a very large company headquartered - well, was headquartered in Switzerland or whatever. These companies are looking at PEI now. They're taking us very seriously.

I think, if I look at the whole bioscience industry, I believe in sales last year, there's roughly \$60 million worth of sales in the bioscience industry, and I think roughly about 500 people employed in that sector. Which is certainly something that is great news for an industry like that. I know Holland College now is getting involved in training people in the bioscience sector as well with a recent announcement there in the fall over the new building over there on Holland College as well. So we see a lot of partnerships out there.

Of course, if you drive out to UPEI you see

the new NRC building which is their nutrascience and health building. We had a great tour when we had the Public Accounts Committee touring the province. It just shows all the potential that we're going to see in that building and it was really a interesting tour. They were just barely getting started. There were a few scientists just starting to do research there, but I think the building is now completely completed and a lot more research is going on there.

But these are companies that basically start at the research level, and hopefully get the product onto commercial stage where we can see more potential and add more jobs and more value to the economy of PEI.

We're making strategic investments to ensure that the proper infrastructure is in place. I look at all the entrepreneurs that we sort of support out there and we're developing strong partnerships that form to build on existing public and private success. I think government has to be there to sort of help out, but I think we have a place. But then we have to step back and let the private sector come in because they are the ones that know what to do. They're the ones that can create the jobs from there on in. We just have to set the climate. I really want to commend the Minister of Development and Technology for all of his great work in that area because it certainly has been working.

I think we've attracted a lot of competitive and highly qualified people back to PEI. I know in my own district I see a lot of scientists that are moving into the Stratford area that for years probably won't have been coming back to PEI and they are certainly adding value. They're much higher salaries than we normally would see on PEI. So I think this is starting to pay off for us.

But there are also many success happening to be in my district too, and I am continuously amazed at the phenomenal

growth in the Town of Stratford.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Dr. McKenna:** I can't take all the credit for it, Mr. Speaker, but if you want to give me some, I'll take it.

I think just last year alone there was about \$13.5 million of building permits and I think roughly 108 new dwelling were constructed in our town. I know when I drive home from work there are subdivisions that when I campaigned that never existed, and there are probably 75 or 80 houses in them since the last three years. So that just shows that the town is growing.

But this growth also brings with it some problems as well. When you grow so quickly, the town has to have a vision to grow in a proper manner and to allow us to have an orderly development. I'm very happy that the town got into a core area plan this year to look at a whole vision of the town. There was infrastructure dollars available over the last couple of years to do a study to look at where the town should be, how it should develop, where is the core area, what type of housing should go in certain areas. Because it is important to have a proper, orderly development of a town. I think we'll see a downtown that'll probably be a little more beautiful, maybe be a little more pedestrian friendly, and it should also be a little more compact and hopefully a lot more liveable. I'm sure this study will certainly pay off in spades for us.

The growth in Stratford alone demonstrates that it's very exciting time for our province, and PEI is certainly positioning itself as a competitive place to do business, and it's a cost-effective environment, with state-of-the-art facilities and capabilities. If you drive up University Avenue and look at UPEI these days, I'm just amazed at the number of -

**Leader of the Opposition:** Way to go Wade MacLauchlan.

**Dr. McKenna:** - the number of new buildings that are being constructed or have been constructed even over the last four or five years.

I know the latest building to get started is the new business building right off University Avenue there. Even that building, they hope to have some new plans in the business there as well, I think with international business and hopefully - I'm not sure, I've heard rumours of a master's of business there as well. So I think it certainly says a lot for UPEI and PEI in general.

I know our business graduates, they have a very high success rate when they graduate from UPEI, especially in the accounting program, and it says a lot for the program out there. I'd like to see the investment in this building as well. But you look at other buildings there. We have a brand new building for residence there right off University Avenue as well, which is the state-of-the-art residence, certainly an upgrade from what it was when I was out there a couple of years ago. I know my daughter certainly enjoys the new building and new infrastructure out there. But that comes also with some costs as well to keep these buildings operating as well. It's one thing to build a building, but we also have to keep these buildings operating on a regular basis there as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've worked extremely hard to attract a cluster of IT companies. We have the centre of excellence now for software and interactive game development, and I certainly look at the Atlantic Tech Centre, which is located in downtown Charlottetown in the riding of the Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square, I believe it is. We like to help all the members across PEI and we just don't pick

our own ridings, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Call the hour.

**Speaker:** Hon. members, the hour's been called.

But I'd like to remind you to stay a few minutes for election of chairmen of committees. Just take a few minutes.

I declare a recess until 7:00 p.m.

**The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.**

#### Motions Other Than Government

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove, that we read Motion No. 25.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

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

**WHEREAS** December 5, 2006 is International Volunteer Day;

**AND WHEREAS** this date is recognized by the United Nations, and recognizes the contribution and dedication of volunteers around the world;

**AND WHEREAS** Statistics Canada reports that in 2004, Canadians contributed two billion hours of volunteer time;



**AND WHEREAS** Prince Edward Island has a distinguished history of volunteerism and community contribution;

**AND WHEREAS** approximately 54,000 Islanders volunteered during 2004;

**AND WHEREAS** this level of volunteerism places Prince Edward Island in the upper tier of Canadian provinces;

**AND WHEREAS** Islanders contribute their time and energies across a wide spectrum of services, including health care, sports, education and community-related activities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly recognize the valued contribution of our thousands of volunteers.

**Speaker:** To open the debate on this motion, the mover, the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you. May I have the podium please?

**Speaker:** Podium, please.

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tonight it gives me great pleasure to stand and move this motion in recognizing our volunteers here on Prince Edward Island. Today it plays an importance, because today is actually December 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the day to recognize as part of the United Nations movement to recognize volunteers internationally around the world. If you watched the news this evening, it was nice to see they had some footage from the volunteer breakfast that took place this morning at the Charlottetown Hotel. I know some members from the Legislature attended that, including the Member from

Charlottetown-Kings Square.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** He mentioned what a wonderful opportunity it was to share in conversation with volunteers from the community and listen to some of them speak as well. It was nice that they took the time to organize such an event. I think for all of us, whether we're urban or rural MLAs, it's certainly a wonderful testament to the Island community that we have here, because they are so engaged and so ready to volunteer in many capacities.

Tonight I'd just like to look at different activities or organizations over the years that volunteers here on Prince Edward Island have taken part in or continue to. Statistics vary, but just like the resolution states, there are about 60,000 or so, a little less than 60,000, declared volunteers, I guess if you want to put it, but I'm sure there is a lot more.

I think on a day to day basis many Islanders volunteer in many ways, just in sort of acts of kindness. I think that that's what Islanders are known for right across the country. We're known for our compassion and our dedication to community, even in charitable organizations. If you look at, like, Christmas Daddies that took place over the weekend, look at the Queen Elizabeth and food drives, you look at all the telethons, Easter Seals, it continues to amaze me, and I'm sure amazes a lot of the members in this Legislature, the wonderful work Islanders do through these organizations and Islanders continue to support through charities, through financial contributions.

But if we look at the healthy volunteer, and we can look at those that volunteer, for example, the hockey coaches, the swimming instructors, there are many volunteers that are promoting healthy lifestyles here on PEI.

I can think of our own home community, I know in Crapaud as well, the Actiplex, there are many that are sharing in evening sessions through maybe exercise classes. It's giving people the opportunity to come together as a community, but at the same time it takes that volunteer, that instructor or coordinator, to bring it all together and get the ball rolling. Certainly that's a lot of work and at the same time they're volunteering to do that.

We can look at, in schools, people that come into the schools to volunteer their time with children in terms of sporting. There are many that are even coaching different teams at the secondary level that are not teachers themselves, but they volunteer their time to come in and maybe coach the volleyball team or coach the soccer team. It could be a student that's attending university that perhaps did play varsity sports that wants to contribute and give back to their school that they attended or just give back to their communities.

If we look at the Islanders that are volunteering on a safety theme, we can look at violence prevention, East Prince, there are so many different organizations. The crisis line, the different centres that exist across Prince Edward Island. Just this afternoon we were recognizing the work that many women's organizations do across the province related to family violence, and certainly many of those volunteer their time and certainly they're promoting peaceful resolutions to violent situations with families on Prince Edward Island.

You can look at, for example, the hospital board, you can look at the community centres in various communities across the province where people serve on these advisory boards to the departments or to a community council or municipality, and they are volunteering their time. It's always amazing, too, the resourceful people in the

community. You might have retired physicians, you might have a retired doctor, physician in the community, might have a retired teacher and the list goes on. Those people want to give back to their community and serve on these advisory boards and to offer their points of view and perhaps policy changes that need to take place. That all takes time.

If we look at engaged Islanders that are volunteering on that level, we only have to look perhaps at the political level. Political parties have lots of volunteers that work tirelessly on all sides of politics, and that takes work, and it's a commitment for them. That's at the municipal level, and you look at the provincial and the federal level. It would be a sad day - I think PEI of all the provinces in the country, certainly we boast an engagement at the political level of seeing people engaged, volunteering their time and wanting to participate in the democratic process in that way.

If we also look to the young Islanders, we have lots of young Islanders that want to volunteer their time. I know the bursary program was introduced with the hours that secondary high school students give is returned with a bursary through the departments of education and community and culture. That's together. I think that has given some extra satisfaction to our young people. But at the same time, I don't want to dismiss that they get something in return, because I think a lot of youth have been participating over the years. We look at churches in our community, Sunday school programs, youth programs, after school literacy programs. You have lots of young people that are wanting to help out.

