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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

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First Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly

Tuesday, 23 October 2007

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS 258

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS 259

 CHARLOTTETOWN-SHERWOOD (UNICEF Representative at PEI Teachers' Federation Conference) 259

 VERNON RIVER-STRATFORD (Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame Inductee) 260

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Red Rally to Honour Troops) 261

ORAL QUESTIONS 261

A

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Student Class Size Limits) 261

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Standardized Testing of Students) 262

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Report of Mount Stewart Student Assessments) 263

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Report on Semester School System) 264

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Harassment Investigation) 265

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Organized Crime) 267

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Lost Revenue from Tobacco Sales) 267

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Funding to School of Nursing) 268

R

 O'LEARY-INVERNESS (Environmental Concerns of West Point) 268

 STRATFORD-KINLOCK (Student Common Assessments) 269

 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Social Assistance Costs) 270

 MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Funding for University Entrance Fees) 270

 MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Hog Industry) 271

 GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Budget for Capital Projects) 272

 GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Budget for Laboratory Services) 272

 GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (New Laboratory to Tender) 274

 MONTAGUE-KILMUIR (Province-Wide Breakfast Program) 275

D

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS 275

 HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND SENIORS (Family Doctor Week in Canada) 276

 EDUCATION AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (Floral Hills Memorial Gardens) 276

 HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND SENIORS (Health System Trains in Field Hospital Set-Up) 277

 DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY (Small Business Week) 278

ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT) 279

 ESTIMATES 279

 TOURISM 279

 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS 310

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER (Re: Allegation of Conflict of Interest) 316

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT 316

<i>H</i>	MOTION 9 (Protecting Island Families from Increased Household Tax Burden)	317
	LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	317
	MONTAGUE-KILMUIR	320
	PROVINCIAL TREASURER	324
	DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY	325
	LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	327
	DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY	328
	TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS	329
	LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION	329
<i>A</i>	ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT)	330
	ESTIMATES	330
	TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS	330
	ADJOURNED	354

N

S

A

R

D

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to welcome everybody to the gallery today, especially the grade 12 history class from Colonel Gray under the teacher of Robert MacDonald. Thanks for coming here today. Just wanted to tell you, we're the government, their little corner over there is the opposition, they'll be asking us questions. Hopefully they will be good questions for the next 45 minutes and you'll learn something.

Also, I want to welcome the viewing the public here today. I was out during the weekend, it was a great weekend and it's a great fall colours. I encourage everyone to take a drive through this wonderful province of ours and see the beautiful colours out there this time of year.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise too and welcome our guests, the grade 12 class with Rob MacDonald from Colonel Gray. I'm sure after observing us today they'll be saying: My God, that opposition looks like they have even more members than the government.

I noticed in the gallery we have guests today from the Federation of Agriculture, I believe. I also want to mention the fact that

on Friday evening one of our cousins, Natalie Coffin, gave birth to two beautiful bouncing baby girls that we're all excited about in the family.

I also want to say hello to some of the people that have been calling in that are telling me that they are viewing us on EastLink. I have a great following from my home community and Kerr Coffin has joined that group. He's a former municipal councillor from Collingwood. I'd like to make sure we say hello to him as he's joining four and five other people in Mount Stewart today to watch the proceedings from the House.

Anyway, please, grade 12s, enjoy your day here.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Dumville: I'd like to recognize Charlie Scranton up there today. It's good to see you. All the great work that he does with the Easter Beef, helping the agricultural community.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacKinley: I also would like to recognize a long friend of the family, Charlie Scranton. Charlie Scranton taught me a lot on how to show cattle when I was a young person. Mr. Scranton and his wife Helen did a tremendous service to the agricultural community here in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Scranton, I believe, moved from Nova Scotia. We're very fortunate that he did move here and settle here in the province,

because he has done a tremendous amount of dedicated, hard work for the people of Prince Edward Island to make it a better place. With that, on behalf of all of us here, I'd like thank you Mr. Scranton.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise, too, to welcome Rob MacDonald and his history class. I have the pleasure next Monday to go and speak to them on the Legislature. I want to put them on notice that I have a little bit of a trivia test for you. So I want to make sure you stay focused for the day.

I also want to recognize Charlie Scranton, a fine representative from the district of Vernon River-Stratford, a person who's being inducted into the Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame, and this spring was inducted into the Order of Canada. Really awesome. Good to have you with us, Charlie.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McIsaac: I also want to recognize several members of the Federation of Agriculture. Kid brother Ian, who's working as executive director, and president John Colwill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize a town councillor from Summerside, Corey Thomas, and a constituent for the Summerside area.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to recognize John Colwill. He's one of my constituents from the Northam area.

Send out greetings to those watching on EastLink. I had the pleasure over the weekend of meeting two special ladies from North Drive who have been neighbours for 65 years and they both celebrated their 90th birthdays three days apart. I had an opportunity to stop in and see Jean Christian and Doris MacNeven.

I also want to recognize one of my neighbours who had a beautiful art display at Eptek this past weekend, and it will be going until November 4th, Nan Ferrier.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

UNICEF representative at PEI Teachers' Federation conference

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Sometimes our youth can teach us great lessons in humanity and generosity. Such was the case just a few days ago.

As we all know, the United Nations' program, UNICEF, raises money for child welfare around the globe. Last week an 11-year-old from Richmond Hill, Ontario, visited schools here on the Island and

addressed the PEI Teachers' Federation convention here in Charlottetown. Young Bilaal Rajan, Canada's national child representative for UNICEF, challenged our teachers and our students to join his crusade to eliminate global poverty.

He reminded his audiences that children his age cannot get food, schoolbooks, nor all the accessories our children enjoy for their education. He pointed out that "less than 50% of all students presently enrolled in schools globally will make it past grade 5."

This young representative, who has been influential in raising thousands of dollars across Canada and enticing industry tycoons to donate money, prescription drugs, and educational tools, left his admirers with a profound message. He said: "Remember. You are never too small to make a difference."

Taking up that challenge, the students of Sherwood Elementary School raised over \$2,000 last year, and because of that, Bilaal Rajan paid them a visit this year to recognize this school as the top UNICEF fundraiser on Prince Edward Island.

Madam Speaker, it was inspiring to have such an important young ambassador with us for a short time, and I certainly hope his words will inspire all Islanders to play a part, to whatever degree, in reaching the ultimate goal of eliminating global youth poverty.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame inductee

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today I'd like to recognize a very important member of our farming community. In 1945, William John or, as he is better known, Billy Hayden, bought his first farm. It was only 70 acres. He bought his first tractor too, an open tractor, one where he could feel close to nature and feel the wind in his face. Billy Hayden has been close to nature ever since.

He was born in 1922 in Cherry Valley on a farm where his dad raised Hereford cattle. As a youth, he did community grain threshing and he cleaned seed for his neighbouring farmers. With his new farm he expanded into the potato business. In 1965, he purchased a bagger digger and in 1974 he constructed his new Hayden Produce Inc. warehouse.

After Billy and his wife, Lillian, raised four children, he began to understand the importance of having a strong community attachment. So he invested his time and energy into the Cherry Valley 4-H Club. He saw to it that the youth of his community became involved and interacted with youth all across our island. He became a school trustee. He provided guidance and leadership to those same young Islanders.

Billy's commitment to his church was reflected in his everyday business dealings. These qualities were reflected in his respect for people and for the care of his animals. Often seen on horseback surveying his holdings and his cattle, he was skilled in the art of animal husbandry.

Madam Speaker, this gentleman is one of the most significant contributors to the agriculture industry on PEI.

As a farmer myself, I hope you will understand why I agree with the Federation of Agriculture that William John Billy Hayden be inducted into the Atlantic

Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Red Rally to honour troops

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Canadian Forces has a long and storied history in the province. Their roots can trace from current activities: the Prince Edward Island Regiment, 721 Communications Squadron, and HMCS Queen Charlotte, to the former CFB Summerside, and even to the World War II pilot training air station in Charlottetown.

Some of PEI's best and brightest young men and women have served or are currently serving in duty for our country. The Canadian Forces are well known throughout the world as some of our finest soldiers to ever serve.

It is important as proud Canadians to actively support our brave men and women. The Military Family Resource Center of Prince Edward Island is holding a Red Rally in honour of our troops. This rally is taking place next Friday, November 2nd, at noon at the memorial fountain across from the Daniel J. MacDonald DVA building.

All are invited to wear red and attend this rally to show support for our strong and proud Canadian Forces. I'm encouraging members of the House and the general public to show our support for our troops, their families, and to please attend this rally on November 2nd.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Student class size limits

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In May of 2007 this government won government. They won the endorsement of the people. That was five months ago. They had a long, long list of expensive promises. My first question today goes to the minister of education.

In the spring campaign, at least 100-plus promises were made with no costing for each promise. My question to the minister of education: Will you be introducing legislation this fall that will provide for the class sizes in grades 1 to 3 to be no more than 15 students as promised in your campaign literature?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the Leader of the Opposition's questions, directly, no, we will not be introducing legislation this fall. It is in our projection to do so in our mandate, and I would expect that this spring 2008 you will see such legislation come forward.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This question goes to the minister of education. In regards to the legislation that you'll be bringing in to reduce the class size in May of 2008, will it also include the provision where only the classroom educators will be included of the model of student-teacher measurement?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, could I have that question repeated?

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, this question goes to the minister of education.

In regards to the new legislation education will be bringing forward in the spring of 2008 to reduce the classroom size for our grades 1 to 3 students to no more than one to 15, will the legislation when it arrives on the floor of this House include the provision that only classroom educators will be included in the model of student-teacher ratio?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the Leader of the Opposition's question, that is a very good question, something that our department will be investigating, and we will be using the staffing model that was introduced, known as the Gar Andrew report, in our deliberations on this new legislation.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I understand that that report the minister just referred to actually does not include in the model of student-teacher measurement the ratio. They actually include all other kinds of support staff including psychologists and such. So will your legislation remain the same as presently is in the practice with the Department of Education or will it change?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the member's question, we will be taking into consideration all aspects and we certainly want to provide the best educational opportunity for the students, especially in the beginning years, in grades 1 to 3.

It is widely known that those are very formative years in children's learning and we will be doing all we can to provide - to work within that framework of 15, no more than 15 students in a grade 1 to 3 classroom.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Standardized testing of students

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm going to need a little bit of clarification from government. I notice that the Premier's not here today so I'm going to ask the minister of education. During the election in May of 2000 of this year, the Liberal platform stated clearly that there would be a freeze on standardized tests. To the education minister: Is there a freeze on standardized testing, and was it part of your government's platform?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education

and Attorney General.

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, the issue with regards to standardized testing - our government does not support standardized tests.

When we look at the term standardized tests, they are tests that are purchased from groups who produce these en masse and sell them to provinces, districts, organizations. We as a government do not support standardized tests.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Results of Mount Stewart student assessments

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Minister, for that answer. Madam Speaker, this is why we are a little bit confused, and so is the general public.

The Premier and the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour are on record time after time stating that there's no difference between standardized tests and common assessment. However, I am personally of the belief, the same as the minister, there is a great deal of difference. But I'll leave that discussion of policy difference between the minister of education, the Premier, and the minister of community and cultural affairs.

My question is: How did the grade 3 students in Mount Stewart Consolidated School perform in the area of literacy and reading comprehension in regards to the common assessments results that you had since June?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response

to the member's question about the students at Mount Stewart in grade 3, that information would be available from the principal of Mount Stewart.

My understanding is if the principal wants to provide that information to the Home and School and the member wants to get that information through that method, that's available to them, but I am not going to be in this House standing and giving out results of a specific school.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In regards to the results that Mount Stewart, St. Theresa's, any of the schools across the province that have grades 1 to 3, I'll ask the question this way. Last Friday in the Legislature the minister of education told us that he would not let the Legislative Assembly in on the details of the assessments that took place for grades 3 and 9 students. He told us that we were not stakeholders in the process, even though the assessments are paid by the taxpayers on Prince Edward Island.

I would ask the minister of education once more: Would you please share the details of that report to the House today?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the request of the Leader of the Opposition, I do not have that report with me today.

That report is being worked upon as I speak, and I would expect that it is being put

together. I should by week's end have that report, and hopefully at that point I will be able to bring it forth to the Legislature and table it.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

My next question. I'll go back to the minister of education. That's great that you're planning on doing some work on this report. But my understanding is the report was completed in June of 2007. So my question is: Are we going to receive the details from that report or is your department working on changing some of the figures, the data from that report? What are you actually going to table on Friday of this week?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, what am I actually going to table?

I have not seen the finished report and when I do see that, then I'll be able to answer the opposition's question. But I will be tabling a report that will provide the public information regarding the first common assessment done in the province.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, I'm not sure what the problem is here. Any Member of the Legislative Assembly or any member of the public, for that matter, can access these results through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Why is the

minister of education making people go through this route? If, for example, by Friday we don't have the actual report tabled here, we can put the request in through information and privacy, but that would put a lot of extra work on your departmental staff who are probably extremely busy and could be doing other things.

So my question is: Will the minister table the report that was completed and in the Department of Education's hands since June of 2007 on Friday of this week?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, the report that I will table on Friday, if that's when it's ready, will provide this Legislature with the information it needs to understand what the results are of the grades 3 and 9 assessments that were done in May and June of this past school year.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

For the minister of education, I have another question. Under his leadership - and I applaud the minister who now seems to recognize the importance of common assessments. I must say I'm a little concerned that someone may be doctoring the report up, but I'm looking forward to receiving it on Friday.

Report on semester school system

Another question to the minister is: The Department of Education had commissioned a report under the recommendations of the task force on education. This particular report was on high school semestering systems. Madam Speaker, I'm wondering.

The question is for the minister. When will that report be released to the public?

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

Mr. Greenan: I will have to ask officials at the department and get back to her on that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Speaker, just to be sure it's the same report that we're referring to, this particular report - this question goes to the Minister of Education - on high school semestering system, the committee was chaired by educator Clayton Clow.

It was made up of a committee of about seven or eight school department educators and stakeholders, and I understand there was a teacher on that commission as well, or that committee. The report was completed in September and it discusses the pros and cons of continuing or changing the semester system. In terms of - with the report, do you know any -

Speaker: Is there a question there?

Leader of the Opposition: Are there any recommendations in regards to stop the practice of semestering?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the member's question, I am not familiar with the report and I can get the information, and would be able to table the report when I get that.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the

Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

So when we listen to some of the answers around education, it sounds like the Liberal government had commissioned a \$100,000 study on changing enrollment. My question to the minister of education: Is this study to help decide which schools are going to have to close?

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

Mr. Greenan: The question around the enrollment study - this enrollment study is certainly a timely one.

The Eastern School District had requested of the department to do such a study. When the department looked at it, the other two stakeholders, the French School Board and the Western School Board, wanted to be included. So the provincial study will be undertaken and that study- we do not know what will come out of that study. It's certainly - we'll look at the trends in where the population, actual schools - there are some schools in the province where there is an increase in enrollment and there are definitely other schools where there's a decrease. So the results will be quite interesting and certainly will provide school boards and government with lots of information.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Harassment investigation

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. My next question, Madam Speaker, is to the minister of health.

My question to the minister of health is: When did you find out your deputy of health

was under an internal investigation for a complaint against him for harassment?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, in respect to the personal issue of the deputy minister, as the minister of health I was very comfortable with the leadership and the decisiveness that the Premier's office handled the situation, which I think is a personal issue with the deputy in question and the Premier's office.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. Madam Speaker, my next question goes back to the minister of health.

When did you find out your deputy minister, who's being paid by taxpayers, was under an internal investigation for a complaint against him for harassment? When did you find out? Was it July, August, or September?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, as the minister responsible for health, I certainly have the responsibility of dealing with addiction services in this province.

Not knowing all the details of the personal nature of the situation, certainly respect the confidentiality of the issue, and once again, very competent with how the Premier's office handled the situation.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My next question's for the minister of health. When did you find out that your deputy minister was under an internal investigation for a complaint against him for harassment? How did you find out? What action did you take as minister of the health department?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, the nature of the issue, once again, I feel very strongly is a personal issue.

It's an issue that was handled by the Premier's office. I supported the direction and I certainly provide support to the family of the individual who's away for treatment from this province.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: My next question is for the minister of health. How many people work in the department of health? What's the percentage of women? What type of support did you give them when your deputy minister was under investigation, and who was the head administrator running the department of health while the internal investigation was going on?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, issues in the Department of Health and health care are a huge priority in this province.

Certainly, there's no question that this is a serious issue that was dealt with very handily by the Premier's office. It was my responsibility as the minister of health to make sure that the agenda and the great work that's being done across this province

in health by a lot of dedicated, wonderful health professionals was the priority, and that continues to be the priority today.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It will be interesting to hear how the general public feels about the fact that here's a senior deputy minister responsible for probably the largest government department in the province.

My next question actually goes to the Attorney General's office, to the minister responsible for the Attorney General.

Organized crime

My question for the Attorney General is: How is your department dealing with organized crime in the province?

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

Mr. Greenan: In response to the hon. member's question, the department is working with the RCMP in concert with other police forces in the province in combatting organized crime.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My next question is for the Attorney General's office, to the minister responsible. You just answered that you're doing some work with the RCMP and some other police departments. My question for the Attorney General: Could you give us your top three areas of focus that you're working on to do

policing for illegal tobacco smuggling in the province?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, I'm going to have to defer that question and get back to the hon. member with a response.

I know that things are happening but I want to be accurate in my responses for the hon. member, and we'll get that information for her.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

I look forward to getting the results back. The next question is for the minister responsible for the Attorney General's office. This question is: How much does the Attorney General think we lose in terms of dollars, an amount, in the run of a year due to illegal tobacco sales?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, I do not have that number for the hon. member but I will get the answer for her.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Lost revenue from tobacco sales

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

My next question is for the minister responsible for the treasury, the finance minister. Last week, I believe on Thursday or Friday, you reported to *The Guardian* an amount that you figured was in lost tobacco sales tax. Could you tell the House in terms

of dollars how much you believe is lost in lost revenue because of tax dollars lost with tobacco sales?

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much for that question, hon. member. Impossible at this time, of course, to know how much is lost in illegal tobacco sales. The numbers that were bandied about last week were somewhere in the vicinity between \$3.5 million and \$4.5 million.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Then the minister better check with what he was quoted in saying in *The Guardian* to the tune of \$4 to \$7 million.

Funding to School of Nursing

My next question is for the minister of health. Last week we noticed in your government's department budget, there was actually \$1.5 million going to the University of Prince Edward Island. My question to the minister of health is: How much of this money is actually going to go to the school of nursing?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, I'll take the question under advisement.

Speaker: The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

Environmental concerns of West Point

Mr. Henderson: Madam Speaker, my

question is for the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

It's regarding the coastal erosion issue concerning the community of West Point, which is causing serious danger to that historical coastline. A number of people in my district contact me regarding some of the facts that erosion is taking place at a very rapid pace and is actually putting in jeopardy the famous Prince Edward Island icon, the West Point Lighthouse. This historical site has been used as a logo and symbol for our tourism ads as well as on the front page of *The Journal-Pioneer* as well. This erosion is also having an impact on the only provincial park in the District of O'Leary-Inverness.

Speaker: Is there a question there?

Mr. Henderson: Cedar Dunes Provincial Park, and it's one of the few parks on the Northumberland Strait. My question is: Could the minister please inform this House and the people of the community of West Point, along with the people of O'Leary-Inverness, are there any plans to protect the environmental integrity of this valuable piece of property?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, we do acknowledge that there is a significant amount of coastal erosion on that site.

There is a lot of coastal erosion around Prince Edward Island in many different areas. We also do know that this is the most valuable real estate on Prince Edward Island, our coastal regions. We are looking at the West Point situation. It is a beautiful spot and we recognize that, and it's a key issue for tourism in the western end of the Island.

We also looked at the maps from 1970, ortho maps of 1970, 1985, and 1998, and there is a significant amount of coastal erosion in that particular area. It's a major issue. We're sure of that.

We do on a continual basis issue permits to reinforce coastal areas throughout the province and that option could be available there, but at this time we don't have a particular plan as to what direction we might go with that site.

Speaker: The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

Mr. Henderson: Supplementary, Madam Speaker, to the minister of environment.

Could the hon. minister at least inform us what sort of a time frame they may be looking at putting in place this here plan?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, we were certainly made aware of the seriousness of this site within the last two weeks.

We've looked at the maps and so on to determine that it is very significant. We are trying to develop - will be working on developing a plan with the community to go forward on that particular site in the near future, maybe two months, three months.

Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Student common assessments

Ms. Dunsford: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A question for the minister of education with regards to the common assessments,

student common assessments as well. As we've heard from the Leader of the Opposition what standardized testing is, could the minister of education please clarify what student common assessments are for the House?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, Member from Stratford-Kinlock, I thank you for your question.

The common assessment that was developed here on Prince Edward Island is not a standardized test. It was developed by Island teachers and it assesses the curriculum that is delivered in our Island schools. It assesses the student's knowledge in the mastery of the outcomes that are in our provincial curriculum and it does not involve any comparison with other provinces.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Ms. Dunsford: Another question for the minister of education.

So we've also learned that we have a time frame to have a look at the assessments that the teachers and parents and the students who I assume are now in the process of reviewing. Are we to assume that there's a time frame that you have set for us for those results, then, to become public? Are we looking at something in the near future?

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

Mr. Greenan: Yes, Madam Speaker.

In response to the member's question, we are, as I had indicated earlier, preparing a statement on the outcome, the results of the first school assessment, and we will have

that prepared by week's end. I would be prepared to provide the opposition with that prior to tabling it in the House if that is their wish.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Social assistance costs

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My next question's for the minister of social services and seniors. I need to applaud you. I see you have extra dollars in the budget of social services and seniors to increase the shelter costs for people living on assistance.

But my question: Should Prince Edward Island adopt the HST, will your government through the Department of Social Services and Seniors, will this money be actually money used to help the social service client base cope with increased costs on their shelter and personal care? Is this money really there because of the imposition of this increased tax?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, just in respect to the discussion on HST, as the minister responsible for health, social services, and seniors, I haven't been privy around any table that I sit at regarding an implementation or discussion around HST.

But I do know something that is a fact. I do know that there was a \$1.8 million infusion into the budget of social services and seniors, and I do know that we are recognizing individuals in this province with disabilities. We are recognizing families that are having struggles in this province and

families, single-parent mothers, and seniors who are living in very challenging situations.

So we have made a commitment. We are making some inroads into a number of areas in respect to the social services and seniors budget. As the minister responsible for these two departments, I'll continue to advocate for people in this province and put a real face on government and make sure that people in this province who need supports, to get them to a level where they can be self-sustained as far as their abilities, it'll be a priority.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Funding for university entrance fees

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is to the minister of education. I asked a question last week, but unfortunately he wasn't allowed to answer it. So I'm going to ask it to him today. Can the minister of education please tell me why the \$2,000 entrance fee for university students that your government promised for 2007 is not being kept?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the member of the opposition's question, he is correct.

That did not happen in September, 2007. We came to government on June 12th. We were sworn in. At that time the university was well into its publishing of its literature, bursaries, what-have-you for their incoming students. We will introduce that legislation in the spring and that will be in place for

September 2008.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I'll ask the minister of education, Madam Speaker.

Will you be giving them \$4,000 next year because of your shoddiness that you weren't prepared to do it for this year? Will you be giving them \$4,000 rather than \$2,000 to honour your commitment, the commitment that you made when you campaigned in your district? When you knocked on doors, you promised, you promised - you promised - that you would deliver \$2,000 for entrance students. Will you make it \$4,000 for them next year to honour your commitment that you didn't do this year?

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

Mr. Greenan: The simple answer to that question is no.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, that's a real trend coming from over there: no, no, no, to all the promises they've made.

Every promise they've made they're breaking. You know it's funny when we ask questions, we can't get any answers, yet the minister will stand up and he'll tell you everything that's going on in his department like he knows what's going on. But when he gets to answer a question, doesn't know the answer.

