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HANSARD

*Speaker: Honourable Derek Bennett, MHA*

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The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**SPEAKER (Bennett):** Order, please!

Admit strangers.

**Statements by Members**

**SPEAKER:** Today we're going to hear Members' statements from the hon. Members for the Districts of Ferryland, Torngat Mountains, Exploits, Placentia - St. Mary's and Humber - Bay of Islands.

The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

**L. O'DRISCOLL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I recognize the passing of a remarkable man and good friend, Mr. Kenny Williams. Anyone who knew Kenny was aware of his passion for hockey. Kenny managed the Southern Shore Arena for 30 years, which has now been renamed in his honour.

Some of his accomplishments in the hockey community include: founding president of the Southern Shore Minor Hockey Association, HNL's provincial coordinator for 24 years, provincial director of the female hockey committee and was instrumental in the revival of senior female hockey at a provincial level. Kenny was inducted as an honorary lifetime member of the Hockey NL Hall of Fame in 2015 and received Hockey Canada's Order of Merit in 2017.

My involvement with hockey on the Southern Shore as a player and coach gave me opportunity to work closely with Kenny in his role as arena manager. This involvement leaves me with many memories of Kenny.

Kenny's greatest accomplishment was his love for his family. He always made sure his wife, Diane, and his children were included in his daily life, his hockey life and every aspect of his life.

Please join me in honouring the life of the late Kenny Williams.

Go, Breakers, go!

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

**L. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I pay tribute to Levi Nochasak of Nain, Nunatsiavut. Levi is many things to many people: a father, uncle, teacher, elder, but most importantly a wise friend who loves to share his knowledge of the Inuit ways of living off the land.

Levi battles cancer but does not let that define him. His strength comes from the land and he gets his energy from sharing all his knowledge and wisdom that he has gathered since he was a young boy.

Levi always possessed the spirit of an elder. He learned the old ways and shared his knowledge with others. A tremendous gift to those who could spend time with Levi. Knowledge shared as a successful hunter. Knowledge shared to know the signs of the land.

When we think of Levi, we think of Hebron and Noah. Hebron was resettled but Levi keeps his roots there by frequenting his cabin where he shares his knowledge of seals, polar bears, partridge, char and all other food sources important to Labrador Inuit. Son, Noah, his proudest legacy, hunts and shares his traditional knowledge the same way his father has done.

There is no value that can be placed on the contribution of Levi Nochasak makes each day by sharing his language, culture and traditions because that is priceless. The cycle of knowledge continues with each conversation, each story shared. That is Levi Nochasak's legacy to us.

ULLAKUT, all good, Good Tea, Mr. Tetuk, Mr. Tea.

Please join me in applauding Levi Nochasak's contribution to his people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Exploits.

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

Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with Volunteer Week, I'd like to recognize the Leading Tickles Volunteer Fire Department on celebrating its 46th anniversary.

Since April of 1975, the fire department has been active in their community. The fire department and its 32 members, under the leadership of fire chief, John Rowsell, who has been a firefighter for 30 years himself, are ready 24-7 to respond to all types of emergencies.

Each year, the fire department hosts Leading Tickles Day, an event in which members of the community donate all the food and prizes. This event brings a profit of \$30,000 to \$35,000 annually to support their local fire department. This group of volunteers is part of the reason I am proud to say that I came from Leading Tickles, a special place I still call home.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for all Members of this House of Assembly to join me today in congratulating the Leading Tickles Volunteer Fire Department on celebrating 46 years of service.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Placentia - St. Mary's.

**S. GAMBIN-WALSH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Argentia Gold Corporation celebrated their grand opening yesterday, April 19, as one of the fully licensed cannabis producers based in Newfoundland and Labrador. This accomplishment was a result of many forces working together. The company's range of cannabis products was first launched on the CannabisNL website earlier this month.

Argentia Gold's 80,000 square-foot facility is located at the former US naval base in Argentia, now the Port of Argentia. The facility that houses Argentia Gold was built in 1941. The

naval base was once the largest US naval base on non-American soil, housing 20,000 troops and their families.

The facility is dedicated to cultivating and processing high-quality cannabis flower. Having prepared for years to ensure they meet all Canadian regulations, their grow team – fully local to Newfoundland and Labrador – strictly follows good manufacturing practice standards.

Alongside dried cannabis flower, Argentia Gold is also developing a variety of infused products, including edibles, beverages, medical creams and beauty and personal care items. The company plans to develop and release these over time to the local market.