If you take a look at Sunday schools in local churches, it might be someone that wants to get to work in early childcare. It gives them an opportunity to work with young people. It's a stepping stone for them. Volunteering

is good for our youth. Plus, I think it's the sense of empathy towards another person. It's a sense of being compassionate. It's the charitable sense.

I think families on Prince Edward Island have done a wonderful job over the years shedding that value to their children. It's been a generational thing. It's been passed down. I think certainly you see families where perhaps being involved in the church or being involved with municipal affairs or being involved with schools I think it's been a generational thing for many families and it's been passed down over the years. That's a positive thing. Maybe that's a unique thing for PEI because we're small, but it's great.

The other thing, too - if we look at the young people - people in the community are so great to approach young people and say, Would you like to take part in this? Would you like to volunteer your time for this? Even if you give an hour, or even if you want to do it once a month. They're putting it out there, and young people sometimes just have to be asked, that they feel that they're needed. I think we're really good at doing that and making them feel included.

If we look at our seniors or our older Islanders, that's certainly a whole segment of our society on Prince Edward Island that is doing tremendous work in terms of giving of their time. I believe it was last week we were speaking about seniors. They're not ready to retire. They just want to keep on working.

For those that do retire from their profession, they want to keep on working, volunteering, whether it's through organizations such as the Alzheimer's Society, or the Red Cross, or the Heart and Stroke, all these charitable organizations that it takes so much time. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation. This all takes a lot of time.

For some of us that are in the different age brackets, sometimes it takes extra time that we don't have. I think it's a wonderful testament to our seniors who are so willing to be obliged to volunteer their time and to give of their time at many levels.

We look to the cancer centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the volunteers, the hospice, all those people that are with those organizations that need so much. You take someone that's going through cancer treatment and going into the cancer treatment centre, seeing that smiling face and someone prepared to sit down with them and want to talk with them or chat with and maybe they themselves went through a similar situation. Sometimes speaking with someone other than a family member, they can open up better, too. I think they do wonderful work.

You look at Queen Elizabeth Hospital or Prince County Hospital and any of the other hospitals where volunteers are working. I know when I had the opportunity to volunteer through - it was Nora Jenkins who was the coordinator at that time, Jill Richardson is now the coordinator for volunteer services at the hospital - but great work.

You have the hair care team. You have people at the front desk. You have people that are going around with magazines, newspapers, people that are wanting to read to patients. All of these people with their different roles add to a patient's stay and progression in terms of getting better.

For some, they don't have family. Certainly it's wonderful when people have family that they can come in and visit them at the hospital, but a volunteer can certainly make the day, whether they're delivering flowers, bringing balloons down, or whether they're just stopping to chat or read to someone in the hospital. It makes their stay a lot more

enjoyable.

If we also look at new Canadians, immigrants coming to Prince Edward Island, or any province of Canada or territory in Canada, new Canadians or new Islanders that are here, becoming involved in community activities, community groups, I think is a big part for them. It's important because that's giving them first hand what their new culture is all about. First hand with meeting new people and making new connections and making friendships.

For sure, it's hard for a new Canadian or an immigrant coming to Canada, perhaps, who doesn't have any family or knows nothing about our culture. You look at the Newcomers Association of Prince Edward Island, the wonderful work that they do. They have manuals done up in many different languages preparing people that do come here for everything related to Island life. It gives them a stepping stone and they can ask more questions while they're here.

Certainly, reading is one thing, but being involved and interacting with Islanders and being part of the whole community is what's so important. Many of these people that work on, for example, Newcomers Association, give. They certainly can tell the stories of the difficulties that new Canadians have and the hardships.

I think here in PEI, again, because perhaps we're small, it's easier to see who the new people are in our communities and to extend the helping hand or extend the welcome or extend - for example, many people in the rural communities, someone moves in, we take the casserole. Someone comes in with cookies, or whatever. That's sort of how you initiate that first impression to the community. That's how you can foster the friendship with those in our neighborhoods in urban and rural communities.

Today, this resolution that we're bringing forward is just to recognize our volunteers. It is the international day. Yes, later in April we have the national week recognizing volunteers, but this we thought was important, because seeing that today everywhere around the world it's being recognized, we certainly want to uphold our volunteers here on PEI. Know that they are appreciated, recognized and support every effort that they do. We continue to support and we wish them well.

I will close. I am going to leave lots of time for other members to speak to this.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The seconder of the Motion, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It's a pleasure for me to stand this evening and second this motion recognizing volunteers. I'm sure each and every member in this Legislature this evening is someone who has been involved in a voluntary sort of way at one point in their lives, and probably even today still is involved in some type of voluntary way. I know the hon. Member from Spring Park who volunteers a lot of his time. I congratulate him for that.

When you think of the different ways to volunteer in our society and how much it really contributes to our overall economy, here are the - Statistics Canada in 2004 said: Canadian contributions, two billion hours of volunteer time. I don't even know if you can put a dollar figure on that. We're probably talking \$10 to \$20 billion worth of volunteer hours here in Canada.

When you break it down and you look at

just Prince Edward Island on a per capita basis, we are at the top of the heap. There's no doubt it's ingrained, I believe, in our Island way of life in terms of volunteering. There are so many different ways to do it. Whether or not you're looking at your church or politics or hospital or sports or helping kids or reading activities or anything to do with the community, you name it. There are so many different ways to volunteer today.

Volunteering from a selfish point of view also makes an individual feel good. They're involved. They're out doing something. They're helping to make a difference. I think it's something that I know in Prince Edward Island we have a tremendous group of volunteers. I hope our next generations are also involved in that.

I know when I was brought up my mother was a very active volunteer. Pretty much you named it, she was volunteering in it. My father was similar when he had the time. I think it's something that's ingrained in you from the family level. Even I think back when the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove was talking about volunteering at the hospital. It's amazing how many people I've had come up to me and said over the years that they met my grandmother out at the hospital: She was doing my hair or she was doing my friend's hair or something along those lines.

So I think it's something that is extremely important in our society. It's amazing. Just to tell a couple of funny stories, I know a few people, as I'm sure every member in this House probably has a couple of stories, of someone in their district or someone in their party who is just such a devoted volunteer to politics it is unbelievable. I know some that they say there are three priorities in life. The first two could rotate in terms of importance, but the third is probably where it is. It's either church,

politics and then their husband. Probably in that order.

I think it's amazing how many people are devoted to helping make a difference. When I think of how much we need in terms of our hospital voluntarism, a lot of voluntarism, and one of the things that I probably would find one of the more difficult areas to volunteer in for anybody who's done it is fundraising.

It's not easy to go knock on a door, ask for some money, or pick up the phone and ask for some money. It's something that I think is something that doesn't get enough recognition.

If there was one complaint - while I believe it could fall under the minister of education or it could fall under the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, I'm not sure who it falls under. The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove raised the point about the bursary program for students who are out volunteering. I believe, I'm not sure how many hours, but if they're in high school and they do so many hours towards volunteer work, then they get a bursary at the end.

One of the areas that I understand - it was just a telephone call I had one day and I said eventually I'd get a chance to look into it, and I thought it was the case - was the fact that in terms of - fundraising does not count as volunteer hours.

I think it was someone to do with the Alzheimer's Society. Some of these students were coming in to volunteer and they were trying to get them to go door to door to help raise money, which I think is something very noble and something that's not easy to do. For some reason, fundraising was not included in terms of the volunteer hours.

So I could be wrong on that. I hope I am

wrong on that, but I know there's lots of ministers listening tonight. If they get a chance perhaps it could be something that they'll look into.

Another area where we see a lot of volunteers - and I want to congratulate our seniors in society. They do so much in terms of voluntarism. I know that when I'm out sometimes and you're meeting with seniors and they're coming back, they were at the local school helping out in a reading program or something along those lines. I think it's just tremendous the amount of volunteer work that our seniors go through.

Some of the things that probably a lot of people might not even realize is that, let's say, you're new to community. In Prince Edward Island it's a little bit different, but I know I had moved to Ottawa at one point. If you're looking to get involved in your community and meet different people, joining a volunteer organization is a great way to get a chance to meet new people, to find out what's going on in the community. I think it's something great for anybody new moving to Prince Edward Island. If you want to get a chance to meet some people with common interests, common goals, common themes, becoming a volunteer in any way is extremely important.

For our young people out there, the bursary program is a great idea, helps get our young kids volunteering at a young age. I know a lot of parents, I remember probably the first things I can remember volunteering for was I remember being a kid and my mother getting me up on a Saturday morning and saying we're going to the Pinch Penny Fair and you're doing such and such a job. I didn't even think of it as volunteering at the time, but you get thanked at the end of the day. It's something that I think really leads to a lot of gratification.

I'm sure as the hon. member from York

knows, the minister, volunteering in sports is also something that takes up a lot of time and makes a great contribution to society. Something that I'm sure you're well aware of being a great athlete yourself, Mr. Speaker, being involved and volunteering in coaching a hockey team.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** They're the only two athletes that I really know on that side of the House. I know the Speaker was probably one of the better hockey players around in his day and from what I hear even today. I know I've been -

**An Hon. Member:** He doesn't pass the puck.

**Leader of the Opposition:** He doesn't pass the puck very well? I know the hon. minister of Environment is one of those people that I remember playing basketball against since I was probably in junior high. I probably ran into that brick wall one time too many.