Speaker: Do you have a question, hon. member?

Hog industry

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, I'm getting to that, Madam Speaker.

My next question will go to the minister of agriculture. Could you please give us an update to the meeting that was held on Thursday night dealing with the hog issue on Prince Edward Island?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. LeClair: Yes, Madam Speaker.

I believe the meeting was held Wednesday night. We had a great discussion, an open discussion. As far as conclusions, we're still working on them, and I believe I'll be in touch with the hog board and the industry this week again for sure. The meeting itself was a very informative one.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: That's very reassuring to the hog industry who've lost eight producers in the last three weeks, that we've lost 1,600 sows which relates to 160,000 pigs. How are we going to survive if you continue to allow the industry to dwindle away? What are you doing?

Mr. Brown: What did you do when you were there?

Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bagnall: What are you doing as minister? Can you tell me one constructive thing you've done for the hog industry since you've been here?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. LeClair: Madam Speaker.

We are very interested in the hog industry. It's a very - how should I put it? - taxed industry at this time. I could do what you've done and leave all the books on the table until the new government took over, but we're not. I walked into that office. The first day I walked into that office, that file was on my table. Now I could do that, but we haven't. We've been working with the hog industry since I took over, and we intend to continue working with the industry until we can find a solution to this problem.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The hog industry tells me nothing's happening. The hog industry tells me that you haven't done anything. They haven't got any money. You haven't helped the industry. You haven't done anything. The only thing they tell me is you went to Russia to get away from them. What have you actually done?

Mr. Brown: You went to Switzerland.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: Order.

Mr. LeClair: Madam Speaker, I'm very pleased to see that he's taking an interest in the industry now. (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. LeClair: And I might add, something I

forgot to tell you last week, that that was your industry trip to Russia. It was started with your government and I was asked to attend. Because they figured that if I didn't attend it would have taken away from the trip for them.

An Hon. Member: You're just mad you didn't get to go. You're mad you didn't get to go!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Budget for capital projects

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, we'll take that minister off the ropes there. He's having trouble.

I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Public Works. Last year there was a budget for capital projects approved, about \$68 million. Are you still using that same budget?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Approved for \$68 million, capital budget. Some of it we're not going to use it because we have to rethink some of those ideas that were in it. Capital is a new expenditure. Some of them were pretty off in left field and we want to do things right.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Budget for laboratory services

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, one question I have for the member is: There was \$4.1 million allotted in the budget for laboratory services, for combining all the lab tests for water, dairy, soil, and whatever in one facility. Are you still going ahead with that project?

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

Mr. MacKinley: That is one of the projects that is very important. I'd like to allude about it. The minister of environment and the minister of agriculture and I did a tour of the building and we did a site preparation. You people wanted to move it. I believe your government was going to refix up the old - no, PVI building. We came out there and the first thing we saw, I mean, you're building a lab? You're 50 feet away from children playing. There's all those apartments and everything that Mr. McQuaid built there, his company you were talking about before. He built them there but they're only 50 feet away from young children playing there.

So what we did, we've gone back among ourselves. We're definitely committed to building the lab. We're not quite sure where we're going to do it, but we will either fix an old building up or we'll have to construct a new one. But we're definitely not going to put one that close to where young children are playing. That's (Indistinct) causing problems down the road.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, we have a facility that's owned by government and we can get out of current rents and leases now and combine all the services and the expertise into one facility and have common parking.

But the hon. member doesn't see fit to do that. I'm just wondering: Where are you going to build the new facility?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Well, that's a question. You get the minister of Charlottetown lobbying for it. You get the minister from Hunter River area lobbying for it. You got the minister from Bedeque lobbying, the Minister of Tourism lobbying for it and the minister from Kensington, believe it or not, he's looking for more up there too.

So we're not quite sure where it's going to go. All I know is your concept was excellent, of putting all the lab - the health lab, the feed-soil analysis, the water testing analysis. My argument to the minister from Charlottetown is that you shouldn't need water testing in the city of Charlottetown because it's on central water system. So I would like to see it move out a little farther than Charlottetown but I haven't won any arguments on that.

So the question here is - you came up with a great idea. But you were just putting it in the wrong place. Like, you never seem to think outside the box. It's like you're looking in the box and looking out instead of getting outside and looking in. It's no wonder you never got much done. It's no wonder that when you read all the information I have -

Speaker: Mr. Minister, do you have an answer?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, I gave him the answer. Just listen. I'm giving him the answer. The answer is we're not quite sure where it's going to be but all members, including members on that side, are lobbying. McIsaac Motors, out by McIsaac Motors, is one place that it might be going. They're lobbying for that, and all the other MLAs are lobbying and -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I know it. So there's a lot of discussion here of where it's going to go.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: It'd be interesting, Madam Speaker, who's going to win out on this major lobby that they're all more interesting in lobbying for a building to be put in their riding than they are about looking after health care and education. It wouldn't happen to be going into your riding, would it?

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

Mr. MacKinley: I wish I could make that announcement. No, I can't make that announcement because I'm not sure where it's going with all these people lobbying.

But the member brings up a good thing. We should be putting it into education and health care and all that. Safe water is good for health care, if people become sick on water. Nitrates testing is going to be good for the health of the people of the Province of Prince Edward Island and we got to look after - preventive medicine is what it's called. More than what you people did. We're getting preventive medicine to look after our Islanders and anybody who wants to come here or tourists.

Mr. Brown: That's a good answer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

New laboratory to tender

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, would the minister indicate to the people of Prince Edward Island that he'll go to a tender for this facility now that he's not going to use an existing government building that already has available space and waste taxpayers'

money?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, we're looking into that. We're looking into going to public tender. We're looking even at design, build right from day one. We're not quite sure what we're going to do.

But I'll tell what we're going to do better than your government. When we put out to tender, either we don't go to design and build, we're going to have project managers so local companies can build it rather than bringing them in from New Brunswick, Ontario, and everywhere else the way you did and have them sue our local people trying to get out of the deals. We're going to look after Islanders and the trade people in the Province of Prince Edward Island, and it will be going out to tender. We're just not sure how it goes but I can tell you this: If we put it out to tender, it will be for the best interests of the labour people in the Province of Prince Edward Island (Indistinct).

Mr. Brown: Right on.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I'm not quite sure that he is going to go to tender by the sounds of it.

I believe he's probably just going to probably reward somebody. So you're not prepared to commit at this given time. Could you give us a time frame when you're going to place this in your own riding?

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

Mr. MacKinley: I hope you back me to get it out there because you haven't put anything there for years, but I'm not sure where it's going to go.

Really, I like you, Mr. Member, I might even give you a little more paving if you could do that. But the question is we are going to put it out for tender. I told you that. A building like that is going out for tender. We're not sure if we're going to go out for tender such as design and build. That means somebody tenders, designs, and builds it the same way the federal government does, buys the land, the whole works or - I know one thing we're going to do. We're not going to tender it all out as one block.

We're looking at going the same as we did with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where it's gone out to somebody to tender, a project manager. Then it (Indistinct) split the bids up into 20 or 30 little bids so our local people here in the province, the people that pay the taxes in the province, get a chance to bid on it and they're not being taken advantage like the companies that you people had in where they came in low in the tenders but then they hammered the local businesses.

Speaker: Hon. minister, please answer the question.

Mr. MacKinley: I am answering the question. How much does he want? He can't seem to get it through (Indistinct).

Speaker: Final question.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Province-wide breakfast program

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. My question will go back to the minister of education, Madam Speaker.

My question to the minister. Province-wide breakfast program is another one of your promises that you made when you were campaigning at the door, especially in Summerside area and around, because you said to them: When I get in there and elected, that's the first thing I'm going to do is bring that in.

Mr. Minister, I don't see that in the Budget. I'm wondering: Will you take the \$2,000 student money that you're saving from all the university students and put that into a breakfast-wide program that's so drastically needed here on Prince Edward Island? We've had too many businesses that are helping out that they thought that you were going to take this so they didn't have to -

Speaker: Question?

Mr. Bagnall: - go out and get money. When are you going to deliver on this breakfast-wide program?

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, in response to the member's question, we have already begun discussions with the stakeholders on this issue, and we will be beginning our planning on rolling out this initiative, and it will happen.

If it satisfies the member and we take the \$2,000 per student and use that, that would be great, but we will deliver on this promise, I assure him.

Thank you.

Speaker: End of Question Period.

Statements by Ministers

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, I would like to bring attention to Family Doctor Week in Canada which took place earlier this month to recognize the significant contributions that family doctors make toward the health and well-being of Canadians and Islanders.

Each and every day, family doctors diagnose and treat illness and injury, promote disease prevention and good health, coordinate care and advocate on behalf of their patients.

A highlight of Family Doctor Week is the College of Family of Physicians of Canada annual Family Medicine Forum which was held earlier this month in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I am very pleased to note that at that event, Dr. Barb Flanagan was the recipient of the Prince Edward Island Family Physician Award. Also, two other Island physicians received awards of excellence: Dr. Charles Trainor, who has worked in the area of education and training of family physicians as the examiner of the College of Physicians of Canada, and Dr. Paul Kelly, for his initiatives and work in palliative care programs in the western part of Prince Edward Island.

It is my great pleasure to welcome members of the PEI College of Physicians to the gallery of the House today: Dr. Alf Morais, newly elected president of the college; Dr. Barb Flanagan, recipient of the PEI Family Physician of the Year Award; and Rosemary Burke-Perry, administrator of the college.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D. Currie: I would also like to take this opportunity to report that government has initiated the development of a new physician advisory committee. The committee will be made up of a cross-section of Island physicians and the group will meet with government on a regular basis.

This open dialogue forum will allow for direct input from physicians and further enhance our efforts to make ongoing improvements to the health care system on Prince Edward Island.

Canada owes a debt of gratitude to its family doctors, and it gives me great pleasure to say thank you to all of our family doctors for the work they do each and every day. I know Islanders are very appreciative of family doctors, as am I, for their dedication and their significant contribution to the health care system on Prince Edward Island.

Please join me in thanking them.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Hon. members, if you would allow me a few moments.

I would just like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Flanagan as well. She is our family doctor, the Casey's family doctor, and has delivered both my children who are now 14 and 17. We've had some excellent care from Dr. Flanagan over the years and much appreciated.

Also, I'd like to recognize Dr. Alf Morais, honorary doctor of the Hockey Mamas up there. We also enjoy having Alf around our team as well. Welcome.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Greenan: Madam Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to provide an update on the Floral Hills Memorial Gardens, a cemetery located in Pleasant

Valley.

As members of this House will remember, in 2004 the cemetery was abandoned by its previous owners, Atlantic Cemetery Holdings Inc. Many Islanders have pre-purchased burial plots and burial goods and services from Floral Hills and the office of the Attorney General stepped in to permit the burial of deceased persons at Floral Hills.

Since 2004 my department has been overseeing the operations of the cemetery, and we have arranged with Floral Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery Co-operative Limited to take over operations. The *Floral Hills Memorial Gardens Administration Act* came into force on December 15th, 2006. The act vests the cemetery in the province and enables the department to take any steps necessary for operations while continuing to look for a long-term owner-operator for the cemetery.

I want to take a moment today to thank the members of the volunteer board of the cemetery cooperative - Eric Goodwin, Allison Coles and Carl Herring - for their time and effort they have put into making sure that the cemetery is well operated. I would also like to thank the three very capable and dedicated employees of the cooperative, Alan Gamester, Harry Frizzel and Paulette Henderson. They have been involved with the cemetery for over 20 years and once again, in 2007, have done a good job to ensure that the cemetery is well maintained and the clients' needs are met.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, this week

the Stratford Town Hall gymnasium has become a temporary hospital as part of an exercise to offer additional health care services in the event of a public disaster.

The training exercise is allowing health care providers the opportunity to set up a mobile 50-bed healthcare site, including supplies and equipment. The exercise provides staff with a sense of how a field hospital will work.

While the province is yet to see the need for a field hospital, the training to set up this facility is excellent practice for staff. Overall, it is just one more component toward being prepared in the event of a major emergency in this province.

The field hospital actually has 200 beds when in full capacity. It is designed to provide basic care for up to 200 injured patients in an existing building, such as a school or community centre. The field hospital simulates a regular hospital, including items such as beds and blankets, a portable X-ray machine, a generator and a water tank.

The field hospital is one of 165 such facilities positioned throughout the country through the assistance of the National Emergency Stockpile System. Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the National Emergency Stockpile System also provides emergency relief supplies promptly to anywhere in the country when requested.

The hospital is available if the number of casualties exceeds the available treatment resources at the existing healthcare facilities in the province. The field hospital will supplement and expand our emergency healthcare capacity in times of disaster. For example, a plane crash may warrant the need for such a facility.

I would like to thank the town of Stratford

for allowing us to use their facility. I encourage the public, the health care staff, physicians, and Members of the Legislative Assembly to view the hospital on Thursday from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Stratford Town Hall recreational centre where it will be on display.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to rise in the House today to recognize the tremendous contribution to Prince Edward Island by our small and medium-sized businesses. As many hon. members may be aware, last week was Small Business Week on Prince Edward Island. I had the pleasure to attend a number of events held throughout the week. It was a time to reflect on the positive impacts these businesses have on Prince Edward Island's economy.

Let's look at some of the facts. Seventy-five per cent of the small businesses on Prince Edward Island employ 10 people or fewer, 95% have less than 50 employees. These numbers clearly illustrate the important role of small and medium-sized businesses on Prince Edward Island. They create jobs, they generate economic activity and they provide goods and services to Islanders. They also provide a tremendous amount of effort and contributions towards our many volunteer organizations in the province.

I know that many volunteer organizations go to small businesses, and small businesses on Prince Edward Island have shown gratitude towards these volunteer organizations by writing cheques in order for volunteer groups to go out and provide services,

especially in the Breakfast Program.

I firmly believe it's governments role to create a climate where the businesses can succeed. One of the things our government believed in is to reduce corporate income tax to small businesses. We firmly believe that if a small business wants to retain their income in their company and reinvest it into new equipment and new opportunities for Prince Edward Island, we will allow them to keep that money in their businesses in order to reinvest it.

So again, we are there as a province to help small businesses and we will continue to be there to help small businesses. Because after all, they are the engine of our economy. There are many small businesses out there reinventing things each and every day. I've gone to a number of businesses throughout the summer. I was amazed up west seeing the welding shops reinventing things, doing things that are more efficient. It makes me really feel good because they are really reinventing things and coming up with new ideas. I firmly believe that today's ideas are tomorrow's businesses.

So we will also be there for businesses who want to innovate and do some research and development in that area. Hats off to the small business community in Prince Edward Island, and thank you for a job well done.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: I stand corrected, that is Order No. 2.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 2, Consideration of the Estimates, in Committee.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Madam 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 grant of supply to her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee on the Whole on supply, please take the Chair.

Chair: The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to consider the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

If I could just remind the hon. members that during the Committee of the Whole they

should address the Chair or the minister doing estimates so that the Hansard can properly record who is doing the questions and comments.

Today we'll be working, or starting the estimates again, on page 53, Golf Links Prince Edward Island Inc.

Ms. Docherty: Madam Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to bring forward my director of administration, public services, onto the floor.

Chair: All agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Ms. Docherty: Madam Chairman, last Friday, I believe, we had a number of questions from the opposition in regards to some information they wanted me to bring forward. I would like to table those items now. Would you like me to identify them, or just table them as is?

We will give you the breakdown on the three items regarding the promotion that we did for the Legends of Golf, Calgary promotion that we were involved in, as well as the Delta Airlines. I have tabling of an answer for park staff, as to how many staff and salary dollars at each of those parks. We were asked a question in regards to how many days Brookvale Ski Park was open in 2006-2007. As well, I was asked to bring forward all the jobs within the Department of Tourism that were advertised both internally and to the public. I would like to present all of those now, please.

Chair: Are there any questions?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Last week when we were having discussion

about who the person was that the ADAPT Council hired, the lady's name is Barbara MacLeod, she's the Value Chain Coordinator.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Minister, can you tell us, are the unions advising you against selling the golf courses?

Leader of the Opposition: Are they advising us?

Mr. Bagnall: Against selling the golf courses?

Leader of the Opposition: They are obviously in support of the staff that they represent - and they have not met with myself, and I may stand to be corrected, but I don't believe they have met with our deputy - but they have met directly with the staff.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have the report done by KPMG? Can that report be tabled? KPMG, whatever. Can that report be tabled? Do you have a copy of it with you?

Ms. Docherty: No, I don't have a copy with me. I guess what I'll do, hon. member, I can go back to the department and see whether that report can be tabled. I'm not sure if we would be breaching anything by tabling it, so I'll check that out for you and certainly get back to you.

Chair: Further questions?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I have a question that has to do more with the marketing section. I know that we already

passed it and we're on the Golf Links, but we're almost to the end, so can I ask this question?

An Hon. Member: Sure.

Chair: All agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. I'm just curious in terms of there's a lot of discussion about Sunday shopping. My question to the Minister of Tourism is in view of Sunday shopping, last week we talked about data and research that the Tourism Department has available to help people make decisions, including how you're going to allocate dollars to run your department.

In this past tourism season, my question is in terms of how many exit surveys have been completed or what kind of information is coming back into your department in regards from tourists who are here now that Sunday shopping is available and what are their responses?

Ms. Docherty: What are their responses in regards to their use of, or their thoughts on, Sunday shopping?

Leader of the Opposition: Yes.

Ms. Docherty: I'm not privy yet to the information that was being compiled on the exit survey, and I'm not even sure that was a question on it. If you would like, I can certainly check with the staff to see if it was even a question.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure. Your staff did a presentation to the former Strategic Planning Committee in terms of - they had included all kinds of data on the visitors who were here other years who left when it would be raining on a Saturday evening or

whatever and went to another province.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Excuse me, people can't hear.

If we could have some order, please.

Leader of the Opposition: My question to the minister is, last year through Strategic Planning - it's a government committee - there was a presentation by the tourism minister and the tourism staff in supporting Sunday shopping as an option for PEI. Is that the same, are you still supportive of Sunday shopping in your role as Minister of Tourism, representing tourism?

Ms. Docherty: As Minister of Tourism, what I would be doing is probably feeling out the industry, and working with them. I have not seen or read anything that the previous minister might have presented. Having said that, Sunday shopping is a much bigger issue than solely just from a tourism perspective, and this is the reason why the government has decided to do some public meetings in regards to it.

Leader of the Opposition: My question is in terms to the tourism minister is just in terms of how much increased revenue do you think has come to Prince Edward Island? Because tourists are actually staying here rather than leaving the province on Saturday, if it happens to be raining, they're staying around for Sunday. How many dollars do you believe that that has helped for you to have increased revenue in your tourism accounts?

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, I'm not sure. Can I maybe ask the minister responsible for finance to see if he has any figures?

Chair: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Ms. Docherty: Do you know how many

dollars have been generated due to Sunday shopping, tourists staying over, and spending Sunday here as opposed to going home?

Mr. Sheridan: No, I couldn't give you those, I wouldn't have that right at the tip of my tongue. Sorry.

Leader of the Opposition: Sorry, I couldn't hear his answer.

Mr. Sheridan: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought she was just answering - I wouldn't have that here with my today in any way, shape or form. I couldn't even give you a reasonable guess. So.

Leader of the Opposition: Will you be collecting that data and providing (Indistinct)?

Mr. Sheridan: We'll certainly be (Indistinct) discussions as it comes to the end of the year now, as we want to come to our decisions on Sunday shopping. We'll be collecting all that data and bring it forward for our discussion.

Leader of the Opposition: My question is, to tourism, or is it to the minister of finance, will you be doing qualitative and quantitative research with the tourism operators in order to supply that information to the tourism department so that as we move ahead we'll understand whether or not Sunday shopping has been good for tourism?

Mr. Sheridan: We'll take all steps possible to make the right decision on this.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Chair.

We have a resolution that'll be coming up,

hopefully in this sitting of the Legislature, referring this matter to a committee, and over the winter months people will be invited to come to that committee to discuss things. Documents will be prepared for the committee. We've hired a number of people now, a number of people are getting hired through the Legislature. Those people will be given the information and that will be provided to the committee, and hopefully the committee goes out there and listens to Islanders from end to the other, and hears all their views, and shows the Islanders the data that's available on this year's events, on this year's Sunday shopping. We will be listening to the recommendations of the committee early next year.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure, just on that, to the Minister of Tourism. So when you gather your data, from the exit surveys that are from tourists, if they are indeed positive, like they have been in the last number of years, where they've recommended they'd like to have Sunday shopping available on Prince Edward Island, will your department be doing a presentation to the committee that the minister of development has been referring to? If so, will it be one to support Sunday shopping, as the tourism minister?

Ms. Docherty: The Department of Tourism will take that information into consideration, simply because we work in conjunction with the industry as a whole and we want to do what's best. It might not necessarily be the position of me as minister if the presentation is done, but it would be done on behalf of the tourism industry as a whole.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Minister, in the pass-outs that you passed out here on Golf Links, the administration, is that part in Charlottetown and part out east?

Ms. Docherty: Sorry.

Mr. M. Currie: The administration under this Golf Links, administration, it says -

Ms. Docherty: On what I passed out just now?

Mr. M. Currie: A couple of days ago.

Ms. Docherty: It is the administration that covers the head office in the Charlottetown, in the Shaw Building.

Mr. M. Currie: In the Shaw Building. Why would you have 689,000 for materials and supplies in your head office?

Ms. Docherty: Sorry, why would I have -

Mr. M. Currie: Six hundred eighty-nine thousand dollars of materials, supplies and services.

Ms. Docherty: That's our interest charges on the debt.

Mr. M. Currie: On the debt for Dunderave?

Ms. Docherty: Yes.

Chair: Further questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: If you sell the golf courses, Madam Minister, and the private sector take them over, they're not going to be able to do the amount of promotion and advertizing that the provincial government has been able to do in promotions, events. How are they going to survive?

Ms. Docherty: I guess basically we would not sell these courses if we did not believe it would be in the best interest of the province as a whole. So therefore whoever might be interested in purchasing them would have to ensure that it lives up to basically the class that it is currently is now, and that would take in its ability to do promotion.

Mr. Bagnall: So if you sold them and they own them, how are you going to be able to control what they do with them?

Ms. Docherty: That would have to be part of the negotiation prior to the sale.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. But after the fact, they own the golf courses, and tell you that they can't afford to do the advertizing and promotion. How are you going to control that?

Ms. Docherty: It could very well be a contingent of the sale. If they fault on any the requirements we put into place, they lose the golf course and it reverts back to the province.

Mr. Bagnall: You're going to put that in?

Ms. Docherty: I don't know. I'm giving you the -

Mr. Bagnall: I look forward to that.

Ms. Docherty: - what we're going to consider.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Can you give me the figures for the provincial golf courses this year?

Ms. Docherty: Number of fees or -

Mr. Bagnall: The actual figures that the golf courses have produced this year. Can you table that for me?

Ms. Docherty: Sure, we can table this.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: I would like to go back to my original question on Golf Links, administration. I see debt services down further for 85,000, and you indicated that was for Dundarave. When I go over to Dundarave I find that you'll have debt services over there for 274,000. So did you make a mistake, Madam Minister?

Ms. Docherty: There's debt servicing specific to Dundarave and then there's general for Golf Links as a whole.

Mr. M. Currie: So the material, supplies and services that's on the line for administration is directly - 689,000 is directly related to interest for Dundarave? Take your time.

Ms. Docherty: Do you want me to give you some specifics there? The breakdown that we have. That 689,000 under materials, supplies and services, we have \$262,000 for advertising and promotion, association dues of 2,300, there are bank charges of 313,500. We have a lease for the power carts that we have of 95,800 and then other, 15,700, and that makes up the 689,300.