Mr. Speaker, Argentia Gold Corporation is a Newfoundland and Labrador licensed producer, a local company.

Congratulations Argentia Gold on your grand opening.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands.

**E. JOYCE:** Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an inspiring curler from my district, Mackenzie Mitchell from the Town of Irishtown-Summerside.

Becoming involved in curling had its challenges for Mackenzie. For the first couple of years, she was the only girl at the Corner Brook Curling Club and did not have a team until more girls joined. They began participating in tournaments, which were not always successful, but it was a stepping stone for her future successes.

In 2018, Mackenzie skipped her rink to the 2019 Canada Winter Games. She has won provincial tournaments and has represented Newfoundland and Labrador on the national stage on multiple occasions.

Since moving to St. John's two years ago to pursue a business degree at Memorial University, she joined a new ladies' rink and a mixed doubles' rink.

In 2020, Mackenzie skipped her rink to the province's under-21 women's title, and last year she and her teammate won the provincial mixed curling doubles and recently played in the 2021 Canadian Mixed Doubles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Mackenzie on her achievements, and wish her the continued success in her future and congratulate her on her courage.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** Statements by Ministers.

### Statements by Ministers

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL.

**S. STOODLEY:** Mr. Speaker, April is recognized internationally as Information Management Month. It was developed to promote the importance of good record-keeping. Records track the flow of our lives, from registration of our birth through all the services received over our lifetime. Properly managed government information ensures we can avail of services and programs when needed.

We all know effective information management supports good program development. It fosters informed decision-making, facilitates accountability and preserves our historical record. As we move to more online services, it is important that we understand the expectation of the citizens of the province to keep our records accurately and securely.

Mr. Speaker, government manages a vast amount of information. It is important that everyone understand their roles and responsibilities. Government staff at all levels are key to managing information and providing quality programs and services based on that information.

Mr. Speaker, Information Management Month is a great time to remind everyone of the importance of handling information properly. I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to familiarize yourselves with information

management best practices on receiving, creating and managing information on behalf of government and to recognize the good work completed by our Information Management professionals.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

**L. O'DRISCOLL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the hon. minister for an advance copy of her statement.

We on this side of the House join with the minister in celebrating Information Management Month. The people's right to access government services and information should be paramount in everything we do.

It's unfortunate that government does not practise what it preaches. Consistently, government departments and agencies have stalled and obstructed information requests. This is why it's so disappointing to see the government propose changes to ATIPPA to make it more difficult to get information.

Our office has a request into the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission that dates back to last summer, yet the agency is requesting yet another extension. Government continues to put up roadblocks to these individuals and groups who have little recourse.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Labrador West.

**J. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for an advance copy of her statement.

The protection and management of information is very important, especially for government as the keepers of vast amounts of information – management is paramount. As we've seen in the past, like the union card information leak last

year or when personal health information gets out, it has devastating effects on individuals. So let's all do our part to protect information that is entrusted to us.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** Other Ministerial Statements?

The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, policing in this province can be traced back to 1729. It was after the British forces at Fort Townshend withdrew, that in 1871, the Newfoundland Constabulary was born. The Royal designation was added over 100 years later in 1979 by Queen Elizabeth II, and one year later in 1980, the first women joined the ranks.

Throughout the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary's storied history, the duties of a police officer have changed dramatically. Initially formed to maintain law and order, the Constabulary of today has mobile mental health crisis response teams, an equine therapy program and a community support dog. Police officers are leaders in our communities. They are coaches and role models and they are to be applauded for the important and difficult jobs they do every day.

Choosing to don the uniform comes with great risk and responsibility. Today, I recognize our more than 400 RNC officers and all those who came before them. The sense of security and quality of life we enjoy is because of the risks they take every day and their dedication and passion for helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all hon. Members to join me in celebration of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and its 150-year commitment to our great province.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Mr. Speaker, policing, indeed, has a long history in our province tracing back to 1729 after the British forces at Fort Townshend withdrew, the Newfoundland Constabulary was born.

Indeed, the duties of a police officer have changed dramatically, there's no doubt in that. Initially, it was maintained primarily for law and order, but even today we see the advances that have been made in terms of the technology that has been presented.

Police officers are truly leaders. They are responsible for so many of our important law-and-order functions in our society. Mr. Speaker, they are role models for all of us and, indeed, we need to applaud them for the difficult jobs and responsibilities they have in enforcing law in our communities.