But in terms of volunteering to help out our young people in society, our getting them involved in coaching a team, whether or not it's a local soccer team in the summer, a hockey team, a basketball team, anything along those lines, it takes a lot. You hear a lot of sports teams today that have trouble finding a coach because it takes up so much time, but I think it's something great for our young people to get involved in. It will be rewarding at the end of the day, and I think it's just wonderful.

So it's my pleasure to second this important motion. I think it's important to recognize our volunteers here on Prince Edward Island, in Canada. It's great to be speaking on volunteer day and I hope that we'll get to hear some other great volunteer stories from a lot of other members in this House

because I think it's something that is very important.

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, too, want to thank the hon. members for bringing this resolution forward on this day that the United Nations has declared international day of the volunteer. I did have the pleasure this morning to attend the function put on by Volunteer PEI, as mentioned by the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove this afternoon in her remarks this evening, and also the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Kings Square and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Spring Park was there. I had the opportunity as well to have a lot of discussions with the people that were there, and it seems that the people that were there were very honoured to be volunteers. It was sad to hear that the Volunteer PEI funding, I believe at the end of January is the last time that they're going to be involved in dealing with Volunteer PEI. So it's a sad day if volunteers rely on funding, when we lose funding in regards to what we're trying to do in society to make it a better place to live.

But I do know in our department we've worked hard in recognizing the contributions that people do do in society and we set up the Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Each year I know that the Premier has gone out to meet with these people and we have solicited input from people to choose people who are worthy of being recognized by the Volunteer of the Year Award.

I also know the members have already

spoken and have stated various things in regards to what volunteers believe and what it means to be a volunteer. The hon. Leader of the Opposition talked about people who volunteer and (Indistinct) be a part of a group or feel good about themselves. I can relate that experience in a number of people that I've talked with in regards to what they think by being involved. A lot of people that are getting up in years want to have some social life, so they get involved in various organizations to help the community to be better and it makes them feel good.

I want to talk a bit about an area that probably our department is very appreciative in. I know many of the members here today are anxious to take this opportunity to extol the virtues of the many volunteers on Prince Edward Island who give of their time, talents, skills and compassion to helping others, and I join them in this regard. Today I also want to thank and recognize the many men and women who serve in our volunteer fire department, and the many men, women and youths who volunteer in sports. Both of these functions fall under the responsibility of the department in which I happen to be minister of.

Ninety nine point five per cent of Prince Edward Island firefighters are volunteers. That is an astounding number and demonstrates just how dedicated Islanders can be. We currently have about 1,200 firefighters who volunteer at 37 fire stations across the province. While some volunteer firefighters may receive an honorarium, depending on the community they serve, this is rarely a motivation for volunteering as a firefighter. They do it because they enjoy working amongst their colleagues and to help others, but mostly they do it because their community needs them.

Not only are Island firefighters dedicated and committed to fighting fires and saving lives, many also work voluntarily to

promote fire safety and deliver prevention programs in our communities and in our schools.

Because of our largely volunteer fire force, homeowners save money on their insurance policies, which gives credit if they live within a certain proximity of the volunteer fire department. Without a local fire department homeowners would face even greater insurance costs to cover their possessions.

Government supports the fire service in many ways. In 1998 our government provided funding to the PEI Firefighter Association School to upgrade the maze facility, install a new live fire training facility, undertake structural renovations, and expand programs. I know the hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty has gone out and visited the school, and I have on many occasions during my time in the Legislature. I know that the money our department gets to the firefighters school is put to good use: that they obtain the necessary upgrading and training that they require in order to provide the service to the public. All firefighters are covered by workers compensation, and their premiums are paid by the Fire Marshal's Office, which is part of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

In 2003 we eliminated the registration of vehicles and driver's licence renewal fees for Island firefighters and implemented the *Firefighters Long Service Medal Act, P.E.I.* The PEI Firefighters Long Service Medal is a special award which recognizes that firefighters serve with dedication and selflessness in the protection of life and property within the province. Some firefighters have 20, 30 and even 40 years of dedicated service to their credit and they deserve our recognition and appreciation.

These small ways of showing our gratitude

still do not come close to repaying the volunteer firefighters for the dangers they are exposed to, for the many times they put their lives on the line, for the time they spend away from family, or for the valuable service they provide to every household, every business and every person in our province.

However, unlike many other volunteer activities, firefighters don't choose when to volunteer their time. Calls to firefighters occur at inconvenient times: the middle of the night, at supper, at work, or while out enjoying time with family or friends.

Firefighters risk their lives to save the lives and property of others in tasks that require strength, mental perseverance, courage and dedication. They give their time, energy, and self to provide this service voluntarily, without hesitation or reservation, simply because they know they are needed.

I want to take this opportunity to let firefighters know how much we appreciate the sacrifices they make, and to recognize the tremendous courage, dedication to duty, and selfless commitment they give to fellow Islanders.

I do have a lot of people that are involved in the fire department who I know and work with and who I have been friends with for a lot of years, and I know that all of them are in it for the simple reason that they wanted to be involved and they want to help other Islanders in order to protect their lives, properties and their possessions. So my hat goes off to the firefighters.

The second group of volunteers I want to recognize this evening are the men, women and youths who volunteer in sports throughout our province. The list is extensive and includes teachers who coach intramural sports on their lunch hours, afternoons, evenings and weekends:



youth who coach younger children in team and individual sports, coaches, officials, team managers who work with sporting organizations and sports teams for local games, regional and national competitions, parents and caregivers who crawl out of a warm bed to drive van-loads of children to practices and sporting events throughout the province, and off-island - but never win a trophy themselves - organizers who plan events, book ice time, obtain sponsors, arrange for refreshments, prepare schedules, secure officials, and, of course the fundraisers who sell tickets, go door to door in bottle drives, put together and sell advertising for programs, and much more.

In most things motivation is what drives people to act. So we can ask: What motivates Islanders to volunteer, specifically in sports? Perhaps it is helping and giving back to the community, social interaction, meeting new people and making new friends, cultural or family beliefs that volunteering is the right thing to do, and wanting to help the sports organization succeed.

I believe many people who volunteer in a sport today volunteer because they themselves played that same sport and they want to help the younger generation learn and appreciate the value of involvement in sport, and because they remember how much it shaped their lives growing up.

We often hear people talk about how much difference an individual, like a coach, made to his or her life when growing up, not just to personal success in winning a competition, but in helping with life in general. Sports volunteers are role models. They give their time because they believe what they are doing is good for the community, good for the youth, and good for the sport.

Most sporting events would never take place

without the effort and commitment of volunteers. Right now the Mission Staff, coaches, parents and team officials are preparing to take nearly 250 participants to the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse from February 24 to March 10, 2007 . Without the efforts of the many volunteers this opportunity would not be open to our Island youth.

As you know, we are also preparing for the 2009 Canada Summer Games which will be hosted here in Prince Edward Island. Hosting the 2009 Canada Summer Games will require roughly 6,000 volunteers, but we do know Islanders are up to the challenge. One of the reasons we were able to commit to hosting these games is because we know we have a dedicated and highly skilled volunteer group. Recruiting, training and involving Islanders in every capacity will not only ensure successful games in 2009, but will prove to everyone that we as a province can undertake other major sport events in the future as well.

Our province is blessed with thousands of people who unselfishly give their time and expertise to the volunteer fire service, to sports, to our hospitals, charity organizations, and neighbours in need. Volunteering can be a tough job, but it is rewarding and I encourage anyone who isn't volunteering in some capacity today to consider how you can lend your talents, skills, time and heart to help out.

I would like to leave you with a quote by Marjorie Moore: Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. We vote in elections every few years, but when we volunteer, you vote every day to the kind of community you want to live in and how you want to help your fellow man.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak to this resolution that was brought forward.

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

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

No.

The hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield.

**Ms. Rodgeron:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to rise in the House tonight and again support this resolution. I guess, myself, when I listen to the speakers think of a volunteers, it's hard to imagine our community without them. I know as long as I can remember, (Indistinct) a child, then it was neighbour helping neighbour. Then when I think of all the different groups that stated because there was a need in the community. When I think, for example, the Women's Institute, which is a known group right across the country. I had an opportunity last year to really understand what the Women's Institute, their whole philosophy. I haven't been a member of it myself, but I certainly witnessed the work that they've done across the province. I think everybody remembers the big bike tour that they put on. I don't think there is a community across this country that they haven't touched.

When I think of all the other groups, and I spoke here last week in regards to the ladies auxiliaries across the province and the amount of money that has gone in for health equipment. I look at the health foundations, too, across the province. I look at groups, like, when I think of community inclusions. I worked for the mentally challenged children. When I look at all our health board members across the province, look at our Home and School volunteers. I know right now in my community, there's a group again that's out doing major fundraising for school equipment.

As was mentioned by the previous speaker, the firemen - and as well we have firemenettes that really support the firemen. Just last weekend, they had a big craft sale to raise money. We have a lot of people that have musical talent, and we have a group called the Helping Hands Band. They go around and there is hardly a night of the week they're not out on the road. They've raised thousands and thousands of dollars for disadvantaged people. Sometimes people that are sick - or I know last week on Thursday night, there was a young woman in my community doesn't have a vehicle, has a disabled child, and there was that group of people out again. On that night just for that little family there was \$3,400. I've been to benefits where they've raised \$15,000 on a given night for a poor family that may be struggling.