Mr. M. Currie: So that only makes it 313 then for debt, to service the debt for Dundarave. Not 689. Because the rest of -

Ms. Docherty: Okay, the 689 is for the corporate office.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, I understand that.

Ms. Docherty: So the Dundarave you are referring to -

Mr. M. Currie: No, when I first asked the question.

Ms. Docherty: Oh, I know, I'm sorry, and I apologize.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. The 95 lease, who's that with? Ninety five thousand dollar lease.

Ms. Docherty: Ninety five thousand eight hundred?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Ms. Docherty: For the power carts?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, who's that with?

Ms. Docherty: Who's it through?

Mr. M. Currie: With?

Ms. Docherty: Who's it with? The Vessey Seed Company in York.

Mr. M. Currie: Vessey Seeds, okay.

Chair: Further questions.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: The green fees that you have for Brudenell, I always somehow thought that Brudenell, old Brudenell, was played more then Dundarave. Not Dundarave, but Crowbush. By these figures here it's clear Crowbush is outdoing Brudenell. Is that the case? I don't play golf, so -

Ms. Docherty: Probably one of the differences might be the rack rates are higher at Crowbush than there.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, you have two different sets of rates for Crowbush?

Ms. Docherty: Yes, we always have had.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: How many members do you have at Crowbush?

Ms. Docherty: It's limited. I think it's 45. Crowbush has a total of 102, but if you like I could table that for you.

Mr. Bagnall: No. How many?

Ms. Docherty: One hundred and two at Crowbush.

Mr. Bagnall: What's at Brudenell?

Ms. Docherty: Two hundred and seventy one.

Mr. Bagnall: How many rounds were played at Crowbush this year compared to Brudenell as far as rounds are considered?

Ms. Docherty: Crowbush, we had 18,624 rounds, and - sorry, Brudenell? It was that -

Mr. Bagnall: Eighteen thousand - excuse me?

Ms. Docherty: Eighteen thousand six hundred and twenty-four rounds.

Mr. Bagnall: That's at Crowbush.

Ms. Docherty: Yes, and it was -

Mr. Bagnall: And Brudenell?

Ms. Docherty: Twenty thousand five hundred and twenty-six.

Mr. Bagnall: And Dundarave?

Ms. Docherty: Dundarave has 12,206.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you get figures from other golf courses around Prince Edward Island and their numbers of rounds?

Ms. Docherty: No.

Mr. Bagnall: You don't get any of that?

Ms. Docherty: We can get it, but it's not something that we - we don't put it in to our numbers.

Mr. Bagnall: So you don't know how you compare with the industry?

Ms. Docherty: We certainly know how we're competing, but as far as to be able to present you with numbers today, I can't do that.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have access to that information?

Ms. Docherty: I can certainly check it out for you.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you bring that back to me?

Ms. Docherty: Sure.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Rodds plays an important part in the golf product, not only in the western part of the province in Mill River but also in the eastern part of the province and in Crowbush.

Ms. Docherty: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: What consideration in your sale, how are you going to involve the Rodds in this?

Ms. Docherty: There has to be a significant consideration simply because of the

contracts that are in place. That's one of the reasons that the study that we're doing is not something that we can do quickly. We have to make sure that we cover all of the areas and those people that are affected.

Earlier I had mentioned about the staff. The other side of it is of course Rodds involvement, and the first step is actually getting copies of all the contacts and understanding what the legalities are of that.

Mr. M. Currie: They both work together. They advertise on their own to attract people. You guys, through the Department of Tourism, also advertise the golf product and they do (Indistinct). I guess what I'm trying to get to is if it's not done right, the value of Mr. Rodd's name company could be devalued somewhat if you don't do this right.

Ms. Docherty: Definitely. We're conscious of that fact and it's the last thing that we'd want to do.

Mr. M. Currie: So they'll be involved with the package you're going to do or -

Ms. Docherty: Once we get a better understanding of the involvement of the contracts and what's involved in the selling of - or even the leasing of - the courses, what impact that would have on the Rodds family of hotels, I'm sure at that point in time - if not earlier - but I'm sure at that point in time, definitely, we will certainly be bringing them in.

Mr. M. Currie: Your department or your government, are they actively negotiating with the private sector now to take over the course?

Ms. Docherty: No. Nobody - I mean there has been inquiries but nothing serious.

Mr. M. Currie: Sure. You don't want to

name those inquiries?

Ms. Docherty: I can certainly ask the deputy minister who has been inquiring with her. But from my understanding, those who have made inquiries are sort of more, shall we say, too light-hearted at this point in time. I guess, regardless of how serious the interest that might come forward, we want to make sure that we understand exactly what's involved first. That's the reason for the study over the winter.

Mr. M. Currie: Is the deputy minister here?

Ms. Docherty: Yes she is.

Mr. M. Currie: Would she like to comment?

Mr. Brown: Are they asking for who's -

Chair: Excuse me. Address your comments to the Chair or the minister.

The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: (Indistinct) right now, or who is inquiring on this? I think that is confidential information until the bids are - until a formal process is started. I think we'd find ourselves in a conflict, not a conflict but a privilege, *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. I think we'd find ourselves in a problem there if we did this.

The people that have come forward to government, or if they have come forward to government to discuss these issues, they've come forward in a private manner. If we release those names that's breaching their confidentiality or their privilege to confidentiality.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that the minister's answer?

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: So you're not going to answer?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: To be perfectly frank, there aren't any serious on the table right now. Literally, a letter saying: We're interested, when you get to that point, please give us a call. That's really what we're looking at.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you table that information?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Well again, no, because those are potentially private investors. At this stage of the game I don't think we would be at liberty to do that.

Mr. M. Currie: I don't disagree with the answer and I don't disagree with the minister of development. Then maybe you will let me reword it. Is it Island companies that you have had some discussions with?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Did we have any discussions with Island companies?

Mr. M. Currie: About the sale of the buying of the golf courses?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Off the top of my head, no. There hasn't been any - there has been a letter or two of - not interested in buying them, but a letter or two saying: If you get to the point of selling them, please contact us.

Mr. M. Currie: Are they Island companies?, is what I was asking.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: There might be one or two.

Mr. M. Currie: So you got a bunch of

letters?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:
Not even five, maybe six.

An Hon. Member: So the other four are from off-Island.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:
Yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Minister, the selling of the golf courses is quite an issue. I guess the first question I would ask you is: Are you aware of a contract that was signed by the Brudenell members in government when the course was turned over to government?

Ms. Docherty: No, I wasn't.

Mr. Bagnall: There was a contract signed there when the golf courses were turned over that that could not be sold from government hands. Will you be breaking that contract?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:
No, there is a contract in place where Rodds - obviously we cannot sell the property without their consent, and we're fully aware of that. Any negotiations we would undertake would include Rodds, obviously. They have the right to refuse any deal on a sale. A lease would be different, but the sale would obviously include Rodds.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, the second question I would have: What discussions are you having with the unions? These contracts, you'd be voiding unionized employee contracts. So what discussions are you having with this? Because it would be casual employees, classified positions. So the union, you'd have to be having discussions with them if you're either consider leasing

them or selling them?

Ms. Docherty: We haven't had any discussions with the union ourselves. I think I mentioned that earlier. I know the union has been in contact with the staff.

Mr. Bagnall: With what staff?

Ms. Docherty: With the staff of the golf courses. But we, as in myself or the deputy, have not had any discussions with the union as of today.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Any sale of any golf courses, any government operation, there is succession rights in legislation. If employees in government - if a section of government is sold off and that section is represented by a union, the succession legislation - we cannot go out and sell a hunk of government or the golf courses without negotiating with the unions, without that succession rights legislation being followed forward.

So when any negotiations with any developer that wants to come in, they have to realize that. You know yourself when Polar Foods went down the tubes and some of the plants had to be sold, Ocean Choice probably didn't want to take the contracts of the employees, but they had to take the contracts because of succession rights legislation. So that will be part of any negotiations.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not disagreeing with that, hon. member, but I think that would be one of the first things you should be looking at in this, what the ramifications for the unions and the employees are going to be. If you're not looking after the interests of the

employees and the unions, then, regardless of what happens in the sale, you're going to be in controversy.

Ms. Docherty: We have had discussions with the representative with the Public Service Commission, the labour representative that acts on behalf of the employer. It's not like we're sitting there doing nothing about these employees. We are certainly quite well aware of the pressure that these employees are feeling with the potential sale. We have had the discussions with the labour representative at the Public Service Commission.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: That's one of the issues. The next issue, and the member from Georgetown alluded to it a few minutes ago, was under contracts with Rodds. Has there been discussions with Rodds yet?

Ms. Docherty: We have had discussions with Rodds simply for them to understand where we are with this whole investigation that we're going to do - might be too strong of a word - but the research that we're going to do as what's going to be best for us in regards to the golf courses.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have any research done on this yet?

Ms. Docherty: We're in the process of doing it. There is nothing to be tabled at this point and time.

Mr. Bagnall: So when do we expect to have that information?

Ms. Docherty: We hope to have something by the spring. We've indicated to the staff in our meetings that the deputy minister and I have had that - unless something which we're not expecting, but if something drops

out of the sky during the winter, it's business as usual for next year.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters and then the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. M. Currie: I guess the history of Brudenell was - when the member from Montague raised the issue about the original group, there was quite a few of them.

What they did was it was government land at the time. They went and cut the grass and they started hitting balls and so on and so forth. Then I think they approached Lorne Bonnell at the time, I believe minister of tourism, and I think he put in place the original budget for the construction of Brudenell, which lead to all Brudenell. Something is in the back of my mind that Cotton Trust is involved in that property. Are you familiar with that, minister or deputy?

Ms. Docherty: I'm aware of those - we have been sort of made aware of the fact that there could be some issues with this Cotton Trust. Definitely, if we got the paperwork in front of us we'll certainly make sure that it's considered. If we can't, well, certainly be - if for some reason our department doesn't have it, we'll be looking to see if anybody does have it.

Mr. M. Currie: Who are you using for legal counsel on this file?

Ms. Docherty: Carr Stevenson and MacKay.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My question goes back to the minister. A few minutes ago you mentioned about the

research that's being completed in regards to the potential sale of the golf course and you mentioned the terms of reference.

My question is: Is the research being done internally? Who designed the terms of reference? Can we see a copy of the terms of reference? If you're not using internal resources, are you using an outside consulting firm and if so, who is the firm?

Ms. Docherty: We, at this point in time, don't have a terms of reference. The reason for that is that the legal representation that we have are looking into the land issues and any associated contracts that might be at that point. Once we have a very good understanding of where we stand in regards to those items, then we'll be actually putting something together in regards to that. There would be something we could probably table to you at that point in time.

Leader of the Opposition: Just in regards to the design of the terms of reference, I'd ask the question: Do you expect that work will be done internally only to your department or would you include other departments, other federal-provincial departments, to help with the terms of reference?

Ms. Docherty: I think what we'll be doing is making sure we have got the most qualified people involved. If we feel certainly internally within government as a whole we can do that, then that's what we'll be doing. However, to ensure that we do evaluate this for the benefit of Islanders, we want to make sure that we have the best people involved. So it could very well include people outside of government.

Leader of the Opposition: Just a final question on that. How many dollars do you think to actually complete a study of this type on the potential sale including all the reasons why you should sell the golf courses

and some reasons why you need to keep them - a really broad piece of work that you're describing - what kind of ball park figure do you think that piece of work would actually cost?

Ms. Docherty: The deputy minister has indicated that in order to keep the cost down, we are trying to use as many of our speciality skills in-house.

Leader of the Opposition: In tourism, or does that include tourism, taxation, development?

Ms. Docherty: It would be tourism and TPW.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, and what about development?

Ms. Docherty: Cross-departmental.

Leader of the Opposition: Would you have someone from the union at that table to help design the terms of reference to make sure that the rights of the workers are included as part of the scope of practice of the work?

Ms. Docherty: When we get to the point that we are going to put those terms of references together, we will make sure there is somebody there to represent the interests of the staff that are involved.

Leader of the Opposition: So when you add up all the professional staff's time and the kinds of resources that they require to do the piece of work, is it cost-effective, or would it be easier for you to go to an outside consulting firm? The deputy, feel free to answer.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: A lot of work's been done in terms of the evaluation of the courses (Indistinct) back in 2005. So a lot of the (Indistinct) costly endeavours have already been undertaken.

We just need to update it a little bit. So if we come to the point where we find it's cost benefit, we'll certainly be weighing that throughout the process in terms of what we need to spend and when we need to spend it.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have an appraised figure of the four golf courses?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: There was a figure done by KPMG's golf (Indistinct) 2005. Obviously it would have to be updated, but there was a report done in 2005.

Mr. Bagnall: How much?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: There was a ball park range on the value of the courses at the time based on cash flows, and there's a high and a low figure.

Mr. Bagnall: So what is it?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Off the top of my head (Indistinct), off the top of my head it ranges between 13 and 20 million dollars.

Mr. Bagnall: For four courses?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: For four courses.

Mr. Bagnall: Thirteen and -

An Hon. Member: To 20

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Twenty.

Ms. Docherty: That's the range.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: That was the range.

Mr. Bagnall: I think you'd be giving them away, would you not?

Ms. Docherty: That was based on that study that was done back 2005 and that's what Melissa had indicated as that -

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, and my next question is to the minister again. The Legends of Golf, where do you stand on that?

Ms. Docherty: The Legends of Golf. In regards to whether we're going to do it again next year?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Ms. Docherty: We're going to have to do some serious consideration. As you may be aware, it was a three-year contract and the third year was optional.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Ms. Docherty: We were over expended on the promotion side of it. The ticket sales were not as high as what was anticipated. So what we're going to do is do some due diligence in determining whether - a number of things will have to come into play. One will obviously be: Who will becoming?, if anyone; and, what kind of economic spinoff does that have for the province?

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So what are your figures on the economic spinoff for the first two years?

Ms. Docherty: We're trying to get those figures together now for 2007. I don't have them with me for 2006.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have them for 2006?

Ms. Docherty: I don't have them with me. I don't think I have them with me, no.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:

They weren't done in 2006.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon.

Ms. Docherty: The department did not do any research in regards to the economic spinoff in 2006.

Mr. Bagnall: And you're doing it in 2007?

Ms. Docherty: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: When do you expect to have those figures? The event was three months ago.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: It'll take us another probably six or eight weeks to get that.

Mr. Bagnall: Can't hear you.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Another six or eight weeks to get that information. Just because we're looking at media exposure.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. You must have noticed on our provincial golf courses immediately before and immediately after the Legends, the play on all courses went up.

Ms. Docherty: Overall, the number of green fees has gone up for the year.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Ms. Docherty: Whether it plays a factor - and if you remember what July was like. It was a little wet.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're saying there was no economic impact on the golfing industry by having the legends here?

Ms. Docherty: I would like to think that there is. But until we do the research I really won't want to comment on that.

Mr. Bagnall: What about your staff? I think they've all ready commented that the only reason that they are surviving is because of that.

Ms. Docherty: Well, that's a good thing.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Couple of other questions that I have. It's not really related to golf but it's related to tourism. What is the statistics on the air traffic travel this year?

Ms. Docherty: That has gone up significantly over last year. I'll pull that information out for you so that I can quote it. The most recent information I have for you is August stats, and in August itself air traffic was up 14.8% over 2006 and overall it's up 12.6% this year.

Mr. Bagnall: Does that mean you don't have to pay Delta the money that was put into the contract because of their performance figures?

Ms. Docherty: No, that was a promotional agreement.

Mr. Bagnall: Was there any money promised to Delta if they didn't meet expectations?

Ms. Docherty: The deputy minister has indicated that yes there was, but based on the figures and the extreme success Delta has experienced, it doesn't look like we're going to have to pay that.

Mr. Bagnall: How much was that?

Ms. Docherty: Not sure if it's in here. I don't have it, hon. member, but would you like me to bring that forward?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, I'd like to have that information.

Ms. Docherty: You would like it?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, please

Ms. Docherty: Sure.

Mr. Bagnall: I guess when you look at visions of tourism on PEI, that was one of the bright spots Premier Binns and the previous minister, Phillip Brown, had in bringing the air traffic -

Chair: Do you have a question, sir, to the minister?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes I do.

Chair: Good.

Mr. Bagnall: If you will allow me.

Chair: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you. I guess that's part of the information that the previous minister - was the air traffic where they spent a lot of time bringing companies because we've - to make air traffic one of the destinations - travel destination for tourism coming to PEI. I'm wondering: What negotiations are you into now for next year for new airlines or new companies that may be coming here?

Ms. Docherty: The department staff are meeting with the Charlottetown Airport Authority for the 2008 tourism year. At this point in time, because of the number of initiatives that we're doing - could potentially jeopardize negotiations. I can't tell you what we're looking at, but we're certainly looking at not only meeting what we achieved this year, but hopefully exceeding it.

Mr. Bagnall: So are you in negotiations with other airliners at the present time?

Ms. Docherty: We're negotiating with the

existing (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Ms. Docherty: We're meeting with the existing airlines that we've been in contract with. What we're looking at is wanting to expand the routes.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're not talking to any other airlines?

Ms. Docherty: Outside of the ones that have been here all summer, no.

Mr. Bagnall: Don't you think that's an avenue we should be looking at? Considering the fact that air traffic has increased drastically with the companies that we've brought in?

Ms. Docherty: Most certainly.

Mr. Bagnall: If we're looking at a way to increase tourism, to me, that's one of the bright spots we've shown in the tourism industry the last few years. So why wouldn't we be looking at ways to further expand that?

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, what I will probably do, if you don't mind, I'll let the deputy minister respond to that since she's been more deeply involved with those negotiations.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: One of the challenges, I mean, the Charlottetown Airport Authority is always in discussions with other airlines, and brings us to the table when need be, but the reality is, with new airlines it takes a lot longer to get them into the queue for next summer. We'd be looking at two or three years' out. So we've started some of that, but when we're looking at next season we're dealing with (Indistinct) in terms of our existing (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I can't quite hear you. Can you -

Melissa MacEachern: I'm sorry. The reality is for us to try to get a new airline in for 2008 would be very challenging. They plan their routes two or three years out, typically. We would have to build a relationship. It's very much a business development. So we've started that process with some other airlines, but in the short term for 2008, we have to take our low lying (Indistinct) which are existing airlines and work with them and see if we can't expand routes, particularly where we already have some traffic.

Mr. Bagnall: So, what's the response from the airlines?

Melissa MacEachern: Positive. Positive.

Mr. Bagnall: What are they looking for?

Melissa MacEachern: What are they looking for? Right now they haven't asked for anything right now.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Melissa MacEachern: They haven't asked - in terms of money, you mean?

Mr. Bagnall: Guarantees?

Melissa MacEachern: They haven't asked for anything specifically right now. We're trying to negotiate the routes first and see what they'll need.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Order, please.

Mr. Bagnall: Could you repeat that last part again?

Melissa MacEachern: Sorry. The airlines

haven't asked for anything in particular at this point. At this stage we're just looking at routes and what's possible, and then we'll get down into the dollars and cents of what that means.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. That's good.

Guess I'm the only one here. All righty.

I guess I want to go back to promotion for tourism on PEI again. Aerosmith. Can you give me - did this concert make or lose money?

Ms. Docherty: I'll give you some general statistics, and hopefully you'll see that we did make money. Of the 31,000-plus tickets sold, over 25,000 of those were off-Island - maybe, hon. member, I could table this -

Mr. Bagnall: No, I'd like -

Ms. Docherty: Okay. Over 25,000 were sold to off-Islanders. The average length of stay was 1.76 days of which we've identified the average spending to be about close to \$500 during that stay. So, therefore, we've identified the economic impact to be over \$12 million. Based on that, we, the government, invested \$350,000 and we recovered taxes of just over \$1.1 million.

Mr. Bagnall: So what is your opinion on this. Is it successful? Is it not? Would you consider it again? Or would you not?

Ms. Docherty: We believe that it was successful from the economic impact. We do not believe it was successful based on the location of the event. What I mean by that is that in the future we cannot use that same venue for a similar or larger event. Are we considering something for next year? We're always looking for events such as this magnitude based on the fact that we know what kind of impact it does make, and we are also in the process of looking at

alternative venues in order to host something like this.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So my understanding is your minister of health, for instance, was out and campaigned vigorously against concerts being - having these concerts. So, when he was on his campaign trail, knocking on doors, that was one of the things that he campaigned against, having these take place. How are you going to get your Cabinet ministers to agree to a tourism promotion when they're out lobbying against it?

Ms. Docherty: At the time that the hon. member was campaigning, he was not in power -

Mr. Bagnall: But he is now.

Ms. Docherty: He is now.

Mr. Bagnall: He promised his constituents that he wouldn't allow it to happen.

Ms. Docherty: But we're not looking at holding the event in an area that he was campaigning.

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

Mr. D. Currie: The hon. member from Montague, I'm assuming that he's referring to me. Is that right? Is that correct?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. D. Currie: Okay. Just to speak to that, in respect to the area that I represent, certainly it was an issue at the door. I basically, at that point in time, was not an elected official. I listened very intently to the concerns of the area. There was a serious concern - the big issue that they addressed was that they were very much in favour of events, and so am I, to enhance tourism in this province. The big issue was the location

in respect to the fact that the facility is basically on the front steps of a very senior residential area.

There wasn't a resident complaining about the concert. They were looking at supporting the concert, but were hoping that if I were successful that I would represent them, which we all do, and I do very passionately in the district. I continue to carry that message, that tourism in this province is a huge issue and we want to continue to find ways to do it right, but also respect the taxpayers that have tremendous demands on them.

Basically, I don't know if the hon. member has been in the area lately, but when you put \$25,000 in the Charlottetown Driving Park it provides a tremendous amount of pressure, particularly on the entrance to the concert and the exit. That was the concern from the residents, that they wanted to continue to support events, but they were hoping that they would find a facility or space in order to do that. Does that help clarify things?

Chair: Perhaps since we've kind of moved out of Golf Links we could carry that section, and then if there's other questions in regard to the rest of the budget -

Mr. Bagnall: No, she has questions out, information to bring back. There's reports and stuff to come back on that. So we'll not carry that until we get it.

Chair: Okay.

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, I apologize, my director of corporate services had been making some notes. The last item that you had asked me to bring forward, do you recall what that item is?

Mr. Bagnall: One was the report from KPMG.

Ms. Docherty: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: I'll have to go back. That's the one today, and I'll have to check my information (Indistinct) before.

Ms. Docherty: I'll leave my list with you, and you can tell me what maybe we're missing.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: I believe the Minister of Development and Technology had a question.

Mr. Brown: Yes, just on the Aerosmith concert.

I live in the adjacent district also, and I just want to commend the Charlottetown Police Department for their efforts there. They've done yeomen service in the last concert. I just live a block away from it. I can tell you, the city police, the City of Charlottetown Police Department did an excellent job in crowd control. I want also to thank the Fire Department and the Fire Marshal's office, because they too also did an excellent job in that effort. So I just want to have that in the records.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chair: I'd like to put this to the House, to the committee as a whole, if I could get this section carried, since there were other sections carried and documents were tabled. The minister has committed to bringing the documents you requested to be tabled. So, therefore, I would ask the committee as a whole, shall this section on Golf Links be carried?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: No.

Chair: The majority has carried it.

Mr. Bagnall: We're in the Committee of the Whole House. You're supposed to be able to be accountable for your department, and when you ask for information to be brought back, you expect it to be brought back. I know she's brought back in stuff, and I have no problem with anything that the minister has done to date. But history has been that if we don't want to carry a section, that we haven't had to force a section through - what is it you want to hide that you're trying to force this through on us? We have no (Indistinct) -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I have the floor now.

An Hon. Member: Sorry. Go ahead.

Mr. Bagnall: So is the minister trying to hide something, that she wants to push this section through and can put it through? Because we're not going to carry it until we have the information brought back. If you want to force departments through, why are we here on the floor? Why do you want to be accountable if you're going to say: Push it through? Because I heard you ask to get it pushed through, minister. Is it that important to you, to get this pushed through, without trying to be accountable?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, I did not ask to push it through. My question to the Chair was: Why can we not carry a section when in the previous sections we've had information that I've had to bring forward and we carried it?