I ask all hon. Members to join with me in celebrating the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary today and for many days to come. It is a 150-year commitment to our great province that we should recognize and applaud.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for St. John's Centre.

**J. DINN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, thank the minister for an advance copy of his statement and join him in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

The duties of an RNC officer have grown significantly from the original mandate of enforcing law and order. If you've met Krista Fagan and her dog Stella, you will know that.

If we, as a society, demand police officers respond effectively to mental health and societal issues, then it is important that we provide the training and the resources, both human and financial, they will need to perform those duties.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** Any other statements by ministers?

Oral Questions.

**Oral Questions**

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In the last two federal budgets and in Monday's Throne Speech, the Atlantic Loop project continued to be mentioned, yet there are no details of what the project really entails. We know vague details of how the project will be an agreement between Atlantic provinces and Quebec, which raises concerns about how much Quebec stands to benefit from such a project.

I ask the Premier: Can you update the House on the progress of the Atlantic Loop negotiations? What will Newfoundland and Labrador have to give up in order to make it happen?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Member for that question.

That's an important question and it's one that will be important for the future of Newfoundland and Labrador. We all know that Newfoundland and Labrador has an abundance of green, clean energy, and we can be the battery that powers the northeastern seaboard, but we won't do so in sacrificing to Quebec. We will make sure that we have our fair share going forward to ensure that this creates a sustainable future for our families and also helps our Atlantic partners get to the clean net zero that they are required to do by 2050, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday's federal budget contained no mention at all of the Lower Churchill Project, despite years of negotiations between the Trudeau and Furey Liberals on this matter.

I ask the Premier: Are Atlantic Loop and rate-mitigation negotiations separate negotiations, or have they been rolled into one conversation?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you for that question; it's an important one about the Atlantic Loop and Lower Churchill Projects. We all know the Lower Churchill Projects, created by the Members opposite of course, are a significant anchor, financial anchor around our collective souls as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

There's a difficult path forward without the help of the federal government and renegotiating those Lower Churchill Projects. They may be related, but they're linear in their relationship. Though the loop may be circular, we need to fix Muskrat Falls before Newfoundland and Labrador participates even further in the Atlantic Loop discussions. Those are discussions that are ongoing.

So those are ongoing, Mr. Speaker, and I'm hoping to have updates and will provide them in a timely fashion when they occur.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have to remind the Liberal administration that they can't continuously say that they're environmental stewards and that they're the champions of clean energy, while at the same time dismissing the value of Muskrat Falls. You can't have it both ways. Mr. Speaker, I don't have to go into detail about why there are legitimate reasons to be concerned about the province entering hydroelectric agreements with Quebec.

I ask the Premier: Is there any potential that the 2041 expiry of the Upper Churchill contract could change as a result of the Atlantic Loop?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, no one is debating the environmental benefit of Muskrat Falls and the Lower Churchill Projects. It's the financial benefit and impact as this project went astray.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Secondly, the Upper Churchill Project is not being negotiated right now. Of course not. That would be something that would be done openly in accordance with Justice LeBlanc's report in creating a 2041 committee, Mr. Speaker.

We're focused right now on fixing the financial mess of Muskrat Falls so that we can do what we need to do to create sustainable opportunities for families here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I again remind the Premier that it was the last six years of the Liberal government and Nalcor who built Muskrat Falls, Mr. Speaker. They're responsible for the overruns at this point.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Newfoundland and Labrador is facing an unprecedented fiscal challenge brought on by low oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic. In the federal budget, there's a reference to fiscal equalization payments being sent to Nova Scotia and not Newfoundland and Labrador.

I ask the Premier: Why are they other Atlantic provinces seeing more federal dollars in this budget while our fiscal challenges remain unaddressed?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to argue for our piece of the equalization puzzle, but as the Member opposite knows, under a Tory administration of Prime Minister Harper, we were punished for our position in this federation, Mr. Speaker. We argue all the time for our benefits under the equalization formula. We know that there is opportunity ahead of us, and that's why a good working relationship with Ottawa – not ripping down flags, working with Ottawa – will provide that benefit to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians going forward.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Leader of the Official Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I remind the Premier that it's his friend, Prime Minister Trudeau, who has extended and changed the equalization formula for the last two years to the detriment of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. No update on rate mitigation, no details on the Atlantic Loop and no money from the federal government to help address our financial situation.