When I look at, again our legion members across this province that have really held the day for all our veterans and the monuments that have been established. When Remembrance Day comes, if it wasn't for these legion members we wouldn't have a place to go so we could remember. Think of the Lion's Club groups. I know again in my community here just a couple of weeks ago they had an auction again where they donated all the money back to the community. I mentioned within our churches, when you look at the voluntarism that goes on there. I know when I look at even just our own small church, and when I look at all the programs which takes a lot of people. I think every night of the week there are volunteers within that church putting on a program for children or youth or seniors. We have Bible quizzing, we have Sunday School, we have caravan, we have seniors' Bible study, teens group on Wednesday and Friday night, we have the kids' town program, we have vacation Bible schools, we have camps, we have ladies' retreats, we have men's retreats. The list goes on just within our churches.

Then, not far off, we go to our local rink. I don't know if we can count the number of coaches in this province, whether they be for hockey or figure skating. All summer long, look at the soccer fields. The Member for Alberton-Miminegash, you can go in his front yard on any given night of the week and there they are out in the front yard volunteering, putting on soccer programs for the young children. I know how much that means to the people in West Prince. Very low cost for the children but a lot of effort goes into it.

One year, in 1996, I had an opportunity to work with seniors. Under the whole seniors and literacy structure was going around to the local villas or the long-term cares all around West Prince and forming reading clubs. A lot of these seniors I'd come to learn, a lot of them had to maybe quit school early. As I listened to their stories about how they quit school in maybe grade 3 because they were the oldest member in the family and they had to stay home and look after the younger children. A lot of these seniors couldn't read, and what a joy it was for them. The ones that couldn't read, but what they could do, they could tell stories about what happened in their life time, which was as good as reading.

We think of the L.O.V.E. Program, Let Older Volunteers Educate. Again, another volunteer program that has helped many children across the province. Then I had the opportunity in the last year or two to attend meetings where parents come together concerned about supporting their children that maybe have drug addictions. For a few years I had the opportunity to sit on the West Prince Addictions Board. I don't know if there was ever another board that I ever had the privilege to sit on but the addictions board. I felt so much compassion in that room for their fellow man in wanting to make a difference.

So I just can't imagine this province or this country without all these volunteers that go out and make a difference in the lives of others each day. The list just goes on and on. It was mentioned here earlier about Red Cross, and we just had a resolution on the floor there last week. We see what's happening just within the province, but not only in the province but around the world today by the Red Cross organization.

So I guess it's hard to sit in your seat tonight when we start talking about volunteers. Tonight I just want to (Indistinct) each and every one that makes this province and this country such a wonderful place to live.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I better correct my statement about you a little while ago. It wasn't your fault you didn't pass the puck, it was the fault of your wingers, they were never near you. The truth always comes out. Don't the hon. member over there say anything.

**Mr. Ballem:** That's the Speaker fraternity coming out.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Mr. Speaker, I thought I would review just some of the organizations I belong to and the many groups that I worked with over the years. Last night I was at the community school, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vernon River. They are an organization, they stretch even into Montague and into Pownal, there are people from all over there. Community school started 41 years ago with a pilot project and Fredericton is the only one left of those three. But the community

school in Vernon River started in the homes and it was in the homes for five years until the Vernon River Consolidated School started. They have never let up. They have somewhere between 14 and 17 people on the group each year. Chairman usually stays for a couple of years and they keep changing. So over the 40 years, there is a lot - I, myself took a number of courses there years ago, in particular farm organization courses.

But when you really think of volunteers I think always of the Women's Institutes of PEI. They did a tremendous thing for rural Prince Edward Island when we had the one-room school. It was they that did so much for the one-room schools. They put bathrooms in them, they put new chalkboards, they put new windows, just about anything you want. They are a great organization. The Lion's Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Kinsman's Club. I've belonged to the Lions Club in Vernon River for 30 some years and they've done a tremendous amount of work in the community. It's wonderful to have them there.

The hockey rinks, I know of two hockey rinks in Belfast and Pownal where they need a lot of volunteers, not only to keep the rink going, but to keep minor hockey, the other hockey league. So there is a large group of volunteers there, especially the parents. When you have children going to the hockey games today, it seems like they go all over the place, all over the Island, all over some of the Maritimes, and they need a lot of volunteers and the parents are very busy with that. Of course, democracy would not work without volunteers, we all know that, and it's very hard to get that across.

Just the last weekend they, I'm sure, had a lot of volunteers in Montreal, they had a lot of volunteers in Alberta, as the organizations elected new leaders. Over the years I've had people say to me: I won't belong to a political organization, I'm just going to vote

for the best person on the ticket. I always say: Maybe the best person never got there. If you don't belong to the political party, how do you get candidates? I know that politicians are perhaps the most criticized group of them all and maybe that's why some people don't belong to political parties. But we have to have political parties or democracy can't work. People got to understand that. I think it's one of the hard parts of getting through honest democracy. It starts at the level of the poll work and we have to have volunteers who are eager to work in the polls, eager to work in the districts, to make their political organization strong. I always say to people, pick out the party you want, join it and become involved, and you can have a lot to say about how democracy goes.

I think it's been already said that hospitals need volunteers. I think the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove indicated about the hospitals. I must say, the last year or so I've been in the Cancer Treatment Centre a lot and the volunteers there make a big difference. Just as you said, the smiling. Sometimes it's not a great place to have to be but they make it that much better. If we didn't have them people volunteering, there would be quite a difference there.

Agriculture groups over the years, there has been many agriculture groups where many of the farmers involved. We used to have one time the Farm Radio Forum which is on every Monday night. We have the Federation of Agriculture, National Farmers Union, the commodity boards. All the different commodity boards. So there is a lot of farmers involved. Men and women in all those boards. Probably one of the ones that has come along stronger now is the blueberry association since blueberries have become very popular. We do have the soil and crop, the hog and beef boards. So it takes a lot of the agriculture people a lot of time just to keep up all those boards.

Of course, the churches. In my church, the CWL, the K of C, our church is now talking more and more that the layperson has to become responsible for more things than they used to. That's going to take time for that to happen. But I think the lay person has to really become involved. I know they are quite involved in other churches and there is no reason why they can't be in our church.

I also, over the years, was involved in three co-ops and the Credit Union. I remember one time going to a Credit Union meeting in Vernon River where they formed a Credit Union chapter. The person who insisted that I become chairman was Harold Smith, who was a member of this Legislature, Liberal member for many years. I could never figure out why he wanted me to be chairman. I kept thinking: Is he trying to do something to me or not? Anyway, I finally accepted and it was a joyful experience, of course, once you get involved. I didn't know what it meant. What it really meant was there is a group of Credit Unions and it was an organization that was to help out any one of those credit unions.

The Credit Union I belonged to was the Vernon Credit Union, which joined the capital Credit Union which has joined the present Credit Union in Charlottetown and Stratford. The Credit Unions have come a long way. They really started in rural PEI, then they started to get bigger and bigger and joined bigger ones. The Credit Union Association of PEI is a very strong organization now with quite a bit of money in their accounts.

Unfortunately, it seems that some people do not want to volunteer. I don't know why, but there are some people who just don't volunteer at all. Then other people who volunteer are the ones who seem to be involved in many things and perhaps it's because they don't want to volunteer. Our Lion's Club, for example, is down to ten

members. We tried to get more members. We can't seem to. I know that one of the members of the Lion's Club told me he belonged to a church group and he said they did a real big job trying to get more people involved and they got one person.

So it seems like the volunteers are certain people and the others just don't volunteer. Maybe it's because they were involved. A few years ago there were three ladies who worked very hard to get Stratford a new part of the elementary school. They worked hard. They had meetings every week and so on. They told me once the school was built they would never become involved in another organization again. They were played out, they were burnt out, I guess, in the organization. That's what happens.

I remember going to meetings to plan a meeting, now that's getting a little - we just seem to be run off our feet at one time. Now we have, of course, much better communications and we don't need to do things like that.

But those who do volunteer, you have to really thank them and praise them. They're everywhere you go. Always working hard, willing to do what they're doing and trying to get society a better place to live, there's no question about that. If you're involved in the hockey things, you're trying to get your team in better to play a better game of hockey or baseball or whatever it is. I only coached hockey one year, the first year that the Pownal rink opened. I couldn't skate so I decided the best thing would be have people who come on the ice. But I think to be a coach or something like that is a great thing too. You work with a lot of young people, they think a lot of the coach - actually, the coach of hockey and baseball is almost like a dictator to the kids, whatever they tell them they believe. They have a great respect for a coach. I've never seen a child who didn't have a good respect for a coach in

hockey or baseball.

So over the years, and I think since about 1960, organizations have got bigger and broader and there wasn't as much places to become a volunteer before that. People volunteered in their church and their local community. Now we have it province-wide and so on. There are many organizations like the arthritis society, the kidney society, heart and stroke, all those organizations now have appeared perhaps in the last 30 years or so, and they also need a lot of volunteers. So there are many places to volunteer and there are many people who do.

But I would encourage people who don't to get involved. Because even seniors who don't become involved, it's the way of getting out and getting involved in the community. We all want to work to a better community, a better province, and part of that is the volunteers. It's not all, but a part of it is. I would encourage people to continue to volunteer. Don't overdo it that you're stressed out, but volunteer enough to become involved and to do your part. All it needs is people working together to do their part. If we work together as an organization or as political parties, then we're going to have a better province and a better place to live.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Gillan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the beginning, let me recognize the wide breadth of understanding and display that the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove demonstrated in presenting this motion. I think that she certainly covered the very wide spectrum of voluntarism, not only

in our province, but across the country. She did a very commendable job of laying it out.