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct).

Ms. Docherty: That was simply my question. I would believe that based on the speed in which I have responded to all of your questions that you would have faith in the fact that I'm going to bring this forward as well.

Chair: Further comment?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. We in opposition are here - we have a difficult job trying to find out information and we ask for reports and we expect them to be brought back in, which the minister has gracefully said she will do. But we also have the option of not carrying the section until we get the information back that we've asked for.

If you ask the Minister of Transportation and Public Works over there, he was one of these gentlemen that believed in that. He believed in the democracy of this House. Are you trying to circumvent this, the procedures that we've carried on in this House for the last decade? Because by doing that, you are pushing this through, and if you demand that you want to push your budget through, you go ahead. But I tell you, you're changing the pattern of this House and how we do business.

Mr. Brown: Yeah (Indistinct) brought more accountability to it. I agree with you, we've changed this House.

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, as far as your questioning of my intentions, I hope you will take some consideration of the fact that, as a new member of the Legislature, all of this is very foreign to me and I'm learning as the process goes. I simply asked the Chairman as to why one section has to stall in being carried when all the others that had questions pertaining to it will pass. That's the intention of my question and nothing more.

Chair: If I could make comments, please.

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Mr. MacKinley: How long would it take the minister to get that answers for that opposition, the information he wants? Will you have it here tomorrow?

Ms. Docherty: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Why don't we just adjourn it and come back on tomorrow and give him the information and put it through rather than have him grandstanding here all day?

Mr. Brown: We won't carry the bottom line.

Chair: Actually the total Golf Links has carried. We will delay if it's the wish of the whole committee, and the opposition, naturally. We will delay passing the rest of this until the information is received back from the minister because we want to make sure everything is clear on what is being passed.

We can move onto the next page, if you wish, to continue the budget estimates with this particular minister today. She certainly has committed to bringing back all the documentation requested by the members of the opposition and will table it. Then that section will be carried at a later date.

Is that in agreement?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I have a question (Indistinct). Dealing with the Confederation Trail, can you give me an update on the five-year plan?

Ms. Docherty: A financial update?

Mr. Bagnall: Financial, and the development of the trail. There was a five-year plan in place.

Ms. Docherty: I don't have a copy of the plan in front of me. We do have money allocated over the next number of years in order to address all of the requirements that have been asked by (Indistinct) associations that the trails pass through. That includes everything from signage, better maintenance, a variety of things. If you would like us to table the five-year, and assuming we're able to do that, I can -

Mr. Bagnall: Where is the money for this in your capital budget?

Ms. Docherty: Where is it?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, for the five-year plan to implement it.

Ms. Docherty: We've got it identified in our capital budget which has not been approved yet.

Mr. Bagnall: Under what?

Ms. Docherty: Under -

Mr. Bagnall: Which section?

Ms. Docherty: Oh, it would fall under the parks - under development, sorry, as a whole section.

Mr. Bagnall: All under park development?

Ms. Docherty: The development section.

Mr. Bagnall: Have we done any work on that yet?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Have we done any work on

the five-year plan yet, or is it just -

Ms. Docherty: I believe we completed year two.

Mr. Bagnall: You've completed year two? How much money has been spent?

Ms. Docherty: I think it has been allotted something around 100,000, but I will see what I have here.

Mr. Bagnall: Did you bring the information back?

Ms. Docherty: I'll just take a look and see. Just to read to you some notes. Tourism PEI has a capital budget of \$355,000, which is allocated to this particular fiscal year, which is phase two on a go-forward basis. Phase one was actually completed this fall.

Mr. Bagnall: How much was spent there?

Ms. Docherty: We're going to have an additional \$1.4 million over the next four years of which - I believe a portion of that, and I will confirm it for you, actually comes from TPW as the owners of that property.

Mr. Bagnall: Could you table that for me, the five-year plan and the expenditures for each year that are lined out?

Ms. Docherty: Sure.

Chair: Further questions?

Mr. Bagnall: Oh yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: On the Rails to Trails. So you're not going to hire anybody back for John Callaghan?

Ms. Docherty: No. We have a full-time

employee that has taken over those roles. If I might expand on that for your benefit. What you referred to last week is an advertised position. It may have been misunderstood by Mr. Callaghan that the position we created out at Brookvale, that will alleviate some of the work our current employee has. So no, there will not be anyone taking over.

Mr. M. Currie: It's an open competition, open to the public?

Ms. Docherty: It was open internally first and there wasn't anyone successful and so now I believe it actually closed last Monday, possibly.

Mr. M. Currie: He'd have a good chance for this job, then?

Ms. Docherty: Pardon me?

Mr. M. Currie: He'd have a good chance for this job?

Ms. Docherty: If he applied and he had the skill sets.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, so the deputy would agree with that too, then.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Pardon me?

Mr. M. Currie: He'd have a good chance for this job, this one that's -

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Certainly if somebody had the qualifications (Indistinct) -

Ms. Docherty: Are you aware, does he have the qualifications to meet that?

Mr. M. Currie: I'm not sure. I'll check with him. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Environment,

Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, I want to inform the hon. member that part of the tourism, a tiny little part of the enforcement on the Rails to Trails, is in my department. Without having the numbers in front of me for sure, it's close to \$70,000 per year for two ATV wardens that will do some enforcement on the Rails to Trails on Prince Edward Island.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

Ms. Docherty: Hon. members, in regards to the question about the funding about the trails, I forgot about mentioning this. The funding - TIAPEI is actually the lead on the funding portion of it in order to get ACOA. So all of those dollars that I mentioned actually aren't all provincial dollars. Some of them are federal dollars as well.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The Tourism Advisory Council, are they in their year of a five-year plan?

Ms. Docherty: Yes it is the third year of the five-year plan.

Mr. Bagnall: Are you comfortable with the way they are operating and the way they're -

Ms. Docherty: I beg your pardon, sorry?

Mr. Bagnall: Are you comfortable with that group and the way the Tourism Advisory Council are performing?

Ms. Docherty: To date, I can't say that they're - I've never been given any reason to think that they're not operating in the best interest of the industry.

Mr. Bagnall: So have you hired HRA, a

firm out of Halifax to review the council?

Ms. Docherty: Yes, we have.

Mr. Bagnall: So if you hired a firm to go and review the council and you tell me that you're comfortable with them, aren't you contradicting yourself here? Why would you hire a firm to come and review the work of your Tourism Advisory Council and then you'd say that you're happy with them?

Ms. Docherty: Exactly. The work of the Tourism Advisory Council is - we are overall happy with it. The reason that we had HRA brought in - the mandate is such that we want to make sure it fits with our intentions and plans on a go-forward basis. In doing so, it's good to have somebody that's not involved at all from the province in this particular case in order to bring that information back to us.

I believe the report is coming forward soon. The deputy has also indicated that we're undertaking a evaluation and that we believe that an independent evaluation is much more fruitful and beneficial to the industry as a whole.

Mr. Bagnall: So what do you think they're hiding?

Ms. Docherty: I don't know that they are hiding anything.

Mr. Bagnall: So why would you bring in another firm to review their work?

Ms. Docherty: I don't deal directly with the TAC. Although they report directly to me, the deputy minister sits on the board, and I'm going to let her answer that question for you.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: As part of the TAC plan, they were undertaking a self-evaluation of the role of TAC and was

it the best means to be organized and to give guidance to the minister.

Mr. Bagnall: Speak up, please, a little.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Sorry. TAC had decided as part of their overall plan that they needed effectively a performance evaluation and they were going to do a self-evaluation. I happen to have a research background and I always know self-evaluations are wonderful but it's always better to have an independent evaluation. They tend to be much more fruitful, and that's really where it came from.

So the intent of the evaluation was there prior to us taking over the administration. We just asked for it to be independent so that we could all learn from it and get an unbiased perspective on how can we best mobilize ourselves and is the best structure to do so.

Mr. Bagnall: Were the Tourism Advisory Council happy with you doing it?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: I don't know. That's part of what - I guess there's 40 - there's about 40 members of TAC. I'm sure there's lots of different views. On asking who's happy and who's not, I would guess you would get a different opinion -

Mr. Bagnall: My understanding is the executives were quite upset that you went behind their backs and did this.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: I don't know. I won't say that everybody was upset. I won't say that at all.

Mr. Bagnall: That's not what we're hearing out in the communities. You should talk to them -

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:
Depends on who you ask.

Ms. Docherty: You're going to get a difference of opinion, as the deputy minister indicated, and no, we're not going to be able to please everybody. But we feel that this is in the best interest of the industry as a whole, and that's why we did it.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: It still boggles my mind why we have to go out of the province or we have to go to Ontario or we have to go to Halifax or we have to go anywhere to decide what's best for Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Brown: There's the contradiction of the year.

Mr. Bagnall: What you're doing here, you're going out and you're hiring - the minister before stood up and he said that he's going to be looking after Island companies and -

An Hon. Member: That's what I'm going to be doing too.

Mr. Bagnall: - so obviously we're getting a mixed message between ministers. Because one minister is saying he wants to keep it in the Island and the other minister is going outside and hiring consultants from off the Island. What's the philosophy of your government? Are you going to support Island business or are you going to go outside and support companies off-Island?

Ms. Docherty: Hon. member, the previous administration hired KPMG to do the tourism study and they were off-Island. Having said that, HRA, their head office actually is in Charlottetown. It's just a subsidiary office in Halifax that this particularly lady had the expertise in order

to do this.

Mr. Bagnall: So she lives on PEI?

Ms. Docherty: No, I just indicated that the company is based in Charlottetown. She's based out of Halifax.

Mr. Bagnall: So we have to go to Halifax to get somebody -

Ms. Docherty: Just like you had to leave the province. We have to occasionally as well.

Mr. Bagnall: - to do the study. To investigate the Tourism Advisory Council, we have to go to Halifax to get somebody to investigate.

Ms. Docherty: We're not investigating anybody. We're doing an evaluation of the benefit of the council to make sure that we're getting the best for the industry as a whole.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have a copy of the terms of reference for that study?

Ms. Docherty: I don't carry it with me, but we'll bring it to you as well.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, can you tell me the council's response to that terms of reference? Where they very happy with that?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister:
The minister wasn't there, but certainly at the executive level we had a conversation about why we were doing it. At the end of the day it was - we're doing it for the best interest of the industry and the new administration to figure out what's the best way to mobilize.

Certainly people had different opinions, but it wasn't emotional or angry or anything close to that. It was just a conversation

about: Is this the right thing to do? At the end of the day it's all about making sure we can generate more business and work collaboratively, and that's the goal, to collaborate, and is this the best way to collaborate. We wanted to know the answer to that question.

Mr. Bagnall: I guess - have you had any (Indistinct) drafts or anything on this report to date?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: No, not yet. We expect something later, mid- to late November, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: So you don't know whether you're going to be happy with the finds or not happy or anything yet? Obviously not, right?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: And because good research, you have to stay out of it and don't want to bias the process or bias the outcome. So I really have no idea what's going to be in there. I'm as curious as anybody.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: What's your opinion of where our Canadian dollar is today and what it's going to do for our market next year?

Ms. Docherty: I mean, you're asking me a question that -

Mr. M. Currie: Take your time.

Ms. Docherty: - what's going to happen to the dollar is not - I'm not a financial person. I have no idea. In regards to the impact to our industry, if that's what your referring to, the dollar, for instance, stays as it is. We will probably notice a difference. There's no doubt about that. Having said that, I know Melissa has been doing - sorry, the deputy

minister - has been doing some research in that area, and in order to answer your question more accurately, I will ask her to respond.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Right now, again, we can't predict the currency, but even if it remains at or around par, Canada in general will take a significant hit in terms of tourism. Particular in bordering towns.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm sorry, I'm having trouble hearing you.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Canada will take a hit in tourism, particular in border town, which we've been seeing over the last - that's been the trend over the last number of years. What that par number does for people, it's more psychological in terms of their travel decision making. So what we expect to see is more than US visitation because US visitors tend to be less price sensitive than Canadian - domestic travel. We'll be in a lot more difficult position in our domestic markets than we've seen in the last number of years.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's what your aggression towards attracting more will be, within Canada?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: We're going to have bigger challenges in attracting domestic visitors to Prince Edward Island, yes. So if you look into Ontario right now we're seeing the US, California and New York being very aggressive in Ontario market. We're going to continue to see that. If we look at our competition. So we have to be - Ontario is one of our primary markets in terms of geographic markets.

So we're going to have to be very aggressive in terms of what we do to retain what we have, let alone grow it. So

obviously our plans - this is what we're looking at, our competitive landscape right now and what plans we'll have to put in place to counteract that.

Mr. M. Currie: Will you abandon the United States market and just stay within Canada or -

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Pardon me, what?

Mr. M. Currie: Will you abandon marketing within the United States and just go market Canada?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: We're assessing that literally as we speak. Because we only have limited resources, what's the best decision. But again, the US market is part of what we do with the Atlantic Canadian Tourism Partnership. We don't go in there alone. The question is: Do you shore up your domestic market or do you continue to compete in the US market? We're not quite prepared to answer that question right now, but we are looking at it. What's the best alternative of limited resources.

Mr. M. Currie: What about European markets. Are you - Euro?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: The European markets, we mostly compete with again our Atlantic Canadian Partnership, with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. There are limited resources put into those markets, to be honest. That's been the trend. Again, we don't have that much money.

Because of our geographic location, the research has shown, probably - we would look at a better return on investment right now in the US markets, but we're challenging that and thinking there might be something we can do in the European

markets. Air access is an issue, chicken and the egg problem, but we're looking at all those things right now and re-evaluating our strategy.

Mr. M. Currie: What about all inclusive? Is the industry interested in entering into that type of change in the industry to be more competitive? Because it seems that all of Caribbeans have gone for all inclusive.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: The Caribbean is a different competitor and all inclusive is a different competitor than what we typically attract. Packaging is something people look at, not necessarily all inclusive, and that we have to get more aggressive with, and yes, we are going to work with industry to do more packaging.

Mr. M. Currie: Does your department or your government - are you looking at any way of incentives or compensation to attract and maintain or try and stabilize what we have for an industry, instead of losing? We're not going to accept we're going to lose, are we?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Do you mean in terms of the supply, that the industry operators -

Mr. M. Currie: No. Is there some package that you have in the back of your mind or you're working on that will maintain and stabilize what we have as an industry or increase?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: The goal is obviously to increase.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: And yes, we're looking at a number of options. It's not just packaging that is one potential solution.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: There's a lot of different things in terms of different activities to undertake in terms of retaining markets. It's a lot more science than most people give credit to in terms of tourism and marketing. There are initiatives underway to look at packaging, is one potential. Again, we have to divide our resources around retaining markets and growing markets. So there are strategic decisions that we're making right now.

Mr. M. Currie: So you will put in place something, then, that will give a level of comfort to the tourism industry that they are - and you'll be bringing that forward in the spring?

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Yes, we're going - this is part of the - when you were asking about TAC and everything. We're re-evaluating basically how we mobilize for tourism and how can we do it better. That's part and parcel what you're asking me is, yes, we're going to make changes, we're going to get a lot more aggressive in terms of our brand and sales. Our goal is to bring plane loads of people in here and (Indistinct) and beds and people in restaurants and we have to keep our eye on that. Again, it's science and more science (Indistinct) hope everybody in this room and anybody watching realizes that.

Mr. M. Currie: Your marketing is going to be for all of PEI, the western part, eastern part. Not only Charlottetown.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Centre of the universe is not Queen St., Charlottetown.

Melissa MacEachern Deputy Minister: No, we're responsible to bring people to the

shore of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. M. Currie: That fellow thinks he's got a halo over his head over there.

Mr. Brown: No, no halo, that's for sure.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Another question?

Mr. M. Currie: No, I'm fine.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. I guess the next question I would have would be the hotel room levies. When there was debate on whether we were going to move forward with room levies across the Island and in Charlottetown, the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour stood up and chastised the minister of tourism on that issue. I mean, she was very passionate on that issue, with tourism operators across the province. Also, the Premier, who is not here today, he was very adamant on that issue also.

When are you going to take the levies off? As the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour you argued and argued that that should be done.

Ms. Docherty: The decision by the previous administration put forward that legislation does not impose levies on anyone. What it does is it basically gives you the right or the permission to do so. Government, regardless of what might have been stated previously, the point being is, all we did was give them the right to do it. Yes or no.

Mr. Bagnall: That's exactly what the minister of tourism tried to tell the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour for three solid weeks. She

maintained that by doing that -

Chair: Question?

Mr. Bagnall: - you were -

Ms. Bertram: Your minister wouldn't get up and answer the questions. It was the minister of community and cultural affairs who got up and answered the questions.

Chair: Further questions?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: Now we're getting to it. Now we're getting to it.

Chair: Order. Order.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) wild over this issue. She chastised the minister over and over and over again, trying to tell him that by putting that legislation in place, that that's what you were doing. Unless she's changed her mind. I mean, we can go back, we can go back -

Chair: Do we have a question? (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: This is community - we can talk all we want on this site, on the floor, it doesn't have to be all questions. There's a lot of philosophy and everything else that goes on here. So if you want to try to stop us from saying our thing, why are you doing that? You're interrupting all the time.

Chair: I'm just trying to ask if you have a question, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: When I get to the question, I'll answer it - I'll ask it.

Mr. Brown: When you get to the question, you'll answer it.

An Hon. Member: That's a good one.

Mr. Bagnall: Probably, because that's probably the only way we're going to get an answer.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: So, when are you going to change this legislation?

Ms. Docherty: Why would I change it?

Mr. Bagnall: Your Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour, she's adamant, your Premier was adamant, that this legislation shouldn't be there. It should not be there. Have you not talked to them about this issue? Because, I mean, that was passionate for both of them.

Ms. Docherty: I'm quite well aware of the discussions that went on.

Mr. Bagnall: Did you read the Hansard?

Ms. Docherty: Yes, I did. The thing that we have to realize is that in opposition we don't always have all the information at our hands because we're not in power at that time. I respect both hers and the Premier's position on it, but from my perspective it's just legislation to give the permission for a municipality to do it. It's not us imposing it. Summerside is assessing it. Whether they do it or not, I have no idea. But it's not government telling them one way or the other.

Mr. Bagnall: But you put the tools in place for them to do it.

Ms. Docherty: No, you put the tools in place.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're going to take them away.

Ms. Docherty: No, I didn't say I was taking them away.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're going against your Premier, and you're going against your Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour.

Ms. Docherty: I'm not going against the Premier and I'm not going against the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. Because at the time they were neither.

Mr. Bagnall: They were what?

Ms. Docherty: Neither. They weren't in those roles.

Mr. Bagnall: But they were going to change it when they got there.

Ms. Docherty: That's fine.

Mr. Bagnall: So why isn't it being changed?

Ms. Docherty: Because the municipality that has it in place is quite happy. There's significant product development happening as a result of it, and it's up to the industry in the municipalities to decide whether they want it or not. It's not government's -

Mr. Bagnall: So do you support the marketing levy?

Ms. Docherty: I don't have any issue with it one way or the other. If that's what the municipality -

Mr. Bagnall: You do support it or you don't? I mean you got to either support your tourism industry or you don't.

Ms. Docherty: I support the opportunity to make a choice.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: The only problem I had with the levy, minister, was I thought it was too concentrated in one area. Before there was a name on it, and somebody will have to help me here. There was tourism - marketing PEI, or something like that there. But now it's centralized, and I think that the rest of the province will suffer because most of the hotel rooms are in here -

[A cell phone rang]

Mr. Brown: It's not me.

Mr. M. Currie: - and they will get the majority of the marketing and try and concentrate it. I just don't think it's fair to your Mill Rivers or your O'Learys or your Souris or your Brudenells. So I'm just wondering if you will - led us to believe that you will try to be fair to the other parts of the Island. You have members here from all across PEI who want their share of those marketing dollars, and we just don't want it all for the City of Charlottetown.

Ms. Docherty: What it does is it allows any of those municipalities to participate, as I'm sure you're aware. We will never let an area suffer because they're not in a position that some other areas might be. We have the best interest of the province as a whole. I actually was in your district last night, in Georgetown, and had a discussion with a number of tourism operators there. There's some fantastic things happening in your area, and the intention is for us to work with all areas.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm glad to hear you're promising commitment for all of us in the backbenches here. We're pleased to know that we're going to get a fair share of

marketing dollars. Thank you.

Chair: Any further questions for the minister?

An Hon. Member: No.

Chair: We'll leave time for the deputy to leave the floor. We can move on to page 54. We'll come back to Tourism PEI total budget after the other documents are tabled.

Ms. Docherty: Actually the Interministerial Women's Secretariat does not fall under - I'm the minister responsible, but Transportation and Public Works still manage the budget for it. So what I'll do is let the chairperson go through it and I will attempt to answer all your questions as best as I can.

Mr. MacKinley: Do you want to bring in the deputy minister of Transportation and Public Works?

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: (Indistinct) Steve MacLean is here.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct).

Chair: No.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition, please.

Leader of the Opposition: I just wanted to make the minister aware that the deputy minister of Transportation and Public Works is here and I'm sure he'd be happy to come on the floor with you, and you're welcome to do that.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Ms. Docherty: Madam Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to bring forward the deputy minister of Transportation and Public

Works onto the floor.

Chair: Absolutely.

Agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: We'll just wait -

Leader of the Opposition: He's right here.

Chair: - for the deputy to get seated at the table.

Mr. MacKinley: We don't have to agree to anyway they changed the rules. You don't need unanimous consent any more.

Mr. Brown: Remember that, hon. member? (Indistinct) ram it through.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Chair: Okay.

Order please.

Page 54, Interministerial Women's Secretariat. "Appropriations provided to support the functions of the Secretariat and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women." Administration: 3,900. Equipment: 700. Materials, Supplies and Services: 2,000. Professional and Contract Services: 10,800. Salaries: 127,900. Travel and Training: 3,900. Grants: 277,800. Total Interministerial Secretariat: 427,000.

Question from the Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Maybe the minister would like to give this a little bit of an overview of some of the work that's being carried out presently by the Secretariat and also by the Status of Women.

Ms. Docherty: Sure. This is a very

interesting group that I've been working with. Actually, shortly after being named minister responsible I joined the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible in Iqaluit. We discussed a number of issues at that one. Prince Edward Island, in conjunction with Newfoundland, brought forward a motion which was passed, which was exciting, which is basically the unemployment availability for women who are in seasonal positions, basically allowing them to accumulate hours over a seasonal period as opposed to the way it stands right now. So we're very proud of that.

I've had a few meetings with a number of the women's groups. We're very enthusiastic about some of the work that is coming forward. We've had discussions even on the youth addictions facility which of course is of interest for us from a young woman's perspective. We're getting ready for the purple ribbon campaign. We're going to be involved with a memorial to the engineering students who were killed in Montreal. It's such an energetic group of women who are involved in this. It's certainly a new area for me, but one that if we could only capture the enthusiasm into dollars for them to do everything that we need to do for women, we'd have lots of money to do lots of things.

Leader of the Opposition: Just a question for the minister. You mentioned that when you attended that provincial-territorial meeting that the provinces here in the Maritimes had brought forward a recommendation to make changes to the employment insurance act. Where are those changes at now? Have they been implemented into law?

Ms. Docherty: No, they haven't. Unfortunately for us, the federal minister responsible was shuffled and we haven't had an opportunity - well the federal shuffle was one thing. We've had I believe at least three

elections, two for sure, Newfoundland and Ontario. So the meetings to follow up on this, I believe, were being planned for November, December if possible.

The director responsible for this department, Faye Martin, is not able to be here today, but she has also been meeting with her counterparts. There may be some things that they themselves are working on, so that when we do finally get together to get this moving forward, we (Indistinct) to do so.