I ask the Premier: Is this what Newfoundland and Labrador can expect from this prime minister?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question.

Perhaps it deserves revisiting what happened in December, including over \$800 million in debt relief with respect to Muskrat Falls and the Lower Churchill Project. That's the project that the Members opposite created. That is an anchor around us fiscally, socially and as a province moving forward.

The federal government took the advanced steps of helping provide that debt instrument relief for us. That is real money that we didn't have to come up with in December that's important for the sustainability of this province, Mr. Speaker.

That's the kind of relationship that we can expect moving forward.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** The discussions between Mr. Paddick and Mr. Dupont continue and will continue in earnest. We are happy and willing to provide updates when they occur because it will be in the best interests of the people of this province.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to remind everybody in this House, and in the public listening, that the \$800 million was by no means a grant; it's to be repaid. It was just a deferral; it's as simple as that.

Yesterday, the minister said that the government had not seen a copy of the Moya Greene report and it is expected toward the end of April.

Is this the interim report or the final report?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

**S. COADY:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's unfortunate that the preamble of the question that is put before this House was so inaccurate, Mr. Speaker – so inaccurate. But to the question of the Moya Greene report, my understanding is we will see that report towards the end of the month.

It is a fulsome report. The team of very knowledgeable Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have spoken with multitudes of stakeholders around the province, Mr. Speaker. They will be bringing forward their report, their recommendations and their suggestions on how we can make our way through this financial uncertainty that we have, largely caused by Muskrat Falls.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister again: Will we see the interim report, or is this the final report at the end of April? Will the recommendations of the Greene report be included in this year's budget?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

**S. COADY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We'll see the report when we see the report, Mr. Speaker. I do not have a copy of the Moya Greene report; the government does not have a copy of the Moya Greene report.

When we see the Premier's Economic Recovery task force recommendations, we will certainly review those recommendations. The Premier has been very clear that there will be consultations with people in this province to discuss the path forward; there will be debates in this House of Assembly to discuss a path forward.

I will say regarding the budget, the timing of the report and the timing of the budget, I do not know how quickly we can get to the recommendations of the Moya Greene report, but I will assure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians there will be consultations on that report.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I still haven't gotten an answer whether we're getting an interim or a final, but considering that the final report was due the end of April, I would assume it would be the final one.

Mr. Speaker, the Romaine's River Bridge had the funding allocated for its replacement of July 2019.

I ask the Minister of Transportation: When will construction on the bridge start? Will repairs be



made in the interim to ensure the bridge is still safe to use? Will the local community be consulted on its design?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**E. LOVELESS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the hon. Member for the question. Any time we talk about upgrades to our bridges or roads, it's always an important topic.

At this time, I can't give any information to the Member, as I don't have the answer to that. But I will go back and have a discussion with the staff, and be happy to report back to this House or to the Member, whichever he'd prefer.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

**L. PARROTT:** The infrastructure falling behind continues to hurt the rest of the province.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne says prioritize the hiring of qualified Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, yet right now there are 103 workers from outside of the province in isolation at a local hotel waiting to do work on an offshore drill rig.

I ask the Premier: Why did your government approve outside workers coming in to take jobs away from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**E. LOVELESS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the Member for the question. I know this is a question that's been asked many times around local hiring. As the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, anything that I deal with that comes in front of me, we do prioritize for local hiring no doubt.

Getting 100 per cent is a challenge, no doubt, but we've had success in projects in this

province, where we've seen upwards of 90 per cent or even more and I think that's a good record. We will continue to fight for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

**L. PARROTT:** While our local infrastructure concerns me, I was referring to the offshore, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I understand another 103 workers will be coming from the United Kingdom to do a shift change on this rig. Again, this has been approved by the former Premier Roger Grimes, the chair of the C-NLOPB and the Furey government.

With hundreds of our own experienced, qualified workers sitting at home, not able to go to work, why are we not putting our own people first?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the question from the Member opposite. As we all know, any of these operations work under a benefits agreement that is signed between the province and the companies. In fact, I have no knowledge put in front of me that the benefits agreements that were put in place to ensure Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were getting their fair share and our province is getting our fair share, there is no evidence whatsoever that the benefits agreement is not being lived up to.

There are plenty of times where offshore expertise has to come from outside the province, the same way that there is expertise from this province that goes to work all over this globe. The reality is right now we are not seeing that, but again I appreciate the Member's question.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

**L. PARROTT:** I'm sure the 103 workers that are displaced would disagree, and if you want evidence just go down to the hotel and look at the people staying there.