It's a motion that this side of the House is certainly very willing to support. I'm very appreciative of the comments that have been made thus far. I want to offer just a few areas of comment, particularly as they apply to my portfolio.

Let me start off - the Leader of the Opposition had made mention of the community service bursary that is offered at the UPEI. I can very well remember in the year 2000 being in education and putting that initiative ahead.

We were looking for opportunities to involve our youth and some way that we would be able to monetarily sponsor them. Somebody came up with the idea of volunteering. It made a lot of sense and it certainly caught fire in hurry.

To answer directly the hon. leader's observation that you cannot gain credit hours for canvassing for funds, I think I'm fairly positive - or I think remember the discussion that emanated around this - it was felt that the whole idea of commercialism might come to the front. If students were identified with going collecting money they would be identified, or the universities would be identified, or the program, or the government would be identified, with promoting a certain type of commercialism over something else. There was also the concern of handling cash in dollars and all of that. So, for those reasons we did steer away from endorsing volunteer working on behalf of those canvassing organizations. It certainly doesn't take away any of their merit, but that was the reason behind it.

As most of us realize now, the program is open to grade 11 and grade 12 students here in the Province of Prince Edward Island. Since the program began in 2000, I'm told

that over 1,200 students have received bursaries totaling \$456,000. Three-hundred-and-ninety-six groups have been able to enjoy the energy and the initiative of these Island students.

Of course, in exchange for all of this marvellous volunteering the hours of volunteer time, students receive a bursary of up to \$600. It was originally \$500. Now it has been increased to \$600. That can be used at a post-secondary institution of their choice.

One of the main reasons for giving it other than monetary was that for the individuals presenting or doing these volunteer hours it would encourage voluntarism. It would support volunteer organizations. It would provide the youth sometimes with new experiences in fields that they possibly might not be able to do.

Very quickly individuals asked us: Can we do something along the line of sports. Yes, you can, but also think further away from that. That brought up all types of opportunities of volunteering in community institutions with non-governmental organizations and hospitals, with seniors groups, etc..

All of these have been very good at developing a sense of community responsibility in youth. Really, it has worked from the point of view that, yes, it does put some dollars in the students' pockets, but in return they learn a lot about volunteering.

I want to switch now over to the seniors, which is part of my Social Services and Seniors portfolio. I know that a number speakers have mentioned the importance of seniors making contributions. I also will mention briefly some of those.

There are a couple of areas that I do want to

mention that individuals may not be knowledgeable of. There is a seniors' peer helping program that exists. I really didn't know very much about this at all until it was brought to my attention. This is a completely confidential volunteer service that is offered by a small number of seniors. Just as it says, seniors help each other.

It's a no-cost seniors' peer helping program which matches seniors who may be isolated, who are in need of others of their age group, i.e., seniors, showing up just for friendly visits. Sometimes it goes a little bit beyond that. Sometimes some other professional avenues are pointed out or sought out, but mostly it's just a friendly visit.

The significance is that it has been ongoing for awhile now and last year the 15 volunteers who had been recruited from seniors' clubs across the Province came together. They formed a training session. Over the course of a year, they did the activities they were intended to do. The retention rate back to this year is 100%. They got turned on by the work they were doing and they could see the reason for it in the eyes and in the mannerisms of those they were visiting and helping. Just a very small aspect of seniors.

Now, I think it was the Leader of the Opposition who pointed out some Canadian statistics about seniors, the value and or the amount of dollars that can be generated. I am going to quote a study here from the National Advisory Council on Aging. They do age the senior as that individual who is 65 and above. They give an example here that seniors, not only do they do work and provide good volunteer, but they also are very forthcoming with their dollars. Seventy-seven percent of all seniors made direct contributions to charities back in the year 2000. You're going to be able to see that they have been able to keep that up. They donated a total of \$854 million. Those

are direct dollars going into our Canadian society.

Thirty-three-and-a-half percent belong to religious organizations. There's a whole list here.

Older adults have kept up that productivity. It is very interesting to see that as they go through their life they get even more benefit from a monetary point of view of helping out than ever before.

Many retirees - 16% of them are men and 14% women - also regularly engage in caring for friends, relatives and neighbours. This points to the fact that it does not have to be organized volunteering. It can be spur of the moment. It can be just on your street. It can be among your own family.

The overwhelming majority, 97% of them were women and 92% of men, participate in daily domestic work of some volunteer type as well.

I think it was again the Leader of the Opposition had wondered how you can translate some of those hours into dollars. In quoting from the study here, overall three million retirees spend five billion hours of their time each year on productive activities, a contribution of about 60 billion to Canada's economy. So, there's a ratio of one to four there.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I apologize for interrupting the minister of health, but I would just like to rise and welcome some guests that came into the gallery just a few minutes ago.

They are accompanied by Mr. John MacDonald from Souris, Line Road. Thank

you for being here tonight.

I'm going to attempt to try my Spanish tonight, as well. I'm going to say:

[The hon. member spoke in Spanish]

I would like to welcome our guests in the gallery tonight. Welcome. They are Mexican and are working on Prince Edward Island. I hope they are enjoying their time on the Island. Also, that they love snow.

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

**Ms. Bertram:** So, welcome. What I said, they are working. They're from Mexico and they're working here on Prince Edward Island. It's wonderful to have them in our gallery tonight. I also said I hope they're enjoying the snow. Thank you for being here and for John for being with them as well tonight. So, thank you and I hope you enjoy the proceedings and your time in Prince Edward Island. Thank you.

**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 John MacDonald and Miss MacDonald to the gallery tonight, and their special guests. I just want to mention that John and I had a great lunch this summer with his brother who happens to be a Liberal MLA in the Province of Alberta, which is quite the accomplishment but obviously coming from great pedigree from Mr. MacDonald. We know that he's doing a great job out there and it's great to see Mr. MacDonald in the House this evening.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

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

**Ms. Bertram:** I'm sorry, I forgot to - I would like to read out the names of our guests tonight. We have Melquiades Alvarez Martinez, Guillermo Ramirez Corona, Juan Luis Murillo Espinoza, Armando Sanchez Narvaez and Adrian Garcia Cortes.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. McCardle:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I as well would like to welcome my old friend John and his wife Pam, my highschool - she's from Emerald, part of my graduating class - and the people from Mexico. Welcome to the Legislature and I hope you enjoy your evening.

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

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

**Mr. Gillan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One of the many gifts that the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove possesses is that she always - I guess she's now trilingual. Very good.

One of the examples of seniors volunteering, which is well known to all of us here in the Assembly, is the Project L.O.V.E. Just to provide a few figures, since it started back in 1993 Project L.O.V.E. has grown to include over 230 senior volunteers working with more than 800 students and 34 elementary schools across the province. So again, an example that an original idea has continued to profit not only the senior who is in there

working, but obviously the child that the work with. So you can see that voluntarism really is an expression of community involvement.

I was going to go on with a number of opportunities of how to recruit and how to retain volunteers, but I know that the hour is moving along and I think there are a couple of more speakers that would like to speak in the time that is being provided.

So I will wrap up my comments by indicating that I will be very happy to be able to support this motion.

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

**Ms. Dover:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to stand in the House this evening to support this resolution, and actually to support any opportunity that we have to recognize the value of volunteers and to thank volunteers from across the province.

Volunteers are very special people and they contribute to our society in many meaningful ways. They help children get off to a good start, they help young people develop leadership skills and become contributing members of our community, and they help seniors to remain strong and independent for as long as possible. So they actually help people through the whole gamut of the spectacle of life.

Volunteers make our health system better, our education system better and our communities better. Today I'd like to highlight a few of the ways that volunteers help to improve learning in our province.

If you go through the whole age scenario, we'll begin with the babies. Babies born on PEI feel the presence of volunteers before

they even leave the hospital. Their care is enhanced by hospital volunteers who rock new babies and support new parents. They are cared for by using state-of-the-art equipment purchased by hospital auxiliaries, business and community organizations. Before they leave the hospital, newborns receive their first book from the Born to Read volunteers who support family literacy.

As PEI children grow they continue to encounter volunteers in our sports facilities, in our churches and at community events that support children and families.

When children start school, they benefit from the help of volunteers like Project L.O.V.E., which my colleague referred to, volunteers who do one of the most important jobs of all, they help children to read.

You can go into any elementary school on the Island at any given time and you're likely to find parent volunteers who are there volunteering their time. They may be helping by making learning fun, by preparing healthy snacks, or by helping to create a safe and peaceful school environment.

Pretty soon you begin to see the children volunteering themselves, perhaps as a book buddy, a lunch monitor or a peer helper. Students at intermediate and high school become more and more involved in a variety of volunteering activities such as SADD, the Terry Fox Run and programs like Allied Youth which keep our young people positive and ready to succeed. The volunteers are still there in junior and senior high schools where they're helping out with school breakfast programs, doing presentations that support curriculum, or helping to bring learning through programs like ArtsSmarts.

When students get to university they

become involved in programs like Frontier College, a group devoted to literacy at UPEI where students offer tutoring in a variety of subjects.

Government recognizes the value of voluntarism for both students and organizations. That's why we established the community service bursary which encourages students in grades 11 and 12 to take an active part in their communities by volunteering. In exchange for between 30 and 100 hours of volunteer time, students receive a bursary to be used at post-secondary institutions of their choose. This in turn encourages more students to consider continuing their education.

The Community Service Bursary Program is of benefit to volunteer organizations as well. In the past five years over 400 groups have been able to take advantage of the energy and the initiative of Island students through this program.