Leader of the Opposition: Another question. In terms of the Status of Women, would you give us sort of an overview who makes up the council and in terms of representation from across the province and how long people sit on the boards? I know there was an ad in the paper here awhile back that asked that anybody had an interest to put their name forward to boards that they could do so.

I guess my question, in relationship to the Status of Women: What kind of criteria would you be looking for someone that may belong to real women or may belong to another particular group if they had been interested to join the Status of Women?

Ms. Docherty: The Status of Women is made up of - or the board is made up of a number of women representing the province, both regionally, culturally. They represent different sectors of - hoping that's the right terminology - of women, whether that be aboriginal, it may be the lesbian group, but it's to get a good cross-section of opinions and advice, as well as experience.

The process with the board has not - well, as you know, it was advertised. At this point in time we haven't made any appointments to those that were expiring. That's all that, of course, we're dealing with, those whose terms have expired. I do know the current chairperson, Kirstin Lund, her term does

expire in January. It may be that we're trying to - we're sort of working towards that we kind of maybe address everything at once. I'm not sure on that one and I've not been dealing with the Premier's office on it lately.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure, that was going to be my next question. In view of her position being finished - I think she served two terms - what kind of a process was going to be in place for her replacement? The other question was, when you talked about the composition, I know we had a meeting in our caucus with the Status of Women down in Montague back in September. One of their comments is how important it is to have diversity representing the board Island-wide. There was a number of gaps and I was just curious what kind of things you put in place to ensure that that diversity takes place. You already mentioned a couple of categories, aboriginal. Another area is certainly youth as well as gender issues.

Ms. Docherty: I have no idea who actually applied through the advertisement in the paper. There were a few names submitted prior to that which have gone on to the Premier's office. Just in that small group there seemed to be some quite great skill sets that would bring a lot of diversity to that board.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: How many people are on the salary list of 127?

Ms. Docherty: Two. A director and admin assistant.

Mr. M. Currie: One hundred and twenty-seven thousand for two people? Are you going to table the professional and contract services?

Ms. Docherty: The 10,800? I can. All I have under there - and I apologize for that - is it's just simply contract services. I'm not sure who it is for. So I will get that for you.

Mr. M. Currie: Will you table the grants?

Ms. Docherty: The grants I can tell you. There are three that are given out. We provide \$120,000 for family violence, we provide \$147,600 to the Advisory Council for the Status of Women, and then the Women's Network receives 10,200.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I think we're both singing from the same page on this, the incredible work that the secretariat and the advisory group does. My question: Is there anything that we can do in opposition to ensure that you can get extra money in that grant section for the year 2008 budget that you'll be preparing?

Ms. Docherty: In the 2008-2009?

Leader of the Opposition: The budget that you're going to have your first - or your second budget available for next year. That number 277,800 hasn't been changed in probably ten years or more. Is there anything that we can do in opposition to help you when you're having discussions with the finance minister as to what's going to be in your budget for next year? We'd like to see an increase.

Ms. Docherty: I would appreciate any assistance that you would like to give, any input, anything like that. I agree, I was surprised actually that it was the amount that it was, and we do certainly need to raise this up considerably.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure.

Chair: The hon. Member from O'Leary-

Inverness.

Mr. Henderson: Madam Minister, 120,000 for family violence prevention, is there any kind of a breakdown with that as far as this West Prince Family Violence prevention? Do they get a section of that or is that -

Ms. Docherty: I do believe there is about 20,000 that goes to the West Prince area.

Mr. Henderson: Twenty?

An Hon. Member: Not very much.

Ms. Docherty: Do you want it broken down?

Mr. Henderson: How does that compare to other - what are other groups that are getting it?

Ms. Docherty: I'm not sure, but I'll get that for you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm wondering: Does the deputy provide you with advice on this section?

Ms. Docherty: He does a lot of things, but not that one. Faye Martins's position is actually CEO equivalent and she is the one that would represent the division, just like a deputy would represent his or her own.

Mr. M. Currie: So you don't consult with the deputy on this section?

Ms. Docherty: No.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: One question that I'm curious about. At the University of Prince Edward Island we know that they

have master students available now as well as they have people working on their PH.Ds. I see the minister of health's ears perking up because I'm sure he knows where I'm going with this question.

In terms of the Women's Secretariat itself, are they involved in any negotiations with the University of Prince Edward Island to have graduate students work on topics in particular of interest to women, either from the secretariat or we talked about family violence, whatever? It would be a tremendous opportunity for students to get really important field research work. Your previous deputy that was on the floor talked about the importance of research. We have tremendous capacity in the province. I'm just curious, is the secretariat or the Status of Women looking to have discussions?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Listening to the Leader of the Opposition's questions certainly in respect to the seniors secretariat, certainly it's a position that's relatively new to government.

Certainly there is a tremendous amount of opportunities right now to bring that secretariat to another level. We've had some light discussions re: the university in respect to initiatives to work closely with our senior secretariat, simply because we all know the intensity of the aging population in the province, so we are looking at - can't really speak specifically because I don't have any specific information.

We have had a number of discussions about a number of ideas and some possibilities in respective partnering with not only the University of Prince Edward Island but Holland College in respect to initiatives. So I thank you for raising that because there is a tremendous amount of opportunity.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: The Women's Secretariat is different than the Seniors' Secretariat. That's okay, but both, I couldn't agree with you more. In terms of the Seniors' Secretariat, there's tremendous opportunity with the University of PEI, the nursing program, the gerontology section at Dalhousie University. There is all kinds of opportunity there, but I was referring more specifically to the Women's Secretariat.

Mr. D. Currie: Thought I hear Seniors' Secretariat.

Chair: Further questions?

The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Total Interministerial Women's Secretariat Budget: 427,000.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: I'd like to thank the deputy for his input.

Ms. Docherty: Thank you.

Chair: Transportation and Public Works. Page 157. It starts there. We'll actually be starting on page 160. When the minister is ready.

Mr. MacKinley: We're ready.

Chair: I'll be starting with Executive Office. "Appropriations provided for the

operation of the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's offices and support staff." Administration: 26,200. Materials, Supplies and Services: 2,500. Salaries: 223,500. Travel and Training: 14,000. Total Executive Office: 266,200.

Mr. Brown: Money well spent.

Chair: Questions.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Who's your executive assistant?

Mr. MacKinley: Valerie Acorn which was working for environment. You're talking my EA? Valerie Acorn, she worked in environment. She took a secondment or whichever, she moved over with me. She worked in transportation for a number of years, she's worked in agriculture. I got somebody that is very experienced and I'm very fortunate to be able to get somebody out of the civil service commission who has as much experience as this lady has and it's helped me an awful lot.

Mr. M. Currie: Your going to need help.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you have any other people in there with you besides Valerie?

Mr. MacKinley: I have 1,800 or so, is it?

Mr. M. Currie: In your office.

Mr. MacKinley: I'm not sure now. Pardon?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know, in the highways. I'm not quite sure how many I've

got. What are you talking about?

Mr. M. Currie: It's our understanding they're called Ronnie's Angels. Who are they? Would you name them? In the office.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know. I didn't see anybody with wings in there. Angels would have wings.

Mr. M. Currie: Your travel and training.

Mr. MacKinley: Travel and training. Where's that at? All right.

Mr. M. Currie: On the page.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, I see it, number four. Travel and training. That's in-province and out-of-province travel. The in-province travel is the deputy and staff travel, out-of-province travel is the deputy minister who's out-of-province which is beside me.

Mr. M. Currie: The trip that you just took, who was with you on that trip?

Mr. MacKinley: Do you mind if I go back to my briefcase? I can get it. I have it there, but I can start. There was Steve MacLean was there, deputy minister who's sitting here. I know you didn't deal with him before, but anyway, he's the deputy minister. Steven MacLean was there. Steve Yeo, Alan Maynard, Paul Godfrey - which is an engineer - Brian Thompson was the environment person.

Remember you messed up so bad there, Mr. Member, that we had to bring in environment department into highways the time your department got charge. I'll give you credit for bringing it up - bringing him in - but he's in charge of environment. So we don't - keep the environment together. That was the previous minister of transportation brought that in years ago after there were some charges laid against the

department (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: That's all the people that travelled with you, then?

Mr. MacKinley: Pardon?

Mr. M. Currie: Your secretary and stuff, EA, never went on those trips?

Mr. MacKinley: No, Valerie Acorn went on the trip.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh. You missed her name, did you?

Mr. MacKinley: No, I was telling you about who the people were.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: If I could go to my briefcase I have their names. Anybody else?

Chair: Sure.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you table those names?

Mr. MacKinley: Just wait, we got more. Just wait. Alan Aitken, Matt Collins. Who else? Bobby Clow.

Mr. Bagnall: Bobby Clow?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, he's our finance -

Mr. M. Currie: This was a TAC conference, right?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, a TAC conference.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: When you come back the other night, you came in and you said you got another \$40 million for paving for the province. When are we going to start doing

that?

Mr. MacKinley: I'm not at liberty to tell you that because it's federal money coming here. But you keep your ears to the ground for the next little while. Basically what we did was sign - we signed in Halifax and it was a rush because basically we were booked to go to the tax thing. In the meantime I had a day's notice to be in Halifax. We had to shift my flights and everything, get a credit from whoever I was flying with back, get another ticket, go to Halifax, sign the memo of understanding with Lawrence Cannon and Peter MacKay - it's a federal agreement, and other provinces - and it could be anywhere between 30 to 40 million. Now some people say it could be as much as 50. You could see that rolling in the next year and half.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes, two years.

Mr. MacKinley: Year and half, two years. We all got to agree to it.

Mr. Bagnall: So is just for paving only? Because that's what you said you got it for, paving.

Mr. MacKinley: Well, if you wanted to -

Mr. Bagnall: What's it for? I don't know.

Mr. MacKinley: Basically, Nova Scotia is going to use it for wharf repairs.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. MacKinley: Nova Scotia is going to use it for wharf repairs.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) container.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: Because they are 1,800 miles closer to where they are going, export and other places. So it could be an advantage. Newfoundland's looking at exporting some gas or power or something out there. I'm not sure what they're going to do. New Brunswick is looking for highways, and PEI is looking for highways to make it more efficient.

Mr. Bagnall: Was that the only thing you had in your proposal was for highways only? Or are there other capital projects that money would earmarked for and if you did, what are they?

Mr. MacKinley: The proposal has still got to be agreed upon all provinces. If I stand to be corrected. Is that right?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The minister is - if I can help answer that question. The minister's right. What the Memorandum of Understanding signature meant was the four Atlantic province and the federal government agreed, over the next 24 months, to take the Atlantic Gateway Strategy to the point where it would get down to those kinds of projects.

The other provinces, as the minister has indicated, have specific initial objectives, but there's work that needs to be done at a federal-provincial-territorial level context to flesh that out and really work it into a strategy, but it's really about the four Atlantic province and the federal government agreeing to build a strategy. So it's a preliminary stage.

Mr. Bagnall: So did each province have to present a strategy program where you would use this money if it was available? Did you go in with just paving or are there other projects on that, that would be included in your strategy moving ahead?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The

agreement to date is really about an agreement principle to get to this point - the point that your speaking to. We are working with the local ACOA office to develop the details of that strategy, how it would work on PEI. There will be some analytical work, there'd be some consultation with industry, about how best to position PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: So how do we want to move forward?

Mr. MacKinley: Pardon.

Mr. Bagnall: How does the department want to move forward?

Mr. MacKinley: What the department wants to do is we want to be as efficient as possible, roads safe as possible. You got to remember that when the fixed link opened up our tourists were probably 750,000 people. Now we're up to about 1.1 million. That's a lot more traffic on our highways. Plus there's a lot more export is taking place. All these business, even from down east, there's export going off. We're using the ferries at certain times down at Wood Islands, but your main artery is the new bridge and you have to be able to get from Souris as efficiency as you can or from Tignish, from anywhere's at all to this link to get off PEI and what we want to do is save fuel and it's green to protect the environment.

But we have to put a case together that the other provinces agrees, and if we don't agree with them then it doesn't go ahead. So it's federal and the four provincial provinces. We had a little bit of trouble with Newfoundland, because you know what's going on over there, but we finally talked to them and we got them to agree to this and that's where its at. It's going to mean a lot of money to the province of PEI.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-

St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: The \$40 million, that's between the four provinces, right?

Mr. MacKinley: No.

Mr. M. Currie: The \$40 million is for our province for what term?

Mr. MacKinley: It could be 30 to 40 million. It's hard to tell. How would that work, Steve? I mean, we got some deal if we can keep it going.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I guess the best way to answer that would be to start at the other end, which is the federal government's strategy that was announced in the spring budget of 2007 around gateways and border crossing.

Mr. MacKinley: Two hundred and some billion.

Mr. M. Currie: So this is Stephen Harper money?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: And we're going to take it.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There's a specific gateway, a central gateway which is the Windsor-Detroit area and then there's an Atlantic gateway. What Atlantic gateway might mean for each of the Atlantic provinces is a little different, as the minister has suggested, but overall the program is very large. As the minister said, it's in the order of I think it's 1.8 billion, of which the only Pacific gateway is (Indistinct) commitment to and that's around 950 million.

So it's really preliminary days to talk about

an exact figure until this work-up that we talked about is able to be completed and sit down with the federal representatives and deal with it, but -

Mr. M. Currie: Is it five years or ten year money?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The program rolls out in 2007, seven years. So 2013-2014. Sometime in that period.

Mr. M. Currie: Four million dollars a year.

Mr. MacKinley: What we got is we got Peter Mackay on side, who's the federal minister -

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: - we got Kevin MacAdam, a former colleague of ours working very hard for us, and we got Lawrence Cannon which - I said to him I knew him when he was a Liberal, he said he knew me when I was a lot heavier, too. So we got all this working for us. It seems to be coming together pretty good. It's good cooperation between us, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland has finally come on side, which is good. The other matter, they'll have to deal with it. We convinced them (Indistinct) couldn't hold up the rest of us over their issue that they have, their premier and Harper. So I will give them credit, Newfoundland came and signed too and it helps everybody here.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Just a question there. Last year the former minister of transportation and public works talked about having Route 2 designated with the same status as the Trans-Canada Highway. This additional \$40 million, is this over and

above - because we were expecting some work to be done on Route 2 east under the original terms of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Mr. MacKinley: This is a completely different program.

Leader of the Opposition: Completely different. So -

Mr. MacKinley: What the minister - and I give her credit, I give your government credit for that - if you looked at - drove to Kensington and just come in that No. 2 highway, I mean you made quite a bit of an improvement, the previous government did. I'll give them credit for it where credit is due. Whether we like it or not we have a lot of vehicles here and we're not equipped to handle the highway traffic. But as we come through Hunter River we got to be careful there. We had some problems there because some people in Hunter River, for instance, want lights. Because we're looking at putting an extra road, like a lane through the middle. But some people don't want it. So we got to tread very carefully.

The same thing is that Winsloe intersection that the member talked about. If you leave Kensington and you come to town on that No. 2, that's still part of the No. 2 highway. When you get into these agreements, you just can't go into an area and say: We're going to do this area and we're not going to do this area. Because if we go to Hunter River and we decide to take that hill down and we find out now we can't put lights in because we don't have enough whatever it is under - what is it? - TAC, TAC, they have all these national standards and that's where we're at is at these national standards.

So we have challenges in facing them, but I mean you people had challenges too, and I think that the highway - some people complain that we didn't need to do it, but I

think it's an excellent job.

Leader of the Opposition: In terms of Route 2 east as you head from Charlottetown out towards Souris, you pass through the community of Abegweit First Nations. They've done really well in the last couple of years, they have a new chief there, Chief Brian Francis, and they have a gas bar. You were talking about issues of safety. Not only is there quite a bit of traffic going east and west there, but also people trying to get in and out of the gas bar and in and out of the community there.

So I guess my question is: When you're doing negotiations or when you're looking to have the dollars and resources to actually help that problem there, will you also be talking and referring to the federal government? I understand when Millbrook First Nations in Truro needed to build an overpass, the federal government through Indian and Northern Affairs came to the table to help make that more of a safe situation. I had great conversations with the chief yesterday and he's really interested in that - a project on safe-

Mr. MacKinley: Are you asking to put an overpass over the gas station?

Leader of the Opposition: Not an overpass, but whatever is going to make it safer. When you're going east and west -

Mr. MacKinley: The only way to make it safer would be turning lanes in. I'm not -

Leader of the Opposition: Sure, so if you could -

Mr. MacKinley: Are there any turning lanes there now?

Leader of the Opposition: No, there's not.

Mr. MacKinley: So you'd have a turning

lane and another turning lane - like if you're going down -

Leader of the Opposition: So that's what we're asking.

Mr. MacKinley: - you turn left. You won't need a turning lane turning right. Because there's nothing on the other side. Then you'd have to put lights. So you want to put lights in there at the intersection.

Leader of the Opposition: That's what the chief is looking for discussions there, for whatever is going to make that area safer.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, so you're looking for lights -

Leader of the Opposition: I just wanted to make sure that -

Mr. MacKinley: - down there.

Leader of the Opposition: Absolutely.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll take that under consideration. The only thing is I've used that a lot and in all fairness maybe the - we're in power now, it might improve. There's never much traffic on that road as far as getting in and out.

Leader of the Opposition: From Charlottetown to Souris?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. It's not a heavy travelled area. But we're going to try and make it work better. We got a new minister down there and I'd say he's going to deliver. We probably will have to put lights in there. I don't know, though. I'm not promising you anything.

Leader of the Opposition: I'm not sure, but your deputy may have the stats of how many cars and trucks actually drive by. But it's quite dangerous. There's school buses,

there's a number of kids in the community that are at risk when they go to cross the road to even go to use the Confederation Trails. We're just been really lucky that there hasn't been many car accidents there.

Mr. MacKinley: Where is this Confederation Trails there? Is it right there too?

Leader of the Opposition: It's right there too.

Mr. MacKinley: So what you want us to do is put in lights.

Leader of the Opposition: Want to put something there -

Mr. MacKinley: - and then put a crosswalk along the highway.

Leader of the Opposition: - minister that's going to make it safer.

Mr. MacKinley: Pardon?

Leader of the Opposition: Put something there that's going to make it safer.

The other part we were talking earlier about, winter tourism. When there is snow there's a lot of people that come up the trails that go across the road to go in to the gas bar to actually get gassed up and such. So it's just one of those problem areas. I was hoping if Route 2, if you were negotiating with the feds, Route 2 east was going to get the same status as the Trans-Canada Highway and then appropriate dollars to do it right. So people safety -

Mr. MacKinley: We are doing work on Route 2 right now.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. Are you doing further up to Morell between Mount Stewart?

Mr. MacKinley: We're doing the route there - where are we doing that route at? I saw it on the way up.

An Hon. Member: Call the hour.

Mr. MacKinley: Five Houses. We're doing work down at Five Houses.

Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the Chair, and that the Chairperson report progress and beg leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Madam Speaker, as Chairman of a Committee of the Whole House having under consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the Committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: This House is in recess till 7:00 p.m. this evening.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

The Legislature recessed until 7 p.m.

Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to the *Conflict of Interest Act*, I wish to advise the House that I have received a copy of a request from the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for an opinion respecting an allegation of a violation of the *Conflict of Interest Act* by the hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conflict of Interest Act* and as Speaker of this House, I am required to table a copy of the request.

Hon. members, this request is now before the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and on completion of his investigation he will submit his report to me.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Motions Other Than Government

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, we'd like to call Motion No. 9.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 9.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, the following motion:

WHEREAS the Liberal administration is entertaining the adoption of the Harmonized Sales Tax on Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island is currently the only maritime province not operating under the Harmonized Sales Tax;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island's refusal to adopt the Harmonized Sales Tax has allowed the province, working in partnership with Island business, to develop competitive niches and sales tax advantages in areas of the retail sector such as clothing and footwear;

AND WHEREAS these progressive

measures have created significant economic benefit for Island businesses;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island's refusal to adopt the Harmonized Sales Tax has allowed the province to develop tax incentives to encourage sound public policy principles such as increased conservation and sustainability through sales tax rebates and exemptions for hybrid vehicles and household renewable energy equipment;

AND WHEREAS adopting the Harmonized Sales Tax will eliminate the flexibility to pursue such progressive public policy measures;

AND WHEREAS the refusal to adopt the Harmonized Sales Tax has also reduced the tax burden on Island families through more affordable household fuel and electricity, shoes and clothing, and other essentials;

AND WHEREAS adopting the Harmonized Sales Tax will cut the tax freedom of Island families and significantly increase the daily cost of running a household by making essentials like heat, electricity and clothing more expensive;

AND WHEREAS adopting the Harmonized Sales Tax will unfairly penalize low income Island families, Island seniors, and Islanders with disabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly reject the notion of increasing the tax burden of Island households and businesses by rejecting the government's consideration of imposing the Harmonized Sales Tax on Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise tonight in moving our motion on protecting Island families from increased household tax burdens.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Liberal administration has put the issue upon Harmonized Sales Tax back on the radar screen.

Opposition members were just as surprised as everyone else at government's announcement. After all, there was no mention of HST in the Liberal Party's election platform.

I am sure that many Islanders thought this issue was laid to rest ten years ago, when Islanders clearly and decisively gave their opinion on this issue when the concept of a Harmonized Sales Tax was brought forward. However, as the present Liberal government has opted to revisit this idea, I believe it is important to reiterate the original objections to the plan as they still hold true today.

Furthermore, in the decade since the HST was initially debated among Islanders, the Progressive Conservative government brought in numerous new policies and forward-thinking initiatives that would be seriously impacted by a broad-based blended tax system.

Following the immensely unpopular efforts to introduce harmonization in 1991, the federal Liberal government brought forward a harmonized tax plan to Atlantic Canada in 1996. In 1996, the Atlantic provinces were reeling from the federal Liberal government decision to drastically reduce transfers payments.

For that reason, the Liberal governments of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia agreed with the federal government to create a new Harmonized Sales Tax. At the time, the federal government gave these

provinces millions and millions of dollars as a one-time only initiative to add to their provincial coffers.

I guess we'd have to ask the question: Has there been a deal made between the federal government and the provincial government, since we have such a huge deficit?

As part of this new system, the provinces agreed to lower their sales tax rates to 8%. When combined with the GST, it resulted in a combined HST of 15%. Today's HST rate stands at 14% in our sister Atlantic Canadian provinces, as a result of the recent cut to GST - a cut in the GST which was promised and delivered by the Conservative government in Ottawa.

In anticipation of projected losses a harmonized tax would mean in provincial revenues, the federal plan in 1996 included \$1 billion in compensation to the Atlantic provinces. At the time, PEI's provincial government convened a special committee to gauge the opinions of Islanders on this issue.

That committee held numerous meetings and consultations where Islanders from all walks of life were able to present their views and concerns in an open and transparent format. I checked the committee report from 1996, and I saw that there were 47 public presentations, from businesses, other jurisdictions, and at the time our own Department of the Provincial Treasury.

As a result of that process, the committee reported that a strong majority of Islanders stated opposition to Prince Edward Island joining the federal government's sales tax harmonization plan and that implementing the HST would not be beneficial to the province nor its people.

The reasons cited in the committee's report in 1996 and the findings from the Provincial

department of finance's analyses on the issue are still very much applicable in today's economic climate. For example, the disproportionate impact on low income families. The expansion of the sales tax base under a harmonized system would eliminate exemptions on many basic consumer goods that were previously subject only to GST.

This additional cost on fundamental household items such as heat, electricity, shoes, clothing, and even reading materials would impact all Islanders, but would hit lower income families, seniors, and persons living with disabilities particularly hard.

I really wonder whether this is the real reason why people on social assistance this year will be receiving an increase in their shelter allowance as reported by the Ghiz government in their new budget.