Mr. Speaker, uncertainty continues to swirl around the Come By Chance Refinery after government sat while talks collapsed last year with Irving Oil. Just a couple months ago, current owner Silverpeak registered a new company that industry sources say would reduce the refinery to a storage and distribution terminal.

Can the minister confirm if this is true? I also add: What is the current status of the refinery?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll just point to the preamble, again, there is no evidence – if the evidence is who is sitting at a hotel, I would say bring me something that shows that there has been a contravention of the benefits agreements which have been signed by this province. If not, there is no evidence, just more skepticism and hearsay from the Member.

As it relates to Come By Chance, I am very proud to say that right now the agreement that we signed with Silverpeak to ensure that the Come By Chance Refinery would remain in warm idle is functioning right now. The employment levels are there as well as the investment level and we continue to work towards a new investment. One of the clauses as a part of that funding agreement was to ensure that there would be due diligence towards a new buyer.

We continue on there. We have had great conversations with the union. In fact, I'll be having a conversation with mayors in that area this evening.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Terra Nova.

**L. PARROTT:** Mr. Speaker.

It is little consolation to the men and women of Newfoundland that are paying five cents extra on a litre of fuel.

The question was purely about whether or not the tank farm was separated and the future of the refinery.

Mr. Speaker, government lost three months in caretaker mode because of the election. How much longer are people going to have to wait for a long-term plan for this refinery?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe that the original agreement showed that this will go up to the end of June, so the reality is that even during a caretaker government of any duration, right now we have workers working out there.

One of the things that I would evidence as to people's satisfaction with the agreement that we managed to bring together to ensure that there would not be a closure of the refinery – something happening in all corners of this world – is the fact that we have had great relations with the union. I speak to them on a weekly basis. Right now, that's not an issue that's being brought to us. They are happy with the commitment that was made; they are happy with the consultation that they get.

We continue to work to a bright future, but the reality is that this is not a provincial asset that we are able to sell; this is an asset that is owned by a company that we have a vested interest in.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Mr. Speaker, that still basically amounts to vague information. The people need to have more meaningful, concrete information. I continue to hear from concerned constituents affected by the closure of the Come By Chance Refinery.

The workers are worried, Mr. Speaker, about the uncertainty of their livelihood, and families are fearing for their futures. They need news; they need information. As the months pass by, they need and they deserve to know what's going on. I hear these concerns.

Can the minister give some meaningful information to the families that are affected by the Come By Chance Refinery closure?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What I can provide is that I speak on a very regular basis, as do staff, with the union which represents the workers for that refinery. We speak to them all the time, and they are more than free to disclose the information to their members of which they are privy to. I'm absolutely happy to do that. In fact, I'm speaking tonight with the MHA from your side, in fact, who has lined up a meeting with all the mayors for the communities that are affected. They asked me on Thursday; the meeting is set up for tonight. I'm more than willing to speak for these people and I have been doing so.

Right now, we have a contract that brings us until the end of June. I'm like everybody else: I would have liked to have seen this solved nine months ago, but we cannot do that. It is not our deal to sign. We need to rely on investment from outside, but I tell you what, this government has been doing their part to keep it warm, to keep it alive and to keep the hope in the air.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Mr. Speaker, the people still need to have more information. I'm hearing that they're not getting the information. Government has a responsibility, and the minister has a responsibility to provide that information.

Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign, the red book was referenced by government, in which they promised to "increase access to fertility treatments ... to enable IVF services in Newfoundland and Labrador."

I ask the Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality: When will IVF services be available for women and their families in this province?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Health and Community Services.

**J. HAGGIE:** Thank you very much for the question.

Mr. Speaker, an important topic and indeed one we have committed to improve. We support fertility services to quite a significant extent through Eastern Health. We are currently in the process of doing a cross-jurisdictional scan to reflect on best practices from other jurisdictions in Canada and that will then be used to provide advice as to how we can further improve fertility services in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

**C. TIBBS:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne read: Government will invest in important hiring projects and "prioritize hiring of qualified workers based in Newfoundland and Labrador."

I ask the Premier: Yes or no, will you finally take our advice and implement the community benefits agreement policy for all public infrastructure projects in the province?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**E. LOVELESS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question.