Volunteers also make a world of difference to adult learners on PEI. Through programs like Laubach Literacy, adult learners are connected to over 200 volunteer tutors across the province. This is a fantastic organization that supports adult Islanders to overcome learning problems and get ahead in life.

Community schools is another organization that reaches thousands of Islanders each year through volunteer teachers. At community schools Islanders learn essential skills and are often inspired to go on to further learning.

As we move further into a knowledge economy, it's likely that communities of learning will become more and more important to all of us. If we want to stay abreast of developments and stay engaged in communities practices, communities of learning and practices will likely mean an

even greater role for the learning volunteer.

This is good, because we all have different learning styles, and for some of us learning from our peers and from volunteers, whether inside or outside the classroom, is the most effective way of all.

Volunteers make a tremendous contribution to learning on Prince Edward Island from early childhood through to adulthood. Their role is likely to become even more important than the future. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Island communities and it's a pleasure to join other members in recognizing this and recognizing them on this International Volunteer Day.

So I'm very thankful to the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove for bringing the resolution forward and I'll be really pleased to be able to support it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash.

**Mr. Dunn:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to commend the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove in bringing forward this resolution on this day of recognition for volunteers. A lot has been said for volunteers in all aspects of the role volunteers play in our communities and all aspects of our lives. I just want to dwell on one small area because we could be here all night. I just want to talk a little bit about the youth and the impact that adults have who volunteer with youth organizations.

I guess my background has been in youth in sports and recreation and culture. I see the impact that people make on the lives of young people by the roles they play as

coaches, as instructors, as trainers, as officials, as advisors, as leaders and these people make a big impact on people's minds and set an example for them on the role of volunteers and the value of volunteers.

I grew up in a volunteer family and my mother was involved in everything in the community and so was my father. So it was always expected of us, eight or ten children of us, that we all became involved in volunteering. It was just a natural expectation. It was just natural being that kind of a family. So all of my brothers and sisters have all continued to be very active volunteers in their communities and I'm very much appreciated by that by the role they play.

Also the other areas too, the arts. A lot of people seem to forget the arts a lot of times, because a lot of people volunteer to instruct young people in dance, or in music, or choirs, or drama productions, and it's a wonderful expression for young people to allow to have that expertise of an adult providing that leadership for them.

Then we have all these other groups too, the scouts and the guides and, as the minister of education said, the Allied Youth programs, the cadet program, the church groups, Sunday school instructors. There are all kinds of roles that people play in the lives of young people. I guess it's very important. The reason why I want to focus in this area is that the volunteers have a tremendous impact on the young mind. So I think that's why the minister next to me here was going to talk about recruitment, retention and training of young people. It's a very important part of volunteers, to be the best volunteer you can be.

But the second level there I want to talk about briefly about too is the young people who become involved as junior leaders in figure skating or minor officials in hockey

or doing it as a camp counsellor or the leading role in student council executives. These people are starting at a very young age and they have the skills, learning the skills from adults and they give an opportunity to practice those skills and to pass them on to their peers, or to younger students or younger kids that they're dealing with. So it's a very important role that young people play in volunteering.

I remember when I was chairman of the health board we had a focus group with young people and we had probably 20 or 30 people there who were sitting around in a circle and we asked them what their involvement was in their community. It wasn't very big, there weren't very many people involved in the community. I asked the one question, I said: How come you're not involved? Three or four of them said: Nobody ever asked us. A lot of young people just need to be asked. They don't have the confidence to probably come forward, but just ask them and you'd probably be surprised at what you get.

I guess my few comments regarding volunteer day and the international recognition of volunteers is that they have a tremendous impact, they have a tremendous impact on our economy, and there is a bigger impact on our young people. I'd like to congratulate those young people who play a role as leaders and volunteers in their own community.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Shea:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure to rise and speak to this resolution. I felt I had to rise and speak to

the resolution because my community would be a very sad place if there was no such thing as volunteers. I just started to think about the number of different organizations that wouldn't be here if we didn't have volunteers, and the community would definitely fall apart.

We have our seniors home co-op, for example. A couple of weeks ago they held a volunteer appreciation night and I was invited to the volunteer appreciation night. I thought: I'm going out there and there are going to be 20 or 30 people that have volunteered throughout the year to go to the seniors home and to different functions, entertainment and play card, bingo, whatever. When I got there, there was like 170 people that were receiving certificates for being volunteers at the seniors home and the staff told me that there were 300 volunteers they had on the list.

We don't come from a very big community but it seems like every second person must be volunteering at the senior's home, which is great. So that was pretty impressive.

Our local church, we have the people who count the money after church who sit on the financial committee, who sit on a number of committees to keep the church up and running. The church is a big part of our community. We have the people who serve in the church, the altar servers, the electors and a number of things like that. On our new rink, which we're very proud of in Tignish, we have a board of directors that keep that rink operational known as the Tignish Sports Association. That's been in place forever and it takes good committed board members to keep that going.

We have a development group known as Tignish Initiatives, which also has a board of directors which oversees new projects for the area. We have another group known as Friends of the Heritage Inn. What the

Heritage Inn is, it's an inn that is operated by Tignish Initiatives and it's operated now as an inn. It was a former convent. So it's been transformed into this beautiful inn which has 17 rooms. One of the most popular times for renting the Heritage Inn is for families at Christmas time, big families. They rent the entire place. They have the whole kitchen facilities and they'll stay for a day or two or three days and it's really very popular now. I guess if you want to book it you have to book it a year or two in advance.

We have our Credit Union which is also operated by a board of directors. If you remember that ad that used to be on t.v., Clifford Bernard said: We're a co-op town and we're proud of it. We do have many co-ops and co-ops take a lot of volunteers to stay operational. Our Credit Union has a board of directors, our Tignish Co-op has a board of directors. Away back when, a group of people got together and they thought that our community should have health services. They formed the Tignish Health Centre Co-op which is still operational today and brought a health centre to our area.

One of the oldest co-ops in the area is the Tignish Fisheries Co-op which is still operational, it's still operated by a board of directors. We have the community side of the French community which is known as the Rev. S.E. Perrey Committee which operates a number of French programs. We have of course, our fire department, and I have to say a few words about our fire department.

We have a very dedicated fire department, and they are called out, and because they are first responders - and a lot of our volunteer fire departments are first responders; some are not because some live close to hospitals, some are very close to ambulance services - but because we're a little bit more rural, a

little more remote, our fire department operates as a first responder. That means that they go to every call. These are volunteers, and I was very surprised to find out that they are called out about over 200 times in the run of a year. So that's getting close to almost daily and these are volunteer firefighters.

So when the Minister of Community and Culture Affairs talks about what we've done for firefighters, they get free licensing and registration for their cars. I would say we can't do enough for them. I know in our community they are very valuable. They are only a few minutes away from any disaster, any accident. They're always the first on the scene and they take control and they certainly bring a sense of security to the community. I certainly salute and applaud them for that.

We also have the Knights of Columbus which is made up from a number - their operation is kept going by a number of volunteers. We have our Catholic Women's League, we have three Home and Schools in the area - actually we probably have more than three Home and Schools, probably four or five. We have our legion that is kept going by volunteers. We have the legion's ladies auxiliary. We have the hospital auxiliary, we have the hospital board, we have the community inclusions group - which looks after services for the mentally disabled - and we have also a group of citizens that volunteer their time for transportation west, which provides transportation to those who don't have transportation.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I look at all these groups, if it weren't for volunteers we certainly would have a very dead community. So I salute every one of them. I'm very happy to support the resolution.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Any other member who would like to speak on this motion?

If not, to close out debate, the mover of the motion, the hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to close debate. I would first of all like to thank all the members that spoke this evening and shed light on voluntarism here on Prince Edward Island. I think everyone shared personal stories and stories about their communities, people within their communities that are giving up their time.

I appreciated hearing from the hon. Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. I think it was very important. He brought up the firefighters and the hours of volunteerism that they put forward and how critical for our province - and I guess that comes into that component the safe Islander that is volunteering for that component of voluntarism.

As well, I forgot to mention the arts. The hon. Member from Alberton-Miminegash and the hon. Member from West Point-Bloomfield mentioned the arts in their comments, and I think that is important. It's not just about sports, volunteering in sports, there are choirs and musical groups that go around, and they spend a lot of their free time doing that and volunteering, whether its for a benefit in the community or it's a church group, etc. I think that's important.

The Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay spoke about the different farming groups over the years, and I think that was important to bring those up. We have the 4-H, there are many of our youths in our communities that are volunteering their time with that. We also have the Women's

Institute, breakfast programs in our schools where you have Wiseman's, you have Lion's Club, and I believe the hon. Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay spoke about being a Lion's member. You have the Shriners.

You also have people that are committed at an international level. You have the Mikinduri Children of Hope, I believe that's the group's name, but they're working at the international level. You're looking at Farmers Helping Farmers, which is the partnership of local and abroad, and those individuals are working, not just here on Prince Edward Island, but on betterment of children and families and people around the world. You also have the Scouts and the Girl Guides of Canada, many volunteer hours in our communities with that.

I believe it was also the Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay that mentioned community schools, and that is another important area for Prince Edward Island. Many people have volunteered their time at the community schools over the years and utilizing all those talents that are so great in our communities, and that is wonderful.

In closing, I guess I would just like to bring it to our district level. I would like to recognize - because there are community centres in these various areas in our community, Kingston, Wiltshire, Emerald, Emyvale, New Haven, Argyle Shore, Long Creek, Hunter River, Breadalbane, Pleasant Valley, Victoria, Bonshaw. Those places do have community centres and they're serving wonderful purposes for the community where volunteers are coming forward to be part of that and host events and I thank them for that. They're to be commended for their efforts.