There has to be a limit to the tax burden this government intends to impose. My goodness, Islanders are still reeling from news of a huge increase in electricity rates, and how this government thinks it's okay to add another tax on basic essentials like heat, electricity and clothing. Heat isn't a luxury, and with winter coming it appears that this government is intent on telling low income Islanders, seniors and those on fixed incomes to choose between the basic necessities of keeping warm or eating supper.

I know this is a new government that is sorely in need of new sources of revenue. However, I caution this administration to tread very carefully with this initiative and think of the long-term consequences. We are a small province, a province that is not rich in natural resources. But there is one thing we have in abundance: smart, capable people who are innovative thinkers. Let me give you an example.

Ten years ago Islanders were travelling the

new Confederation Bridge to shop in places like Moncton and Halifax, thereby losing needed government revenue streams to off-Island businesses and other provincial coffers.

The Progressive Conservative government took a long-term approach in the development of good economic governance when it implemented the elimination of provincial sales tax on clothing and footwear. The removal of the provincial sales tax on clothing and footwear purchased in Prince Edward Island not only created a niche market here in the province, but it has had a direct benefit on all Island residents as costs have been reduced for consumers and local retailers have enjoyed increased sales.

This, is a good example of progressive policy, where in the long term everyone benefits. I know that a new government can be eager, but it must learn to temper impulsiveness with prudent actions.

There's another consequence of introducing a harmonized tax, and it is diminished provincial control over a major revenue raising measure. Under the HST system, the provincial government would lose the power and the responsibility to set its own tax rate, therefore implying an enormous sacrifice of provincial fiscal sovereignty. Also, in moving to harmonization, provinces would have to accept not just GST rules, but those rules on tax-exempt sales and zero-rated sales that are embedded in the tax system. This would have significant implications for existing arrangements with municipalities, hospitals, universities, etc.

Then there are the long-term revenue implications. In 1996, the decrease in provincial sales tax from 10.7% to 8% produced estimated lost revenues of approximately \$23 million a year. In response, the federal plan offered a

compensation of roughly \$60 million to PEI. By the way, what if any compensation plans does the Provincial Treasurer have on the table right now?

At the time of implementation, the HST was also vehemently opposed by doctors in Atlantic Canada. According to the briefs the provincial associations presented to the federal government, the HST was expected to increase physicians' overhead costs by more than \$1,000 a year and to double the amount of tax they paid on office expenses such as rent, heat, and electricity. Doctors felt that the HST would cause difficulties to physician recruitment efforts in Atlantic Canada.

Dr. Kim Crawford, then-president of the Medical Society of Nova Scotia, stated that anything that affects overhead costs and your ability to make a living affects where you're going to set up shop. Considering the Island's current outstanding need for doctors, it can be assumed that any additional up-front costs to doctors will pose a significant threat to recruitment efforts.

In the past decade, Prince Edward Island has also initiated tax incentives and public policies that encourage the protection of the environment through rebates and exemptions on hybrid vehicles and renewable energy equipment for households. The adoption of the HST would bring these innovative measures to a standstill, thereby eroding the progress made to date and limiting future options for sustainability and conservation efforts.

In the ten years since the HST was adopted by our sister provinces, there has been a thorough review of the resulting economic impacts and outcomes. In a recent study by Michael Smart for the C.D. Howe Institute, the HST reform is seen, from a business perspective, to have led to significant increases in machinery and equipment

investment and is believed to have reduced the overall prices of consumer goods.

However, the study made particular note of an estimated 1.4% price increase for shelter, reflecting the extension of the tax base to include purchases of new houses, and a 1.5% price increase for clothing and footwear, which also reflects the broader base of the HST. Since expenditure shares for these categories tend to be larger for low-income households, these results suggest that the reform was regressive in that it raised average prices for low-income households.

In conclusion, the Harmonized Sales Tax reform supports the visible shift of tax burdens from the business sector to the household sector.

Though some of the burden to Islanders would be offset with lower personal income tax rates, higher tax-exempt basic personal amounts, enhanced working income tax benefits, or sales tax credits, it will not address the immediate impact that consumers face at the check-out.

In 1996, after serious consideration and thorough deliberation, Islanders made a decision to reject the HST, believing it would not be beneficial to this province or to its residents. For the same reasons that were stated then, and the realities that reflect the current status of our province, a harmonized sales plan remains an unacceptable option for Islanders.

In an October 2nd interview with CBC, the hon. Provincial Treasurer indicated that if the HST doesn't benefit everyone - if it doesn't - it won't be implemented.

I trust the minister will hold true to his words.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

I now turn this debate to the seconder of this motion, my hon. colleague from Montague-Kilmuir.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to stand and second this motion this evening.

Let's go back to the month of May, when Prince Edward Islanders were listening to Liberal campaign promises, including one called Islanders First for Tax Fairness.

The Liberal Party election literature clearly stated its commitment to putting Islanders first and would do this by providing greater fairness and equity in taxes.

The tax fairness material published by the Liberal Party of PEI covered fairness in fuel tax, in property tax, in income tax, and when it came to all government fees, the Liberal Party promised to put a two year freeze on all government license and permit service fees. Which that promise has already been broken with the increase to soil testing that's all ready taking place.

I looked, and I looked, but I couldn't find one Liberal campaign reference to introducing a Harmonized Sales Tax. It's interesting that this government has time to study a new tax scheme - a tax which will eliminate the PST exempt status Islanders now enjoy on a great range of items, not the least of which is your monthly electricity bill, your home heating bill, school supplies for your children, and the clothes on your back.

It's interesting, because in the short time we have been in this Chamber, we have heard one minister after another fail to answer questions because they haven't been briefed

yet or they were away for the weekend or they are too new to their portfolios. Yet they have made the time to tell Islanders that a new tax may be on the way.

It's interesting also how these ministers have had time to decorate their offices, have murals painted on their walls, take trips to places like Russia, Greece, and who knows where else.

I guess it is a matter of priorities. Here the Premier and the Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour had the time to frolic and make their acting debut but they cannot seem to find the time to ask their staff to post their quarterly expenses on the government web site. Yes, we can all see who this administration is putting first.

This government inherited a strong economy when it was sworn in earlier this year. For example, the number of Islanders in the workforce in 2007 stands at 71,000 people, which represents an increase of 12,000 over the last decade. We also saw the unemployment rate drop from nearly 19% in 1996 to just over 10% in 2007. Capital investment by public and private sector has increased by 175% since 1997, with more than \$100 million private sector investment taking place over the last three years. Island exports have grown by 185% over the past decade. Prince Edward Island's rate of economic growth from 2002 to 2005 was above the national average.

And keep in mind, Prince Edward Island is the only Atlantic province to consistently, year after year, add to its population base.

In the last ten years, government was able to take the traditional strengths of the Island economy and add dynamic new sectors. We don't have to look too far to see who deserves the credit. We can thank the leadership of my colleague, the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, as

well as his more than capable staff at Development & Technology, for PEI's growing economy.

It's when you have a government that really puts Islanders first that you see over one hundred IT companies employing over 2,000 Islanders. Where in this budget document is the strategy that will build upon the successes of the Progressive Conservative government? A government that gave Islanders new companies like CGI that are driving growth, and creating 150 new jobs in Stratford, employment numbers in excess of 1,000 people currently working in the Island aerospace industry, the industry which is now the province's second largest exporter.

Another example of really putting Islanders first is evident in another new industry to our province. Over the last three years, the number of companies in the Island bioscience sector has grown by 50% to 23, producing over \$60 million in revenues and employing almost 800 Islanders.

Then there are new companies like AIM, Trimark and Ceridian, who are creating over 700 new job opportunities for Islanders over the next three years in the growing financial and business services sector.

I worry, that all our economic growth and our economic diversity will be at risk with the implementation of a harmonized sales tax. I worry more, though, that this government will act rashly without gaining a comprehensive understanding of what this tax will mean to Islanders.

Why am I worried? On one hand this government appears to have praise for the buying public. In his Budget address the Provincial Treasurer said, and I quote:

"Madam Speaker, generally speaking, the Prince Edward Island economy is

progressing at a solid pace. In 2007, the Province gained more and better jobs. Further, there has been an appreciable increase in the retail sales sector."

The Treasurer goes on to tell Islanders, and again I quote:

"Based on statistical information to date... employment in Prince Edward Island has expanded by 1.4 per cent, nearly double the rate last year. In turn, this employment expansion has helped to fuel a 5.5 per cent growth in labour incomes and a 7.2 per cent increase in retail spending within the Province."

The truth is in the numbers, and even the Provincial Treasurer has had to acknowledge the progressive strategy that is the basis of our economy.

In moving this motion, the hon. Leader of the Opposition referred to the work of the special committee on the proposed harmonization tax, and Goods and Services Tax and the Provincial Sales Tax.

This special committee was established by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly in April 1996. Politicians of both political stripes served on this committee, and they undertook a serious and comprehensive look at the idea of introducing a harmonized sales tax.

This committee did its job, they sought public input, they heard from both sides of the issue, and they, in turn, reported its findings back to the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to read into the record the conclusion and recommendation reached by members of this committee:

After considering the matter, the committee has come to the conclusion that the Province of Prince Edward Island should not

harmonize its sales tax with the federal GST. The committee believes that the sales tax harmonization proposal would not be beneficial to the Province and its people. As well, harmonization would result in diminished provincial control over a major revenue raising measure.

I can only hope that this government takes the time to study the work done by this committee and come to understand that what is essentially a tax grab is a regressive measure.

I worry that all of the progress Islanders have made will come undone by this administration. Here we were, a world leader in energy renewables, and then this government announces that it's taking a hands-off approach to the development of future energy renewable projects, just when, I might add, Islanders were seeing a profit in their own pockets.

This means we will go from the leader of the pack to the bottom of the heap, and at the end of the day, Islanders will go back to being dependent on outside sources of energy. Why doesn't this government believe like we do that Islanders are capable of achieving a sustainable and yes, a profitable, renewable energy system right here on Prince Edward Island?

We have done it before. Prince Edward Island also received world-wide attention for its waste management system. We became the model that other jurisdictions envied and copied. Ten years ago, while scientists and governments were still arguing about the science of global warming, Islanders saw an opportunity to do something proactive to protect their environment. They took a leap of faith, and they bought into waste watch.

So what has waste watch done for us? Two thousand and seven marks the five-year Island-wide anniversary of Waste Watch

and what has all that sorting done for us? It's given us over 64% annual diversion of waste from landfill. That adds up to over 380,000 tonnes of garbage that is not sitting in garbage piles in communities across the province.

Islanders are proud of the fact that (Indistinct) unlined community dumps across the province have been closed. We are proud that PEI is the first province to achieve a 50% diversion for both commercial and residential wastes from landfill, and we are proud that over 13 million blue bags have been collected and recycled over this five-year period.

So while Islanders have been actively taking measures to preserve our environment, what have we heard from the Liberal members? Faint praise at best for the system. In fact, one Liberal member is on record - in fact, she's on record many times, complaining about the compost in Rose Valley. Well, she's in government now and I must remember to ask the hon. member what's she's done with this pile now that she is in charge of communities and is a minister of the Crown.

I understand the desire of a new government to make its mark and I applaud them for their energy, if not their ingenuity. However, if you believe that by introducing a harmonized sales tax you will have the money you need to keep your election promises, please make the decision to be honest and up front with Islanders, or better yet, be open and accountable and tell them the truth. The truth is that the introduction of a harmonized sales tax by this government is nothing more than a means to pay for the cut in the gas tax or, as Islanders would put it, robbing Peter to pay Paul.

How do we propose to tell Islanders who are on fixed incomes, who are seniors, or who struggle to make ends meet week to

week, that in addition to a huge hike in electricity rates, in addition to volatile oil prices on the world market, in addition to hearing a child ask for a new pair of indoor sneakers for school, how do you tell them that each and every one of these items will now cost 8% more?

I don't know why this surprises me, but it does. Surely this government with the many - and I mean many - election promises it made to Islanders can find another means to honour its commitments. Why not formulate progressive economic measures that benefit everyone. Where are your plans? We have all heard the sound bites. Now it's time to ante up and put your cards on the table. Is adding a new tax your government answer to everything?

Granted, taxes are revenue generators for governments, but in the long-term, an investment in the people of Prince Edward Island, an investment in their abilities and their ideas, would result in a much bigger payout for this province and its future. That indeed would be a tax plan that puts Islanders first.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Anybody else?

The hon. Provincial Treasurer .

Mr. Sheridan: Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the motion. I appreciate that.

I'd like to make one thing very clear at the outset of this motion, that there has been no announcement made with regards to HST. We have had some very preliminary looks at this. Investigation is ongoing to look at how we can be more fair to Islanders with regards to tax fairness.

This is what has become very clear with this new government. Since taking power back in June we have stood very clearly for tax fairness. The very first thing that we did was that we decreased gas tax by 4.4 cents per litre.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sheridan: This is only partially enough to offset the 8 cent increase that the prior administration had put forward in the seven years. We have to try to bring tax fairness to everyday Islanders. This is not a tax grab. Anyone that is aware of what HST looks like, this is not a net-net new tax to the province. We're looking at tax fairness. We're very well aware of the report that was tabled back in April 1996. We have begun to look at the circumstances now within our province to see whether harmonized taxes would be more fair to Islanders.

The second piece that we moved on as soon as we came to power is just making sure that everyone knows that we are going to freeze taxes to 2010. Property taxes on Prince Edward Island rose 70% from 1997 through 2007, just despicable amounts. We all know what it looked like, we all know what it felt like. We're talking about tax fairness here. We will freeze these property taxes and we will move towards tax fairness for Islanders.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sheridan: The third piece that we have moved on and have shown that we're going to do inside in our first budget is that we're going to increase the disability tax credit. We stand for tax fairness for each and every Islander, especially those that are not as fortunate as others.

With these three pieces, the gas tax, the property tax and now the disability tax credit, we will move toward that. This HST investigation is just that. We want to make

sure that we are bringing to Islanders a fair taxation system. We would be amiss if we did not investigate what an HST would look like for this Island with regards to business growth, with regards to every single Islander being better off, and that's what we're looking for when we decided to begin looking at this tax.

So with that behind us, I would like to move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Technology and Development, the following amendment to the motion:

I would like to begin by deleting the first whereas and substitute one to six below, starting with number one:

Whereas the Liberal government is clearly pursuing policies designed to lower taxes for Islanders;

And whereas the policy direction of lower taxes follows a decade of unprecedented increases;

And whereas Islanders have grown weary of tax increases over the past decade under the former Conservative administration;

And whereas the tax on a litre of gasoline rose from 12 cents in 1997 to 20.2 cents when they were defeated in the 2007 general election;

And whereas property tax revenues under the former Conservative administration rose by 70% between 1997 and 2007;

And whereas these increases caused genuine hardship for many Islanders.

I would like to follow that up by moving the second whereas to the position number seven and read it as this:

And whereas Prince Edward Island is currently the only maritime province not

operating under the Harmonized Sales Tax;

Then I would like to delete the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth whereases and replace with eight to ten as reads - I will have a copy of this for the clerks:

And whereas Prince Edward Island does not currently impose provincial sales taxes on areas such as clothing and footwear;

And whereas the Islands current system has allowed the province to offer rebates and exemption in selected areas;

And whereas the government must maintain its flexibility to pursue such progressive policy measures;

Then I would like to delete the ninth whereas and replace it with number 11, which will read:

And whereas the government believes that tax fairness is a basic principle;

Replaced with the single resolve, and this is how I will end it, with the pair below:

Therefore be it resolved that this Assembly endorse any measures to improve tax fairness for Islanders;

And be it further resolved that any changes to the tax system will be credited on a full and comprehensive consultation with Islanders.

Thank you very much.

Speaker: You have a seconder for your amendment?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes I do, the hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Bagnall: Can we have a copy?

Speaker: Yes, they're gone to get it.

Mr. Bagnall: There are substantial changes.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

All the motion is doing is allowing this Assembly to go out and look at this item, not to impose any new taxes, not to change any tax system on (Indistinct). The opposition is fully aware that if any tax changes that have to come before this House, it has to be done through a bill and a piece of legislation.

What is the opposition saying to Islanders tonight? They don't want to look at any new taxation form or any new ideas. They just want to bury their head in the sand and forget about everything and just go their merry way. That's not the way it works in this society.

Yes, there was a report done in 1996 that said: Let's not go to it. A lot of provinces were thinking the same way, but most of the provinces in the Maritimes have gone to it. I'm not saying we're going to go to it, this government, but at least let's take a look at it first and see what we can do.

Let's say we do get the HST in. It's an automatic 3% decrease in sales tax on a lot of items that Islanders pay for right now, 3% decrease in a lot of Islanders. Let's explore what that will do to Islanders. Other provinces have instituted rebate systems for low income families at a threshold when this comes in. Let us just take a look at it. Let us put a report together and table it in this Legislature next year, if that's the case, if

that's what is going to be done by this resolution tonight. At least let us take a look at it.

That's all this amendment will allow us to do. We're not imposing any tax. The opposition has gone out and told people that we're going to do this. Nowhere has it said this on our platform, nowhere has the Premier indicated that that is going to be done, nowhere do we have it on our legislative agenda for this session, nowhere is it being done through legislative review at this point in time.

But is the opposition saying: Let's not look at any new system that may be fair to Islanders, or not let's look at any new tax idea? You didn't have all the ideas, you know. You were the ones in 2003 told Islanders just before an election you're going to have an \$8 million deficit and right after the election you came in with a \$125 million deficit. These are the same people that told Islanders the forecast in 2003 was going to be an \$11 million deficit and came in at a \$54 million deficit. These are the same people that said that. Because you know why? You didn't want to look at new ways to do things.

As for the Government House Leader, who indicated all the new progressive things he done. If you go through Hansard, their tax reform policy was based on a policy document that the Liberal opposition at the time tabled in the House. We demanded lower income taxes for corporations, we demanded higher thresholds for corporations on this Island.

So it's an option. I'm just saying, let us take a look at, let us review it. If it comes back no good, we're not going to do it. We're not going to impose any new taxes on Islanders. That is what we ran on, that is what we'll continue to do in this Legislature.

But to say: Let's not look at anything, let's not look at any new ideas, let's not look at how we can be fair for Islanders. We have companies in right now asking us to take a look at this. That's all we're going to be doing here. I can assure this House - and our Premier has said it time and time again - anything that's done has to come back to this House.

So is the opposition saying: Let's forget about it, let's not study anything, let's not look at anything, let's not see what could benefit Islanders more? Are they just saying that? Can you not allow us to do the analysis or you just want to say: Cancel it right now, let's do nothing and let's carry on our merry old way.

This just allows us to do it. Before any decision is made there will have to be a bill presented before this House. At that time, the opposition will have ample opportunity to discuss that bill at that time. That's if, and that's a big if.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Would anybody else like to speak to the amendment?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to speak to the motion, the revised one. I was just reading from the *Guardian* from September 28th, where the province will examine harmonizing the taxes. It was a report that was done where the Premier was discussing that although it's not a priority, if the government finds it beneficial for all Islanders they will certainly put the HST.

I think the comments that are in this article

are terrific. I encourage all Islanders and all readers and all listeners who are listening tonight, who agree that it's shameful to even look at the HST, that they encourage people to express their displeasure by sending an e-mail directly to the Premier of the province tonight.

In this article, they also suggest that not only send it to the Premier, do it in a public forum in terms of the *Guardian* website or in the letters to the editor, but actually e-mail him.

Thank you.

Speaker: Is there anybody else who'd like to speak to the amendment?

Nobody else?

Question?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

An Hon. Member: A standing count, please.

Speaker: A standing count has been called.

A recorded division.

Sergeant-at-Arms, could you ring the bells, please?

An Hon. Member: We're good. We're all here.

Speaker: Thank you

Are you ready for the vote, members?

Some Hon. Members: Yes. Ready.

Speaker: Yes? Good.

All those voting against the amendment, please rise.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!

Clerk: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Opposition House Leader and the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Speaker: All those voting for the amendment, please rise.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works, the hon. Minister of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour, the hon. Minister of Development and Technology, the hon. Provincial Treasurer, the hon. Government House Leader, the hon. Minister of Health, Social Services and Seniors, the hon. Minister of Education and Attorney General, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, the hon. Minister of Tourism, the hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock, the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness, the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter, the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

Speaker: Thank you.

Thank you, hon. members. The motion is carried.

We will now move back to the original motion with amendment.

Anybody else want to speak to the original motion?

Mr. Brown: Can I speak?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, just to get my last word in here, all the motion is saying now: therefore be it resolved that this Assembly endorses any measure to improve tax fairness for Islanders.

The Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island got elected on a promise to be fair to Islanders, to be fair with taxes. We've heard, we're gone door to door during our campaign, and Islanders have told us time and time again we're overtaxed. Seniors are telling us we're overtaxed, and that's a reason that we have adopted this policy of tax fairness for Islanders. If we are looking at any changes to the tax system, we have the next be it further resolved that any changes to the tax system will be predicated on a full and comprehensive consultation with Islanders.

We're going to consult Islanders before we do any changes to our tax system, unlike the previous government who came in with gas tax amendments time and time again and never went to Islanders and asked them if they wanted an increase in their gas taxes. Not once did we see the opposition, when they were on this side of the floor, go to the people of Prince Edward Island and say: We're going to raise your gas taxes from 12 cents to over 21 cents. I sat in this House when amendments to the gas tax act came in time and time again, and never did they ever go and ask the people of Prince Edward Island on that matter.

They let property taxes go up time and time again, and the Provincial Treasurer at the time just kept saying: Be happy, the price of your house is going up. When you sell it, you're going to get more money. If you're a senior citizen living in your house and had no intention of selling your house, that meant nothing to you. So, again, didn't go to

Islanders for that.

All we're asking for in this motion is that we're going to consult Islanders when we make any tax changes. We did consult Islanders this election on two very important issues, lowering the gas tax and freezing their property tax. You can tell by the composition of this House, and by the amount of votes we got in the election, Islanders wanted those changes. So we on this side of the floor will make a promise to Islanders: we will consult Islanders before any changes are made to their tax system. We will allow Islanders to come to the Coles Building to make presentations on this very important issue before we make any changes. That's what this motion is saying.

That's all we're going to do here. Review it. We're not going to come into this Legislature and ram legislation through that has been done in the last ten years on increasing taxes to Islanders. We're going to consult first before we make any changes to our tax system, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Would anyone else like to speak to the motion?

I'll send it back to you, Leader of the Opposition.

Oh, sorry. Sorry, I didn't see you there, hon. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

Mr. MacKinley: Thank you very much.

I would just like to add a few words to the amendment here. I've been here for a long time.

Speaker: It's the main motion, Minister.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, to the main motion as

amended, right? Yes.

But anyway, if you go back to the time when Cabinet made the decision not to go along with the harmonized tax, (Indistinct) my predecessors were there, because they didn't want - at that time I know the federal government under Brian Mulroney was offering money, trying to bribe them to go along with it, that way that Tories normally do. But anyway, the Tory party in Ottawa at that particular time, basically, what took place here was sitting around the caucus table - because we didn't want to put an extra burden on the homeowners for their fuel to burn in the winter, for the electricity they're using, for their telephones, etc.

Mind you, we did that when the price of gasoline tax was 11 cents, not like 20-some cents or 22 cents that this government imposed. This government imposed more taxes than you can think of. They should be ashamed to sit over there and even come on with a resolution. They should be supporting us on this one. It will take them out of their little hides they've been in for a long time, hiding from different people, and face reality. Your government increased taxes on property assessment by over 200% -

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!

Mr. MacKinley: - 300%. They've increased taxes on our forestry restoration fee by over 150%. There was nothing they didn't tax. Anything that moved, the taxes didn't move it, they taxed it.

That's where this government is, and I just can't believe they would have the gall to get up here in the House and not support this motion as amended. Because what they're doing is they're just making a mockery of everything here. Because they put in more taxes than you could ever believe, they put more (Indistinct).