In closing, again, I thank all members for support - I hope in supporting this tonight. The words spoken seem to be of great support. Again, I appreciate hearing their

words and thank you for support, and again, hats off to all our volunteers on Prince Edward Island on this, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the day of International Volunteer Day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Hon. members, are you ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Speaker:** All those in favour, say 'yea.'

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea!

**Speaker:** Those against, say 'nay'.

Unanimously carried.

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

**Mr. Gillan:** Mr. Speaker, I ask that we revert to Motion No. 4.

**Speaker:** Motion No. 4.

All those in favour?

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea!

**Speaker:** Carried.

Motion No. 4.

**Clerk:** Motion No. 4.

The hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) began as the dream of visionary founders of public broadcasting in

Canada in the 1930's;

**AND WHEREAS** these founders aspired to a CBC that told our stories and strengthened our sense of nationhood;

**AND WHEREAS** for decades the CBC has provided compelling, authentic, and distinctly Canadian programming in French and English, connecting us with our communities and the rest of the country;

**AND WHEREAS** the CBC has become one of our nation's largest cultural institutions;

**AND WHEREAS** a primary role of the modern-day CBC has been to showcase our uniquely Canadian voice through drama, music, sports, comedy, children's educational programming, news, current affairs and documentaries;

**AND WHEREAS** the CBC programming contributions on Prince Edward Island have explored local perspective, opinion and events;

**AND WHEREAS** these programs have also provided exposure to local music, drama, and literature;

**AND WHEREAS** such grass-roots contributions of the CBC's local and national services provide a unique and ever-changing depiction of Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** with today's broadcasting world offering hundreds of TV channels, radio stations and the Internet, a clear, strong Canadian voice is needed more now than ever before;

**AND WHEREAS** in the past decade, the real value of the CBC's annual parliamentary appropriation has significantly declined;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that

the members of this Legislative Assembly, along with all Islanders, extend congratulations to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for their contributions and success during the past seventy years;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of this Assembly encourage the Federal Government to sustain this valuable cultural resource through a long-term commitment to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

**Speaker:** To open debate on this motion, the mover, the hon. Member from Winsloe-West Royalty.

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

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

It gives me pleasure and a great deal of satisfaction to be able to rise in the Assembly this evening and offer tribute to a beloved institution in Canada, the CBC. I had the opportunity of working within the CBC. I guess I should rephrase that and say growing within the CBC personally in the 31-year career.

I owe a lot to the CBC, not just the livelihood of 31-plus years of employment, but I owe them a great deal in terms of helping me to develop, I think, a pretty broad prospective on what it is to be a Canadian.

I began my life in St. John's, Newfoundland, and I was a CBC listener from the early get-go around our household. At the time my sister who later went on to become a professional singer used to appear quite often on CBC radio and later on CBC television in St. John's in those years.

As a matter of fact, my first foray in front of

a CBC microphone occurred when I was about 12 or 13 years of age. Back then in that city of St. John's every one of the municipal parks would have certain programs over the summer. At the end of the summer the recreation director of that park would put together a variety concert and that concert would be broadcast live on the local CBC, in their studios on Duckworth Street in St. John's. I can recall a group of my friends and I got together, and it happened to be the year that Johnny Horton song *Sink the Bismarck* was a big hit of the day. Yes, there's a few people here that might remember that song of Johnny Horton's, but we sang it as a quartet on that radio concert away long ago.

So my career with the CBC was preceded by about over four years working in private radio, in various places across Newfoundland, from Grand Bank, Grand Falls, St. John's, later on in places like Ajax, London, Ontario, and I think I just may have covered it on the mainland.

So when I got the call in December of 1971 that I had secured a position with CBC and they told me where I was going, I had to go to the map and find out where it was. It was Churchill, Manitoba, way up in the top of that prairie province, right on the shores of the Hudson Bay. I can recall my first experience landing there at 1:00 a.m., December 21, 1971. When they opened the door to the airplane I just about froze to death, it was -40 outside, pitch dark. Welcome to the CBC Northern Service. I was met there by the local manager, who happened to be a fellow Newfoundlander named Bruce Taylor, and Bruce got me settled in.

So there I was four days before Christmas at what I thought was the top of the world then, up in the top of Manitoba, and I certainly recall that first Christmas. On Christmas Eve, getting a knock on my door



of the room that I was staying in and there was a fellow CBC staffer who I had only gotten to know a day or two before named Eric Robinson. Eric invited me off to midnight mass that night in Churchill, Manitoba. We became very fast friends after that for the almost two years that I worked in Churchill.

Eric today, and has been for quite some time now, is cabinet minister in the Manitoba government. I understand that the hon. Minister of Tourism had an occasion to speak only yesterday at a national conference.

**Mr. P. Brown:** He's a nice man.

**Mr. Collins:** He is a nice man, indeed. Eric and I were bosom buddies there for the time I was there in Churchill. He taught me a great deal about northern life and he taught me a great deal about getting to know Canada's Aboriginal peoples.

This is where I go back to what I said earlier, the opportunity to grow as a Canadian, to broaden my perspective as a Canadian. Certainly, Churchill, Manitoba, was a good place to do that. It was just right at the tree line. The trees in Churchill grew to about four feet and only on one side. Above that was the wide broad expanse north of 60, Canada's great Northwest Territories.

Back then, Churchill was part of a network of its own called the CBC Northern Service. At that time, Frobisher Bay, which is now known as Iqaluit, the capital of the new territory of Nunavut, back then it was part of the Northwest Territories. There was Iqaluit, there was Churchill, Manitoba, there was Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, and north of that up in Inuvik, right in the Mackenzie Delta, and then in Whitehorse. Those were the five stations of the CBC Northern Service.

That's where I began my career there. I had occasion over the course of working in Churchill to get to see other parts of the north including Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, at that time another place called Eskimo Point. Of course, those things have changed considerably since then, those names. I think it's called Arviat, if memory serves me correctly.

So I was in Churchill for, as I say, a little under two years and then moved on to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. There I had the opportunity to again experience part of Canada's great north and meet with other peoples of this country. In Yellowknife we did newscasts in several languages: English, Dogrib, Slavey, Chippewan, and I think another language escapes the name of it right now. Every day we had four and five languages of news on the air there.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Collins:** No, I cannot speak Dogrib, no, but I certainly have had experience to enjoy the culture of the Dogrib Nation in Yellowknife.

I remember one June evening being at a tea dance in Detah village outside Yellowknife. It was probably the most wonderful experience I've ever had in my life. We were there in the main hall and all the men were in one row, and all the children were in the middle of the row, and all the women were on the other side of the row. The spirit of generosity that flowed for that night with the food and the good times was just a wonderful experience. I think at that time I really had an opportunity to see Aboriginal life at its best. At its best, it is really a society of sharing and of caring for one another.

I'll never forget leaving there that night around 2:00 a.m. as the sun was still rising. The sun was still above the horizon at 2:00

a.m. in June as it never gets dark there at that time of the year. To hear the native music drumming out over the still waters of the Great Slave Lake was really an amazing experience.

Then I left Northern Service in 1977 and moved onto Calgary, Alberta. That was quite a cultural change from the far north. Those were boom years out there as well. That was an opportunity to learn again about another facet of Canadian life, the western Canadian life, a chance to meet and interview characters like Ralph Klein.

As a matter of fact, I had the opportunity to interview the new Mayor Klein the morning after his first election as mayor of the City of Calgary. They didn't call him King Ralph for nothing. He was a real populist leader back then. Certainly, his fame and longevity attest to all of that.

Then, of course, in July of 1982 I really hit the jackpot when I was fortunate to get a job on Prince Edward Island.

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

**Mr. Collins:** Since that day, there's been no looking back. Throughout that sojourn with CBC I've had the opportunity to visit in all 10 provinces and two of the territories, I guess you could say now, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. The only place I've not been in yet is the Yukon.

So the rest of the experience is just amazing. On the shores of the Arctic Ocean in Cambridge Bay I had the pleasure of meeting the great Japanese explorer, now dead, Naomi Uemura. At that time, Mr. Uemura, by the way, had climbed the five highest peaks of the world and had rafted the Amazon alone, the entire Amazon. At the time I met him, he was traveling from Greenland to Barrow, Alaska, by dogsled all alone.

He told me a story of going across the high Arctic all alone. Out on some ice that was not as safe as it ought to have been, his sled went in. His dogs kept the sled there as he scrambled out onto the ice. He had to immediately get his sled up on the ice, remove his clothing, and get some shelter in a hurry. Otherwise, he would have froze to death out there. Goodness knows he was not near any help or rescue at all.

So, I begin my remarks by citing the source of this tribute to the CBC. I have traveled with the CBC. I have worked closely with many good men and women who have worked for the CBC over the years. I'm very proud of my associations with those people. I do want to in the next few minutes take an opportunity to, I suppose, sing the praises of the CBC and its people.

It's interesting that the whole issue of radio began - again I go back to one of the world's oldest seaports, at least North America's oldest seaport, and that is St. John's, Newfoundland. It was in 1901 that Guglielmo Marconi had his kites and antennae flying high over the bluffs of Signal Hill on a very chilly December day. He heard the dit, dot, dash coming across the Atlantic waters. That was the beginning of wireless transmission.

Here in Canada, well before the CBC was actually even a glimmer in anyone's eye, this nation was involved in the development of broadcast technology. In 1919 the very first broadcasting licence was issued, XWA in Montreal, a station that later went on to become CFCF.