With this, I'll be supporting the amendment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Would anybody else like to speak to the motion before I turn it over to the Leader of the Opposition to close debate?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Opposition cannot support the government's motion, the amended motion concerning the HST. I, too, had an opportunity not only in the spring to go door to door, but also most recently in the by-election of District 4, where it was on the doorstep that people were dead against the HST because they saw it as an unfair tax burden that would affect each of them in a very personal way.

When you think about HST, the Harmonized Sales Tax, it's going to have a far negative impact on all Islanders, but especially low income Islanders. We cannot support the amended motion.

Thank you.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Motions Other Than Government.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, Madam Speaker.

In conversation with the Government House Leader, it was agreed upon that after this resolution was debated tonight we'd revert to the government business. So, with cooperation, we're doing that.

Speaker: Thank you.

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Sheridan: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that Order No. 2 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 2, Consideration of the Estimates in Committee.

Speaker: The hon. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Sheridan: Madam 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 grant of supply to Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Deputy Speaker.

Chair (Biggar): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to further consider the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

We're starting on page 160. We're still discussing the executive office estimates.

Mr. MacKinley: Could I, Madam Chairperson, bring my deputy on the floor?

An Hon. Member: Agreed.

Chair: Questions?

Mr. M. Currie: Did we pass the first Executive Council office?

Chair: No, we did not.

Mr. MacKinley: No, we're still on it.

Chair: Is there any further discussion on that?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The salaries for that section were \$235,500. Can you give me a breakdown of what staff members that included?

Mr. MacKinley: That would be the deputy minister, Nancy MacKinnon, Louise MacDonald. That's now Bonnie MacDonald. I believe Louise MacDonald was there. I think that's the one you paved her driveway down in Cardigan one time when you were minister.

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Mr. MacKinley: No, you didn't? All right. Can't be the same Louise MacDonald. Anyway, she's now working with fisheries, the deputy minister of fisheries, I believe. Bonnie MacDonald is working there.

Mr. M. Currie: You had her removed, that's right.

Mr. MacKinley: What?

Mr. M. Currie: You had her removed.

Mr. MacKinley: I didn't have her removed. Her services were well required. She had so much experience and we had a new deputy of fisheries and a new minister of fisheries coming in, we needed somebody with some experience.

You would have had her removed if it had have been you in another way, but no, we didn't. I agreed to let her go down there and help them out and she's doing a great job. You're the one I think that caught for maybe - maybe you didn't pave her driveway. I

should go look at the pictures. Maybe it's not the same woman. Would that be the same one from Cardigan?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So do you mind telling me who the staff members are?

Mr. MacKinley: Steve MacLean, Bonnie MacDonald, Louise MacDonald. Actually this is last year's budget so it's Louise MacDonald and Nancy MacKinnon, who has been there for years.

Mr. Bagnall: Who is there at the present time?

Mr. MacKinley: I told you that. Bonnie MacDonald is the only one that is different. Louise MacDonald, as I said, has moved down to I believe fisheries, if I'm not mistaken. Tremendous lady, lots of experience. We had to send her down - she went down there -

Mr. Bagnall: Travel and training, 14,000. Can you give me a breakdown of what that was for?

Mr. MacKinley: Travel and training.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I can answer that. That's a general allowance for the travel for our office, my office. Of course in the current year that's not complete. Last year there was three meetings, two federal-provincial-territorial meetings, meeting in Ottawa, meeting in Whitehorse, and a meeting in Edmonton. This year we were just in Saskatoon, been to a meeting in Fredericton. I believe that's it.

Mr. Bagnall: This is out-of-province travel or is it in province travel?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Both.

Mr. Bagnall: It's all.

Mr. MacKinley: It's both.

Mr. Bagnall: It's both.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The in-province travel would relate to any travel that the admin support folks need to do in the normal course of business.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Director's Office - Finance and Human Resources. "Appropriations provided for the operation of the Director's Office." Administration: 9,300. Materials, Supplies and Services: 500. Professional and Contract Services: 12,800. Salaries: 131,200. Travel and Training: 6,000. Total Director's Office - Finance and Human Resources: 159,800.

Questions to the minister.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Professional and contract, do you got that (Indistinct) table?

Mr. MacKinley: Professional and contract services?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, table that please.

Mr. MacKinley: Do you mind if I go to my briefcase.

Mr. M. Currie: You think you'd be up to speed when you came in here to do your stuff.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll find it. If you had have been up to speed you would have known that's all tabled, I believe. Last year

we went all through this budget because it's really your budget, but I decided I'd just go up and get the information today in case you wanted it again. The office is upstairs. If it's not here we'll answer it for you. Could you answer what that is while I'm getting this?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: For the previous fiscal year, the kinds of professional services that this (Indistinct) supports were some legal services, Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales; Data (Indistinct) Limited, repairs to printers; Glenfinnan Enterprises for some professional services and road work - that's a survey company; PaperFlow Company repairs to printer; Donald MacLean, arbitration services consultant; and some expenses around the workshop training for staff. It totals about \$10,000, it's that sort of thing.

This year of course we're in the current fiscal year. There'd be a similar list. We wouldn't have a list of what we got to date, but it's that kind of thing.

Mr. M. Currie: It's been customary, though, that minister's always come to the floor and they always table all the information.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: This was tabled previously. For the benefit of the hon. member, there is only - there are 150 line items in this budget for our department. One line item is different then the budget that was carried in the spring.

Mr. MacKinley: While the member's looking for it - I got this from the group upstairs, what do you call them, the information, where everything is tabled from the Clerk's office.

TPW Leased Properties. I'll table it for you. I'll table the Department of Transportation and Public Works breakdown, professional services, highway safety division, 2006-

2007.

Department of Transportation and Public Works, breakdown of professional services, capital projects, 2006-2007. This was already tabled by Gail Shea, but I'll do it again. Breakdown for professional services and consultants, building construction planning, planning and capital projects, 2006-2007.

Department of Transportation and Public Works, breakdown of professional services, properties section, 2006-2007, was tabled during estimates by Gail Shea.

Professional services breakdown, 2006-2007 fiscal year, April 1st, 2006 through March 31st, 2007. Environmental management section, land and environment division.

Department of Transportation and Public Works, director's office, finance and human resources, breakdown of professional services as of the year ending March 31st, 2007.

Department of Transportation and Public Works, breakdown of professional services, office of the chief surveyor, 2006-2007, breakdown, professional services, (Indistinct) whatever this is, department/section, administration, was tabled by Gail Shea. I'll re-table it for you since you didn't get anybody to pick up the information, but it's all available upstairs if you want to get it.

This is the Department of Transportation and Public Works director's office, human resources, I already did that. I just tabled that. While we're at it, I might as well table this, too. Forecast, highway maintenance division, professional and contract services, fiscal year 2006-2007.

Department of Transportation and Public Works, provincial highway maintenance

operations, contracts and professional services, grass cutting, etc., snow removal contracts, sanding. Do you mind if I take a few seconds here? Forecast, highway maintenance division, provincial road maintenance program, materials, supplies and services was tabled by Gail Shea also in 2007, too.

Forecast, highway maintenance division, FY 2006-2007, provincial road maintenance program contract services, provincial recap program.

Forecast, breakdown, professional services, Department of Transportation and Public Works, highway maintenance, administration, 2005-2006.

Forecast, highway maintenance division, heavy ditching and unpaved road restructuring, materials, equipment rentals, contract services, Queens County, 2006-2007.

Forecast, highway - it might be the same here, I'm not sure. Prince County, highway maintenance division, heavy ditching and unpaved road restructuring, materials, equipment rentals, contract services.

Forecast, highway maintenance division, culvert purchase, 2006-2007.

Highway maintenance division, provincial road maintenance program. Contract and professional services, heavy ditching, private recap and government recap. Provincial programs, environment programs, culvert programs. Provincial programs, materials.

What else do we have here? One thing, Gail made a good job of tabling all this stuff. It's too bad you didn't follow through and see what she tabled.

Forecast. Professional, breakdown

professional services, Department of Transportation and Public Works, highway maintenance administration. Department of Transportation and Public Works, highway maintenance operation, materials and supplies and services. A lot of this stuff we put out to tender, too. You guys used to just hand it out to your friends, and we put it out to tender this year, was the difference. Just so you know.

Now, let's see, what else we got? Pages of it. Equipment rentals, highway maintenance division, 2006-2007. Equipment rentals for Prince County, equipment rentals for Queens County, equipment rentals for Kings County, equipment rentals for Prince County. Then descriptions of equipment and backhoes and culverts. Then we got tendered sand results. Highway salt, must have been tendered. Transportation of highway salt, (Indistinct) tendered. Hot mix asphalt supplies; magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride.

With that, I would like to ask to table this so they can see what's going on.

Speaker: Question?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Professional and contract services, 12,800. Will you tell me what each one of the - where that 12,800 was spent and to whom? How much was spent on each one?

Mr. MacKinley: Have you got all that?

Steve MacLean: We just tabled the -

Mr. MacKinley: We just tabled it.

Mr. Bagnall: That's all right. I still want the information from the minister.

Mr. MacKinley: Fine. I'll let the deputy tell you.

Steve MacLean: I just outlined it. (Indistinct) \$4,000. The actual spending in the prior year was \$10,490.39. That's in the document (Indistinct) that we just tabled. Legal services, Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales, that related to an Old Queens Road file down in -

Mr. Bagnall: How much was that?

Steve MacLean: - In eastern Kings. That was \$4,228.75. There were some printer repairs paid out of that account, \$900. Glenfinnan Enterprises, professional services account, \$3,225. That was surveying work related to the same Old Queens Road file. There were some printer repairs to a company by the name of Paperflow, \$894.14. There were some arbitration services related to a collective agreement grievance, to an arbitrator by the name of Donald MacLean, \$842.50. There was a workshop expense for staff training called Improvement Through Learning, \$400, that was paid from that account.

Mr. Bagnall: That was the total for the 12,800?

Steve MacLean: Last year the total was 10,490. The budget allowance was 12,800.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Steve MacLean: That could be this year. This is the current year we're in. It remains to be seen.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, 131,000 includes who in salaries?

Mr. MacKinley: That would be Bob Clow, Louise MacDonald, and Jeff Himelman. Is that correct?

Steve MacLean: That's right.

Mr. Bagnall: Say that again.

Mr. MacKinley: Bob Clow.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Louise MacDonald. Louise MacDonald's back over here. She's not getting paid. Are there two Louise MacDonalds?

Mr. Bagnall: Are you paying her from two departments?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know. You'll have to ask that (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean. The Louise MacDonald reference in the first case is the admin. support to the minister. Louise MacDonald's home position is as admin support to Bob Clow. It's even that way today. Louise is on secondment to work as admin support to the deputy minister of fisheries, but her home position is in the finance section reporting to Bob Clow.

Mr. MacKinley: So you're paying her two places. How does that -

Steve MacLean: No, we're not paying her two places. The budget exists, but -

Mr. Bagnall: You told me it was \$235, and that included three people that you were paying out of that department, in administration. Then you go down to the next one and you're telling me three people, and you're paying the same person again, to make up that \$131,000.

Steve Maclean: It's a position, not the person. The funding is there for the position. People will - there can be different individuals in it. Louise happens to be actually working - the individual Louise is

working in the Department of Fisheries right now. Okay? So there's an admin support position to director Bob Clow. That is Louise's home position at the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Bagnall: That's fine.

Travel and training. Is that \$6,000?

Steve MacLean: The question was?

Mr. MacKinley: Where was the \$6,000 spent.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Question, the breakdown.

Mr. MacKinley: It says \$6,000, travel and training.

Steve MacLean: Well, \$1,000 is allocated for in-province travel, \$4,000 for out-of-province travel. The minister mentioned earlier that Bob Clow was in Saskatoon with us last week. That would be the account that would pay for that kind of travel. A \$600 allowance for computer training.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, thank you.

Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Finance Section. "Appropriations provided for the operation of the Finance Section including the manager, support staff and related support costs." Administration: 13,300. Equipment: 500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 15,600. Salaries: 362,400. Travel and Training: 5,600. Total Finance Section: 397,400.

Mr. M. Currie: Who is director of this section?

Mr. MacKinley: Bob Clow I believe is the director, isn't he? Bob Clow is the director.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. MacKinley: This is the section that Parnell Kelly works in too.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Is he the director for both departments? Because he was the director for the previous one too.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: He's a director and his home position is the manager. He's acting as the director. The manager's salary is part of the savings that we contribute to during workforce renewal. The rest of the staff positions are all as they were.

Chair: Further questions?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Materials and supplies?

Mr. MacKinley: Materials and supplies: repairs and maintenance, 600; and printing is 15,000, printing for the department at Queens Printer; 15,600 is basically what the total is there.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon Members: Carried.

Chair: Human Resources Section.
"Appropriations provided for the operation of the Human Resources Section including the manager, support staff and related

support costs." Administration: 5,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 1,100. Salaries: 492,900. Travel and Training: 15,100. Total Human Resources Section: 514,600.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Who looks after this section?

Mr. MacKinley: Anne MacAulay, I believe, is it?

Mr. M. Currie: How many people are working there?

Mr. MacKinley: Janice Mooney, Anne MacAulay, Mary-Ellen MacDonald, Wendy Morrison, Syd MacMillan - I don't believe he's there now - Gerry Stewart and Irene (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: I thought Wendy Morrison was over on - she works on Riverside Drive, but she's part of this section, is it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No, Wendy Morrison works in the Jones Building.

Mr. M. Currie: She works in the Jones Building now?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Pardon me?

Mr. M. Currie: That's the same Wendy Morrison that was over there at one time?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yeah. Wendy Morrison that previously did admin support work with the director of highway maintenance.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Did I see where there was some announcement that you were

putting in surveillance cameras or something?

Mr. MacKinley: About which?

Mr. M. Currie: Surveillance cameras.

Mr. MacKinley: Those surveillance cameras were in some time ago, not something like you guys had the office swept and everything looking for bugs. Basically what happened was the departments were having some break-ins, so they checked with the police and everything (Indistinct) understand and the surveillance cameras are as you walk in or out of the office. He can explain a little more. I think they were there before I came, weren't they, or were they? I don't know.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The notice today relates to a piece of work we started back in February. In fact I think it was even January that the tender was issued. As the minister indicated, it relates to the way the public works department is responding to the need to be able to deal with security in a better way. We're having, as you may be aware, quite a number of cases of theft, laptop computers mainly. There was a bit of an organized approach by some individuals -

Mr. Bagnall: Did you lose some laptop computers?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Oh yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: How many?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Exact number, I'm not sure, hon. member, but I'd say it's somewhere more than six and somewhere less than ten. The very last one involved, the police authorities - and the individual was caught inside the building. A search was conducted. It's part of some

work we've been doing with and getting advice around what appropriate security level we should have in the facility. The advice we received is that the very least we ought to have is cameras at the exits.

Mr. Bagnall: So when were they installed, the cameras?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It would have started sometime in the spring. It's been a gradual thing. There is a lot of wiring to be done and there is more being added.

Mr. MacKinley: We had a problem with where you get a lot of, I believe, drugs in the pharmacy, isn't it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There is a number of issues that our staff or management staff respond to of this nature. There was never a notice given to staff that these cameras exist, it's just felt that it's something that everyone should be aware of for information, so that you know. As well, the more relative part of the memorandum was to explain to folks when they had to exit by the commissionaires both in the underground and sign out. The controls around when the doors are being locked are more strict.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't think there are any cameras in my office, are there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No cameras in your office.

Mr. MacKinley: There used to be. The former ministers used to have the RCMP to come in a couple of times when (Indistinct) away and bugged the office, but we haven't had to do that.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: So these cameras are more

than just your office, it's all of government buildings, then?

Mr. MacKinley: They're not in our office. I don't think they're not in the office, are they? (Indistinct) he'll tell you.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm not sure exactly where every installation is, but it was generally targeted around the exits and stairwells.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, okay. Could I ask, then, the individual that was caught, was that an employee or somebody off the street?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It was not an employee.

Mr. M. Currie: Somebody off the street.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Mr. Minister, a few years ago the department installed a new computer in one of the offices in the corner.

I'm just wondering, at that time, for their security, instead of buying plexiglass or secure the building, the minister of the day brought in some chicken wire and put it all up. Is that still securing the computers in that department or have you replaced the chicken wire?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know. Is the minister's office the same place it was?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The minister's office is the same.

Mr. MacKinley: It's the same so -

Mr. Brown: It wasn't chicken wire in the

minister's office, it was a computer put down in one corner and there was chicken wire -

Mr. MacKinley: Oh, they put chicken wire all around it. Well is that still there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know anything about chicken wire. Then or now.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Chair: Any other questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What was the cost for installing the security system?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't have the tender results with me, but I think it was in the order of about \$40,000.

Mr. Bagnall: Were they tendered?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have an RFP for that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you table that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I can table that.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Chair: Further questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Total Finance and Human Resources: 1,338,000.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Highway Safety, Registration, Safety and Scales. "Appropriations provided for the administration and enforcement of the *Highway Traffic Act*, the highway weight regulations under the *Roads Act* and the promotion of safety on the highways." Administration: 115,200. Equipment: 18,700. Materials, Supplies and Services: 334,700. Professional and Contract Services: 165,700. Salaries: 1,910,200. Travel and Training: 61,900. Total Registration, Safety and Scales: 2,606,400.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Who looks after this section now?

Mr. MacKinley: Highway Safety is John MacDonald and Tim Garrity, and I stand to be corrected.

Mr. M. Currie: Who?

Mr. MacKinley: Tim Garrity. John MacDonald and Tim Garrity.

Mr. M. Currie: I know John. There was another guy who use to go on t.v. from Summerside. Deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Graham Miner.

Mr. M. Currie: Graham Miner. Is Graham still there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Graham is still there, yes. Graham is the registrar.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-

Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Who works in this department besides those three? Can you give me a list of the names?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The salary total for that area is 1.9 million. We don't have a list of names to make up that 1.9 million, but we can.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll get it for you.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: Is this the section - are these the highway safety officers you are going to give the speeding guns to monitor construction sites and places like that?

Mr. MacKinley: Under the highway safety motor vehicles, we're going to train so many people in order to use what they call radar guns to help cut down on speeding through small towns, communities, to make the roads safer. We're going to target anything registered heavier than a three-ton truck. We're not going to be doing motor vehicles like cars or half-ton trucks. We're going after the bigger trucks that are going through the communities.

We just want to show them that we're out there and we're going to be training people, I believe - are we training them yet? The radar guns cost \$2,500 a piece and we bought two of them for \$5,000. I think it's money well spent. They'll be able to ticket people too.

Mr. Brown: So at construction sites or school zones like that, a highway safety vehicle could be there.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, if you give a school

zone. They want highway safety outside of Charlottetown, I don't know the procedure in Charlottetown, but if the school board phones, we're going to turn around and these highway people will be able to go out in unmarked cars or whatever and we're going to raise the fines also in construction zones. Because (Indistinct) through the House. I believe we're going to double fines in construction zones, our school zones for violations of speeders. We're going to try and get tough on some of this stuff here. That's been neglected for years and we want to do something about it. Make a difference.

Mr. Brown: Where would you get an idea like this now?

Mr. MacKinley: Idea like this?

Mr. Brown: Yes, like it sounds like a real good idea to me. I'm just wondering, did you read it somewhere or did you -

Mr. MacKinley: No, I read it from being in the House. I've been in the House and I criticized the minister for not getting enough RCMP on the road stuff and talking to RCMP over coffee or whatever. I came up with the idea: Why not go with radar guns and our highway safety people? I'm not in charge of anything else, I'm in charge of Transportation and Public Works. This is a way we can do something to make a difference.

During the election campaign, all across the province people were saying that it's dangerous in construction zones, people weren't slowing down, so we're going to double the fines there and also in schools zones. We're going to double the fines in school zones because our young people are the most important people we have in the future of PEI. More so than the other government did. All they wanted to do was \$5,000 maximum to pass the school bus, but they couldn't enforce the regulations.

Secondly, it's only \$500 if the truth be known. So we're going to get a little tougher on this and try and do something.

Mr. Brown: You're really putting the safety in highway safety, then.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Mr. Brown: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you not already have radar guns in your highway safety vehicles?

Mr. MacKinley: No, don't think so. Do we?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No.

Mr. MacKinley: No. We are training them through Holland College. We're going to train about 15 or so.

Mr. M. Currie: So when they used them before, where did they get them?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know.

Mr. M. Currie: Deputy, do you know?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Pardon me?

Mr. M. Currie: When they used them before to monitor certain communities, where did they get the radar guns?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: To the best of my knowledge, hon. member, our highway safety commercial enforcement staff have never had radar.

Mr. MacKinley: No. This (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Would you check on that

for me?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I can.

Mr. MacKinley: I'll find out for you. The community that you're talking about, Stratford, they have bought or purchased or leased a radar gun and sits on the side of the road.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: That says you're going too fast. I never heard tell of highway safety - I mean, you're a minister of transportation, did you have radar guns in the cars then?

Mr. M. Currie: I'm not sure, but I think it was a request made by a community once for - to monitor traffic going through a community and highway safety came out and done it. I don't know where they got it.

Mr. MacKinley: Your department probably used a stopwatch or something.

Chair: Further questions.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, are you putting up the license fee drivers? Driver license and registration.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't think so. Does that fall under us?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It does.

Mr. MacKinley: No, they're not. Definitely not. I can only speak for the department here. I know how you guys used to hammer everybody's license and registration, but I have to apologize. I thought it might come under finance or something. But it doesn't. No, we're not.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you planning on reducing it, then?

Mr. MacKinley: No, we're going to leave it the same.

Mr. M. Currie: I thought you were going to put Islanders first.

Mr. MacKinley: We are putting them first. Yes, more than you fellows did.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you believe in photo radar?

Mr. MacKinley: Time will tell. We're looking into that.

Mr. M. Currie: Ah ha, we're going to have photo radar.

Mr. MacKinley: The city is looking for photo radar. There's some pictures of photo radar and how they work.

Mr. M. Currie: He's taking pictures of cars already.

Mr. MacKinley: Basically what they are is notice to registered owner, identification number. On July 21, 2007, at 12:19 a motor vehicle bearing a certain license plate number speeded at 52 kilometres in a 30-kilometre zone, located at 20026 Avenue SW by the Calgary Police service and our fax number and telephone numbers. Then it goes on to say the date, time, officer, ban, limits, speed and then it goes on to say the fine down below here of how much the fine. You mail in your cheque. So that's your total radar.

Now if you want to look at some photo radar here, there's a whole - enclosed there's a history of photo radar.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that RFP?

Mr. MacKinley: There's also red light cameras. There's also red light camera too. Are you familiar with red light camera?

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Mr. MacKinley: You're not?

Mr. M. Currie: You can table that.

Mr. MacKinley: Are you not ready for - yes, all right, I'll table it. I just need it back.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that the RFP you're going for photo radar?

Mr. MacKinley: No, this is just briefing notes on a whole bunch of stuff that was delivered to our office. Like community and cultural affairs got it on June 5th, 2006. I think that was your government was in power there. October 25th, 2004 was sent to - Gail Shea wrote back etc. I mean, this isn't new.

Mr. M. Currie: Will you issue a press release?

Mr. MacKinley: City Police of Charlottetown, then we got - 2007 briefing notes, March -

Mr. M. Currie: I was wondering what all the stuff was.

Mr. MacKinley: Public support -

Mr. M. Currie: They were hiding all of it.

Mr. MacKinley: - photo radar, red lights. October 3rd, 2006, approved photo radar use in school zones 88%. You must have done a poll on it, did you? You guys must have done a poll because here it says a survey results poll for photo radar school zones 88%, approved (Indistinct) a neighbourhood. Anyway, I'll table all this. It's just information to make a decision on. We're looking into it. We don't have time to get it through legislation this fall. There are some questions about the city, whether they can enforce it or not.

So Stan Campbell sent a letter to hon. Mildred Dover, Attorney General, May 15th, 2006.

Mr. Brown: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know what they were. There's polls said they should have been. I don't know. Were you for it or not? Can you remember?

Mr. M. Currie: You're in government now. You have to deal with it.

Mr. MacKinley: May 12th, 2005, Cecil Villard, chair of the police bylaw enforcement committee, City of Charlottetown sincerely Gail Shea wrote him back: Thank you for your letter. I want to apologize for the delay. In responding to you at a busy time with the department. (Indistinct) department.

It's the province not changing the position with respect to making amendments of the Highway Traffic Act to accommodate (Indistinct) technology at this time. It is our opinion that the City of Charlottetown could adopt photo radar technician using the municipal bylaw and in this way the city can exercise its direction on how to deliver this service.

That's from your minister. I sort of think she was right on that case too. The city might have the power to do it now, under the law. The city lawyer says they don't have the power. Our people seem to think they do. So with that I'll table it and just like to get a copy back, because it's the only copy I have.

Mr. M. Currie: So I gather from that your people seem to think that you can. So you will be bringing in photo radar?

Mr. MacKinley: What?

Mr. M. Currie: Are you going to be

making a announcement or a press release?

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know what we're doing yet.

Mr. M. Currie: I know that.

Mr. MacKinley: We're talking -

Mr. M. Currie: We all know that.

Mr. MacKinley: We're not bringing photo radar -

Mr. M. Currie: Islanders are quite familiar with that.

Mr. MacKinley: Listen, we're not bringing in photo radar into our highway, RCMP patrol. We're not bringing in red light cameras. No, just wait.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chair, carried.

Mr. MacKinley: Just wait till I'm finished.

Mr. M. Currie: Go to the next section.

Mr. MacKinley: No, just a second. I have to finish answering. No. I got to finish the answer. We are taking a real serious look at the city's request to have the legislation - in order to have photo radar. That's what we're doing. In other words, you guys didn't listen to the city. At least we're listening.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: There was one question. I didn't get.

Mr. Bagnall: Hon. minister, maybe the deputy can answer this. In your conversation with the Attorney General's office, what did they tell you on these -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Order, please.

Mr. Bagnall: Your highway safety carrying radar guns. What was the conversation with the Attorney General?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm not sure what conversation you're talking about.

Mr. Bagnall: In order to do that you'd have to change legislation to allow highway safety people to have radar guns across the province. So what conversation did you have with the Attorney General's office, and did they come back to you and tell you what you'd have to do in order to make this legal?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Hon. member, I do know that the director and the senior officials in the department that supervise the commercial officers have done their homework in terms of ensuring that the authority is there as peace officers. They've had discussions with service providers that would be involved in the training and certification and accreditation. I don't profess to know the specifics of it myself, other than (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Maybe the Attorney General can respond to this then.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't think we have to change the legislation.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's something that I'd have to -

Mr. MacKinley: They're peace officers. Whatever we got to do, we'll do it.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: - consult with my staff on it to see if in fact there was any significant debate or issues.

Mr. Bagnall: The Attorney General is willing to respond to that.

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

Mr. Greenan: I don't know the specifics but I can get that information for the hon. member.

Mr. MacKinley: I have full confidence in John MacDonald in the department down there. I have full confidence in the highway safety division of the province of PEI, including Mr. MacEwen, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Garrity, whoever it is. Full confidence that we'll be able to do something. Because our government is going to do something, more than your government did.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I would like to get some information from the minister and the department on the conversations that he had, whether legislation will have to be changed in order for this to take place. First of all, if so, what has to be done?

Mr. MacKinley: That's a good point, but we never had any conversation, I was briefed.

Mr. Bagnall: According to legislation that went through before, they were never allowed to have radar (Indistinct) so you're making a policy change, you're making a change for their position. Are they allowed to do it under the present legislation or does legislation have to change in order for this to take place?

Mr. MacKinley: We're not going to have them all trained or trained before Holland College. It will probably be in the spring, and if we have to bring in legislation we'll bring in legislation and I'm sure you'll support it. But if not, we'll get back to you with our legal counsel and what they're saying.

Mr. Bagnall: So we'll hold on to this section until you get back with that information?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, no problem.

Mr. Bagnall: Thanks.

Chair: Moving on, then.

Land and Environment. Environmental Management. "Appropriations provided for staff and related services in providing environmental services to department operations." Administration: 9,700. Equipment: 1,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 4,400. Professional and Contract Services: 23,000. Salaries: 393,400. Travel and Training: 45,800. Total Environmental Management: 477,800.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this Brian Thompson?

Mr. MacKinley: This is Brian Thompson's section, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: How many people are there now?

Mr. MacKinley: Brian Thompson himself, as you know, is also a well-qualified engineer. He's got a secretary and four technical staff, I believe, when this budget went through. I stand to be corrected. I know that one of them took a dollar out of me the other day because they bet on what the first question you'd ask in the House and I was wrong and they were right.

Mr. Bagnall: What, Dunedin Bridge?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. MacKinley: They were wondering what the first question would be. I'll ask the (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Professional and contract services, 23,000. Can I have a breakdown of that?

Chair: First we'll go to Montague-Kilmuir and then we go to development and technology.

Mr. MacKinley: It's tabled. If you want to wait until we get it back on the table?

Mr. Bagnall: No, you would have that in your briefing one you can tell me.

Mr. MacKinley: All right, I'll tell you. Jacques Whitford Limited.

Mr. Bagnall: How much?

Mr. MacKinley: Twenty five hundred dollars; Victoria Communications, 5,624.09; Victoria Communications, 2,432,85.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's contamination in Victoria property.

Mr. MacKinley: All right, I'll leave it to you then.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Jacques Whitford Limited is a geo-technical company that we rely on to do some environmental testing of soil, contamination in particular, or they can actually provide some assistance on a range of technical matters that relate to our land holdings. There are about 12 assignments ranging from \$862 to \$5,624.

Mr. Bagnall: Eight what, minister? You said there was eight clients, or what did you

say? It was eight something.

Mr. MacKinley: Eight contaminants, wasn't it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Eight assignments. Eight pieces of work, eight different files, if you will. The smallest was related to some assessment on the Fullertons Marsh Bridge renovation. It was valued at \$862.58. The largest was related to a contamination site in Victoria, \$5,624.

Mr. Bagnall: Victoria, PEI?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Pardon me?

Mr. Bagnall: Victoria, PEI?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Victoria, PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: What was that contamination?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It was provincial property that there was some old underground petroleum contamination that we weren't aware of. Someone was doing some excavating and it became apparent in the (Indistinct) basically. As I recall, it was maybe an old service station nearby that long since had been abandoned and the tank has been located. If I remember correctly, the tank was located actually in the right of way and the adjacent land owner was doing some work and it was discovered. It was our responsibility, our government's responsibility, to do the clean up.

In addition to the testing that Jacques Whitford does of that nature, there are also some fees to Coastal Ocean Associates, professional fees in miles for Mark MacNeill. Mark MacNeill is an oceanography expert. When the department is undertaking bridge replacement projects, the question of whether the existing opening

of the bridge is sufficient to allow tidal exchange. The need to do that sort of assessment that feed into the engineering design work, we hire outside expertise for that. There is \$2,400 for that work.

Mr. Bagnall: Was there a study done like for the Montague bridge?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Don't believe so, specifically, no. The Montague bridge, there was no causeway, there was no restriction. It was completely full span to begin with so there would be no need for that sort of thing. We would take some water testing and some - there is a professional charge here as part of Transport Canada. The Transportation Association of Canada is a project that we were participating in, \$5,000.

So the previous year was actually \$36,000, which was a bit over budget, but that's what that allowance is for, that kind of stuff.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Development and Technology.

Mr. Brown: During the election I was at an environmental debate with the former premier and he indicated there that in the ditches to stop erosion during construction and that, you use to use hay bales and they were no good, that they didn't work. Are we using hay bales now or what are we using for erosion control when construction jobs are done now?

Mr. MacKinley: When I came up the York Point Road it was a private contractor, but it was a ditch and looked like it was mulched straw or something. We would do it different ways and we would have mulch - some people do mulch, and I believe there are some people on the Island, Island Coastal and some up west, down east, that

have mulch and they put it on and it grows fairly quick. Is that not correct?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: You're absolutely right. There is a range of solutions that are tailored to the severity of the site. Every permit that's issued, the folks in this section will do an assessment of what's required from the standpoint of sediment control. We've a standard environmental protection plan that outlines those measures. The permits would include specific direction to the department management to use a certain number of (Indistinct) maybe a sketch, something very specific, prescribed, but it's all designed to be enough. But, you know, (Indistinct) -

Mr. Brown: So this section, this person goes to every job and just makes sure that it's environmentally safe, and the department of environment?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, they do an excellent job.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The department does its own permitting, (Indistinct) alteration permits, environmental protection permits up to a certain level of complexity, and within those permits the conditions would be specified and staff would know. As the minister said, there's a range of very simple use of mulch to check (Indistinct) rock (Indistinct) and various scale size.

Mr. MacKinley: If you're driving up the No. 2 highway you'll see, like, rock put in there and you'll see - it's called a holding, where the water will go up so far and it goes over that. The silt is supposed to catch there, and in theory it's not supposed to get to your brook. Then you see that black curtain they use and also the problem - hay straw bales are good, but they are hard to catch, get a hold of, because there's not a lot of people baling them anymore. The round bales are

too big and awkward to handle except to put through a mulcher. But in order to get something to grow there, they mix a solution up in order for it to grow real quick.

Mr. Brown: So when you put that green stuff down, the grass -

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, that's what they call mulch.

Mr. Brown: - how long does that grass take before it starts growing?

Mr. MacKinley: Depends on the time. Why didn't you ask when we put it down?

Mr. Brown: Middle of the summer, I guess.

Mr. MacKinley: Middle of the summer.

Mr. Brown: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: It'd probably take root and be growing green in a couple of weeks, would it, Steve? Two or three weeks, but if it's this time of the year, no. That's why we'd like to get everything done and get the plows on. So we're ready to go plow snow. Because it might seem warm out there, but any day it can turn cold, and we got to protect the environment.

So we got to watch all you people looking for this extra road work this time of year. I guess we'll wait till next year because we want to protect the environment and we have an environment department that makes a great job and is in charge by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Brown: Okay. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Did your department get charged anytime for breaking any

environmental rules this summer?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know. You'll have to ask the deputy.

Mr. M. Currie: You're the minister, you should know.

Mr. MacKinley: I mean, I've only been the minister since June. Since June 12th I got sworn in, I guess. I don't believe there was any charges ever laid against the department or I would have known about it since June 12th. What you did - I could go to my briefcase - you were charged different times. You know that, Mr. Member.

Mr. Brown: You're not bringing (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I have it here, it's all here.

Mr. M. Currie: Deputy, have you got any charges against your department?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No charges. We've received a warning.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, and what was that for? Fredericton?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes it was.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, okay. Now your memories are coming back. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

Mr. McIsaac: Just wondering if you mention (Indistinct) what did it cost to do the Fullertons Marsh bridge? Cost share, I'm sure, with the feds. What was their cost for the total thing and what was the provincial share, if it was cost-shared? Do you know, any idea off hand?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I do know that the project was 100% provincially funded. There was no federal participation. To give you a completely accurate answer I would have to go back and get some information from the department. I'm going to say I think in the order of 1.3 million.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. MacKinley: You know out there by the hospital. Did we nearly get charged there? By the hospital.

Mr. M. Currie: Those buildings you tore down illegally up in Fredericton. Whose district is that in?

Mr. MacKinley: In Fredericton? I believe the minister of community and cultural affairs.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, thank you.

Mr. MacKinley: I believe, I stand to be corrected. Used to be, I believe, maybe Beth MacKenzie or someone. We're doing so much work it's hard to figure out whose district we're doing it in.

Mr. M. Currie: Nice to see you doing something.

Chair: Further questions?

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Properties. "Appropriations provided for the management of Provincial Lands". Administration: 114,000. Equipment: 3,000. Materials, Supplies and Services: 5,200. Professional and Contract Services: 38,700. Salaries: 675,900. Travel and Training: 32,000. Total Properties: 868,800.

Any questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Administration, 114,000, what does that include?

Mr. MacKinley: Office supplies, telephone and cells, property tax - we must be charging property tax to ourselves - miscellaneous, \$1,000. Adds up to 114,000.

Mr. Bagnall: What's the property tax?

Mr. MacKinley: What's the property tax? Federal, provincial or what? Property tax. Maybe it's to the towns. I don't know but we'll find out.

Chair: Another question.

Mr. Bagnall: No, I think he's getting that information for me now.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll have to get that back to you.

Mr. Bagnall: You'll bring that back to us?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. Because I just don't know myself.

Mr. Bagnall: Thirty-eight thousand seven hundred for professional and contract services. Can you tell me what they are, and list the amount for each contract?

Mr. MacKinley: Survey properties, \$752.35, Locus Survey Limited; McQuaid, Ellis & Associates, \$3,550, property appraisal; \$2,908 for consultant services; Provincial Treasury registry fees, subdivision fees, \$6,073.55; Jacques Whitford, consultant fees, \$5,167.50; Ronald Smith -

Mr. Bagnall: What was that for, Jacques Whitford?

Mr. MacKinley: Consultant services. I don't know. While he's looking that up, I'll just continue here for you. Search and titles, Ronald Smith, \$375.00; B. Clinton Construction, demolition, environment, clean up, sewage property; Creeds Petroleum, \$13,402.59, clean up property. I can't make out the writing. Whose writing is that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's my writing.

Mr. MacKinley: It's his writing. He'll tell you in a second here.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The B. Clinton Construction, that was demolition and cleanup on the property of Souris.

Mr. Bagnall: What property in Souris?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It was an EISI property. Old brick building, there was an oil spill. I think the member from Georgetown remembers discussing it with me at the time.

Mr. M. Currie: In Souris?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There was an old pumping station, Bunker C, an old fish plant.

Mr. MacKinley: Was that in the Souris wharf?

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No.

Mr. Brown: (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I forget the name of the - it's really old. I'm going to say 20, 30 years before - since it stopped operating, but it's a parcel of land that the province took ownership of as a result of an

economic development project. We got a number of those. As the owners, this section has to deal with some of these kinds of issues that crop up from time to time.

Like that earlier question about the oil tank. This was an underground tank of some sort on a piece of government property that hasn't been used for some time. There's a problem discovered and there needs to be a cleanup made. You have a budget that's established at - I think this budget we're talking about right now is 38,700. The total from last year for that account was 88,000. So it's very difficult to control expenses on it.

Mr. Bagnall: Continue with the rest of them.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Creeds Petroleum, same project. There was also some work that they did. The total was 88,000 overall. The earlier question about Jacques Whitford, I don't know what that is. I don't have that with me. I'd have to go back (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: That's fine.

Mr. MacKinley: That cleanup was \$55,840.14. Creeds Petroleum also was in that project for \$13,402.59, which is basically 69,000 it cost us for that one cleanup, whatever it was. You want us to get back to you what Jacques Whitford was for?

Mr. Bagnall: No. We're okay on that.

Chair: Did you have a further question, the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. How many acres do you have now in your possession?

Mr. MacKinley: Acres of what?

Mr. M. Currie: Land.

Mr. MacKinley: What you gave away, we got it back. So we have a little more than we ever had, I know that. How many acres did we pick up there. Remember you gave it away there? Now we got it back. So that means we got more. Sally's Beach, you turned it over, now we got it back. So what else have we got in acres? Is there anything there on acres? What page is that on?

Mr. M. Currie: You should read your briefing book.

Mr. MacKinley: The land's been changing so much hands. They do I forget how many transactions in a year. Just fixing up your mistakes is costing us a lot of money, so how do we know if this is accurate or not? I guess this is before we did it.

Mr. M. Currie: You're the minister, you're responsible.

Mr. MacKinley: Properties. So where do we find the properties?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There is a total of properties, there is a total of the public roads.

Mr. MacKinley: All right. There is 92,258 acres, I stand to be corrected.

Mr. M. Currie: Say that again?

Mr. MacKinley: Ninety-two thousand two hundred and fifty-eight acres, is that correct?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's right.

Mr. MacKinley: And there is 28,952 acres of public roads for a subtotal of 1,212,110 acres. Would that be correct? There are no zeros after this. No, it wouldn't. Yeah, 121,210 acres. There is surplus land of 664 acres for a total of 121,884 acres is

(Indistinct) essential roads and surplus.

Mr. M. Currie: Does that include all the land that (Indistinct) departments are agents for?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's the total acreage of everything we own on PEI?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: With the exception of the Crown corp that development and technology (Indistinct) for. Business Development Inc., there would be some very small - in terms of the scale it would be very small, but essentially there are about 1,850 parcels, 93,000 acres of properties. I think 75,000 of that 93 is managed by one of the other line departments of Transportation and Public Works.

Mr. M. Currie: Could you tell me if you're out actively searching for land in Pools Corner for the new Montague Regional High School? Kings County high school.

Mr. MacKinley: Wouldn't have to search too far down there because you got an industrial park with not much in it.

Mr. M. Currie: Sounds like you're going to fill yours up - your buddies.

An Hon. Member: Don't go there.

Mr. MacKinley: I'm just telling you (Indistinct). I sort of like the spot there but we're going to listen to the school board on this one, where they want to go.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Hon. minister, you got 92,000 acres of public land under your department management, is that correct? Is that what

you just told me?

Mr. MacKinley: I think it's under some other departments. Development has got some, doesn't it? (Indistinct) will have some, he will tell you.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The department holds land for all of government. The total of that is 93,000 acres. Something in the order of 75,000 is managed by the line departments under management plan.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have an inventory of all the lands?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Can I have a copy of them? Can you table a copy of the -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'd need to know what form you'd like to have it.

Mr. Bagnall: Just where it is and the acreage on each and every property.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: If I may - just simply that there is an Island map and it shows each department, colours (Indistinct) and what it is.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh, does it?

Mr. M. Currie: That would be sufficient, I think, and then the acreage.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The atlas produced by the department of environment?

Mr. M. Currie: Pardon?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Is that what you mean?

Mr. M. Currie: I think you have it but - I'm pretty sure you do.

Mr. MacKinley: So what is it you want now? Do you want -

Mr. M. Currie: It's a listing, but there is a map that's colour coded by department for every section of land, whether it's coastal, inland, or under the forest program or stuff, years ago.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's why I asked the question. We can produce a table which will give you the PIDs, property ID numbers and the size and the assessment, or we can produce maps. Big job, there are 1,855 parcels.

Mr. Bagnall: Which is the easiest for you?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know.

Mr. Brown: I got a question. Government grants, that would be registered under the department of transportation?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Perhaps I'll find what is the easiest and if that suits the hon. member we'll go -

Mr. Bagnall: I'll go either way. Whichever way -

Mr. MacKinley: I'll take the hon. member in and let him look it up, whatever he wants.

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

Mr. Mitchell: Just a question (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not on the map, no.

Mr. Bagnall: There would be no property numbers on the map?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It depends on the scale. Some maps wouldn't, and that's why I questioned about the format. If you look at the atlas that the department of environment produced, which is a very nice tool to look for government land property, the scale that is now there is not sufficient (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: When you're going to see property (Indistinct) what is there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It might be best to take the minister's suggestion and come in and meet with staff and we could show you what you have.

Mr. MacKinley: Go in with Leo there, he'll show you what you want look everything up for you. How is that?

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood, did you get your question?

Mr. MacKinley: Leo Creamer.

Mr. Mitchell: I got my question. Thank you.

Chair: Sorry about that.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: I don't know if I heard your answer, but is your department out surveying or looking at property around Pooles Corner for a new high school for Kings County?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not that I know of.

Mr. M. Currie: You haven't been asked.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'd have to go back to the department to see if the

school board or anyone connected with the project has asked us to do that sort of thing. We do do that kind of preliminary work and it may be ongoing, but I can't say for certain.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know anything about it if we are either.

Mr. M. Currie: So you'll bring that back tomorrow. This is Leo Creamer, right?

Mr. MacKinley: Leo Creamer, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: How many is there?

Mr. MacKinley: A lot. They do a lot of - Leo Creamer, manager of provincial lands, includes 17 staff people. I stand to be corrected if - that's what's in these briefing notes. This section is responsible for the (Indistinct) and disposal, lease of (Indistinct) land, public right-of-ways, etc. We spend an awful pile of time of looking up public right-of-ways on roads. It's just unbelievable. The staff, in all fairness, is just overworked beyond anything. I mean, I was down in Souris looking at some road. Was it public or not public? You go back to Leo and he looks at it and you got to get searches done. It's a lot of work.

Mr. M. Currie: This is where - oh no, the surveyor is over in another section.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) I'd be happy with the map. If you'd bring me a copy of the map in that would be fine.

Chair: Any further questions?

Mr. Bagnall: I can get numbers looked up if I need them.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-

St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: The 17 people still there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's something I'd have to go back and determine.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you short one?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I have a suspicion that number is a little bit dated, prior to the last workforce renewal program. There was two staff that took early retirement package and that number may be dated, but we have a number of vacancies there for sure. There's some staffing that needs to occur in that section.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you bring us a list back, the staffing that's in that department?

Mr. M. Currie: Was there one staff dismissed?

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes, there was.

Mr. M. Currie: Thank you. Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: At least we get honest answers out of it.

Chair: Surveys. "Appropriations provided for the survey operations of the department." Administration: 6,600. Equipment: 29,900. Materials, Supplies and Services: 5,500. Professional and Contract Services: 22,000. Salaries: 462,600. Travel and Training: 6,500. Total Survey: 533,100.

Questions.

Mr. MacKinley: No, just give him a chance.

Mr. M. Currie: Serge Bernard?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, Serge Bernard, and it says here he's a manager and eight support staff who provide survey operations for the department. Whether that's correct or not, I haven't done an audit on it.

Mr. Bagnall: How many employees in this department?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. MacKinley: It says here eight support staff for Serge Bernard. So eight and one would be nine. But I stand to be corrected on the numbers because - I mostly deal with the deputies and -

Mr. Bagnall: Would that be full-time employees or casuals? There's a lot of survey people work on 14 weeks.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: This is the legal survey group.

Mr. Bagnall: So it's all full-time employees.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There may be some seasonal employees that work in the van, but -

Mr. Bagnall: Would there be any contract employees in that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not that I can think off the top of my head.

Mr. MacKinley: But we'll look that up for you.

Mr. Bagnall: That's fine. He answered it.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this the section that you're reviewing a portion about the seasonal roads and reclassifying them to take the Cabinet or whatever?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: This unit (Indistinct) group, when those issues come up, occasionally there's a technical matter about where the limits of the right-of-way and how wide is the right-of-way, and it requires some pick up in the fields, survey work in the field, that's the group that would do it, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Being the Chief Surveyor of the province he has the final word over the private sector too? Like golf surveyors.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: In some contexts, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Mr. Bagnall: The 22,000 for -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - professional and contract services, are there any expenses on that or is there just a full breakdown?

Mr. MacKinley: It says contract services, 20,000, survey and appraisal 2,000.

Ms. Bertram: Call the hour

Mr. MacKinley: Just wait till we finish this.

Mr. Brown: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Morris Land &

Engineering, 3,853; Locus Surveys Ltd. s is 150.00; Glennfinnan Enterprises, 2,378 for consultant services.

Mr. Bagnall: That's fine. We can carry this section.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Hon. member, if you want to go back to Highway Safety -

Mr. Brown: Do you want to extend the hour?

Mr. Bagnall: No. Just one sec before you - we didn't carry that section, but you promised to bring back that information on the photo radar. So if you tell me you're going to bring that back we'll carry this section. We'll just hold the bottom line until we get it. So we'll carry this section.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll bring back whatever we got.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Properties is done.

Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the Chair, and that the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Madam Speaker, as Chairman of a Committee of the Whole House having under consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the Committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Vessey: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, that this House adjourn until Wednesday, October 24th, at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Have a good evening.

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