We saw the first licencing of private radio stations in Canada in 1922. It was in 1936. This is the actual anniversary of the start of the CBC. The date was actually November 2<sup>nd</sup>. So we're a little bit more than a month beyond the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CBC. On that date the Canadian broadcasting act

replaced what was called the CRBC. The CRBC was the Canadian radio -

**An Hon. Member:** Radio?

**Mr. Collins:** Radio. Yes, a good guess.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Collins:** What happened before that was that CN Railway - that's where the radio stations began - started a radio service to their trains in 1923. The CN radio opened its first radio stations in Ottawa and Moncton. They gradually went on to develop 15 stations. So that when CBC actually took over in 1936 they did have the early embryonic makings, if you will, of a radio network, because they acquired those CN radio facilities and they improved the coverage and continued program development.

But it was actually November 2<sup>nd</sup> when the Canadian broadcasting act began with the formation of a new Crown corporation, the CBC. It began with eight publicly owned or leased stations and 14 private affiliates. Over the years - and I guess no one in this room is old enough to have remembered this or had been there to hear it - full coverage of the six-week visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1939.

There have been all kinds of great highlights in CBC history coverage over those 17 years, and I'd like to mention a few of them if I could.

Nineteen thirty-nine of course was an exceptional year, a news-making year, because that was the start of World War II, and with that declaration of war a CBC reporting unit went overseas and all of the departments began special wartime broadcasts.

It is also interesting to note that in 1939 a

farm broadcast began on the English network of the CBC. In 1941 there was - we've seen a film of this, I'm sure everyone has, of Winston Churchill's speech from the House of Commons in Ottawa. That actually marked the formal opening of the CBC news service. That of course was when the great Churchill used the line: Some chicken, some neck, in the House of Commons, referring to Hitler's promise to wring England's neck like a chicken.

The *Fisherman's Broadcast*, 1946 was the start of that here in the Maritimes, and in 1949 the CBC acquired the facilities and staff of the broadcasting corporation of Newfoundland as that province entered Confederation.

So many firsts for the CBC over the years. I won't go into all of them here this evening, but I think we all have our own special events that we can remember when we think of the CBC both in radio and in television. I guess everyone remembers 1972 and the first great summit hockey series between Canada and the Soviet Union. I happened to be in Churchill at that time. I did not get to see any of the games because we did not have live television at that time. In the north at that time they had something called the frontier package. It was four hours of videotape that was sent up by air, when the weather was good. Otherwise you heard it live on radio, and I certainly did attend those radio broadcasts very much and I recall the winning goal by Henderson to wrap up the series for Canada. I think anyone who was around at that time knows that the earth shook from coast to coast to coast in Canada, and it was all brought to us by CBC.

I would like to quote something from a speech by Madame Guylaine Saucier who in 2000 was the chair of the board of directors in the CBC. She was giving an address to the Canadian Institute of Chartered

Accountants at the time about the CBC. She, I believe, best described the mission of the CBC, very articulately and very succinctly. It was this: The CBC's mission is to tell Canadians stories reflecting the reality and the diversity of our country, to inform Canadians about news and relevant issues, to support Canadian arts and culture, and to build bridges among Canadians. That is the mission of the CBC.

A CBC that we all own. The CBC is owned by Canadian taxpayers. They are the shareholders. It is the duty of the CBC to serve their shareholders in a variety of important and very public ways. That is what the founders of the CBC had in mind in 1936.

The federal government of the day had clear cultural imperatives in mind. They didn't form the CBC as a marketplace venture. It was a cultural imperative when it created the country's public broadcaster. The CBC was founded to respond to a political determination to bring together the broad diversity of people who make up this country and to ensure that a Canadian voice was there at a time, in 1936, when American transmitters seemed destined to completely dominate our airwaves.

That struggle to retain a Canadian identity in the midst of so much coming at us from outside our borders remains with us today, and even doubly so with the introduction of the Internet, cable and satellite television. We all know that today we're living in the 500-channel universe. So I believe that mission of the CBC becomes even far more challenging today to fulfill successfully than it was at the inception of the corporation in 1936.

It's important to note as well that the CBC is the only Canadian broadcaster that's given a strong and public mandate to serve all Canadians equally. The CBC is the only

broadcaster with a presence across the country, gathering local, regional and national news every day and disseminating it to neighbours next door as well as neighbours across the country.

The CBC is the only broadcaster that operators in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages. The CBC is the only broadcaster with the infrastructure to support all of those activities and it is the only broadcaster with non-commercial motives which enable it to provide unbiased reporting, even concerning the federal government which votes on its budgetary allocations. To pursue a course of examining Canada's past and present, through documentaries and dramas, that too is the role of the CBC.

It's hard to imagine a Canadian performer or artist who hasn't received considerable encouragement and exposure from the CBC. The list I guess begins back in 1936. Again, some may remember the great group the Happy Gang, Wayne and Shuster on tour in the Canadian army, coming back home and picking up with a great radio show followed by a television show. From that we moved on to today where we see CBC's involvement with the East Coast Music Awards, the opportunity to feature such great talents as Great Big Sea and the Rankin Family. Other great Maritime success stories that we should make mention of here that the CBC has had a very big hand in is the development of programs like *This Hour Has 22 Minutes, Made in Canada, The Halifax Comedy Festival* and the *National Aboriginal Achievement Awards*.

All of this speaks so highly of the CBC's nation building over the years. Because that's what it really comes down to, trying to reflect Canadians to one another, trying to build those bridges to one another, so that someone on Prince Edward Island will hear

about and try and understand the issues that might be facing a prairie grain farmer, how someone in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, can hear about and learn to understand when a disease might strike the potato crop of Prince Edward Island and what that might mean to the economic fate of that small province.

Those are the stories that bind us and join us, and it is through the CBC that information is disseminated. I must say, I marvel at how the CBC over the years has been able to do what it does considering the great financial pressures that it has been under over those 70 years. When I joined the CBC in 1971, I believe there were approximately 15,000 employees. When I retired from the CBC in about 2003, April, I don't think there were 8,000 employees of the CBC. I could be corrected on that. But yet the services were expanded in both radio and television. The demands were greater, the amount of hours programming both radio and television had increased. Technology helped a great deal, there's no question about that, and in many respects reduced the need for manpower. But still the breadth of the work that is being conducted today I believe is being conducted with a lot of heart and a lot of dedication, a lot of passion for what they do, by the men and women of the CBC.

I was looking across the Internet and I was wondering what other Canadians were saying and thinking about the CBC. I reached a website of a man named Justin Beach in Toronto and here he was asking people to comment on the CBC. I'd like to offer these quotation from ordinary Canadians:

To the hard working men and women of CBC radio television and CBC.ca, thank you for doing your best every day to bring high quality children's programming, vital information and the Canadian voice, in all of

its forms, to Canada and the world.

Someone who bills themselves as Doug the Canuck from this Great White North wrote: Without the CBC, where would we all be? Having recently moved out of Canada to Texas, I have more appreciation for the CBC than ever before. The CBC brings Canadians together. Cheers to the CBC.

Tamla in Vancouver: I listen to CBC Radio I every day and would be lost without it. I also watch many programs on CBC television. I find the programing on both radio and television to be informative, and at times, enlightening. Here's the line I appreciate: I feel good about myself as a Canadian viewing, listening, and supporting the CBC. To those who work for or in some way contribute to the CBC, thank you, thank you, thank you.

In relation to what I said earlier about the struggle to do more with less, one writer wrote: In recent years the CBC has seen dramatic downsizing and has had to adapt accordingly. Further cuts should not be required. Whether in British Columbia or Ontario, I listen to or watch it regularly. A friend and fellow Canadian watches the podcasts from South Korea to be informed and keep a sense of home while away. I love the CBC and all the informative, educational and entertaining programs it provides. Don't know where I'd be without the CBC.

I guess I could say the same thing. I don't know where I would be today without the CBC and the wonderful experience of working for such a fine corporation.

Here on Prince Edward Island the CBC - I'd like to talk a little bit about its history here in this province. It began here as an affiliate of the private radio station CFCY back in 1968. In 1972 CBC television took its own entity, opening a new building on University Avenue, and on March 7<sup>th</sup> 1977, CBC radio

officially opened and within a few years it moved into that same building, its current location, on University Avenue.

Some of the early programming that you may remember included shows like *The Gazette*, *Sounds of the Island*, *Behind the Gate* and *Window on Resources*. I'd like to speak about two of those television programs because I had the good fortune to be personally connected with them. *Sounds of the Island* was a musical variety show with a shoestring budget that actually drew more Islanders to the t.v. set when it was on the air than did the high-price production television soap opera *Dallas*. More Islanders went to their t.v. to watch the fiddler from Miminegash and the little step dancer from Rustico and the up and coming band from Cardigan, or the Irish group from Cardigan.. It was such a pleasure to do that program.

I'll never forget how we put it together, all done in a day. The talent would come into CBC Charlottetown - oh my goodness, I'm going over time, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Call the hour.

**Mr. Collins:** Call the hour. I'll pick this up later.

**Speaker:** The hour has been called.

The hon. Government House Leader.

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

**Mr. Dunn:** We could have snuck out and left the speaker here to continue, (Indistinct) back tomorrow morning still be here.

I move, seconded by the Member from Belfast-Pownal Bay, the House adjourn and stand adjourned until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry?

**Some Hon. Members:** Carried.

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