It is a good question because we talk about work for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Stakeholders are involved in terms of the conversation piece that I welcome. I haven't had a chance yet to meet with those that are coming to meet with me. It's an important topic. I look forward to the discussions and look forward to the results.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

**C. TIBBS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We've been hearing discussions now for about two years, it's time to take some action. We've got people over in Corner Brook putting up drywall while our own people sit at home doing nothing and not getting a paycheque.

Mr. Speaker, when will the minister finally do the right thing and implement the community benefits agreement, take the action in consultation with workforce and our unions? When will this happen?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**E. LOVELESS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the question.

I thank the hon. Member and, as I said, it is a good question but I'm not here today to put a time frame on an agreement or agreements. I will confirm that I will be looking forward to, as I said, discussions.

You made reference that discussions have been ongoing for more than two years, and more than this administration as well. We'll continue to have the conversation. As I said, I look forward to the results.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

**C. PARDY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Many of our towns and businesses that rely on tourism are struggling. The provincial government is currently running ads in places such as Ontario that will likely be shut out of the province for this season.

I ask the minister: How much money is being spent on the ads in these places? Would this money be better spent as direct relief to our communities and industry?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I can endeavour certainly to get the information on what the stay curious campaign is for the Member opposite. But I disagree with the Member opposite. We need to make sure that we're priming those markets for when the restrictions are lifted and tourists can return to this province. It's very important.

The Premier and the former minister appointed the Premier's Advisory Council on Tourism. It was one of the first groups I met with; we meet with them on a weekly basis – officials in the department.

Our tourism industry is an over \$1-billion industry. We need to be primed and ready to go, that as restrictions are lifted in our country and as the vaccines are given to the people of our province and the people of our country, we're ready – we're ready – with open arms to receive tourists back in this province.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

**C. PARDY:** Mr. Speaker, the Liberal MP for Labrador is speaking against the lack of fisheries science, noting that seals continue to destroy our

marine ecosystems, including cod. She goes on to state that no real action means no positive results.

I ask the Minister of Fisheries: Under the lens of creating sustainable opportunities, as the Premier referenced, does he agree with MP Jones's statement?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

**D. BRAGG:** Mr. Speaker, if there was ever the best question I got in the House it's this one today, because if anybody feels strong about the seal fishery for this province, you're talking to him right here, right now.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**D. BRAGG:** Whatever we can bring to the floor of this House or the House of Commons to bring some knowledge to the people of what the seals are causing to our environment and to our fishery, now is the time to do it. So if you're looking for someone to spearhead that, Sir, jump on board with me because I'm right there.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Bonavista.

**C. PARDY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I agree. That seems like a very strong commitment to look at the seal predation. Keep in mind that in 2012 the Standing Senate Committee stated that seals consume between 1½ and two tons of fish each year. It would be nice to see our plan of action.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday again we saw another federal budget with no investment to enhance fisheries science research in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I ask the Minister of Fisheries: Has he spoken with the federal minister of Fisheries regarding this very important issue?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

**D. BRAGG:** Thank you very much, and thanks again for the question.

I think this hon. House would be happy to know one of the first duties I took on after being appointed to this position was to reach out to the minister of Fisheries and have a conversation. We talked for some time on the telephone; we're looking forward to more conversations in the future.

I come from a fishing community, so if you want to talk fish, you want to talk seals, you're talking to the guy who lives it, breathes it and believes in it. So I look forward to the federal minister and our conversation.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Cape St. Francis.

**J. WALL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs. Municipalities across our province are struggling with increasing tender bids as a result of skyrocketing building materials. Lumber has tripled in price and contractors are no longer able to honour the quotes provided pending various approvals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister: Does she have a plan to help these municipalities move ahead with critical infrastructure projects?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

**K. HOWELL:** Thank you to the Member opposite for the question – sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'll address you first.

Thank you to the Member opposite for the question. I would just like to highlight some of the important work that this department does do to support municipalities in the acts of operational grants, as well as special assistance grants. In the event that these things do arise,

I'm sure there are conditions that we can address and look at to see that they are reached in a manner that's appropriate for communities who need special assistance.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for St. John's Centre.

**J. DINN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Liberals campaigned on and then broke their 2015 campaign promise on electoral reform. Yesterday, during Question Period, the response to re-establishing the All-Party Committee to review the Elections Act was, frankly, underwhelming.

I ask the Premier: Is he actually committed to democratic reform and modernizing the Elections Act, or will he follow in the footsteps of his federal masters and break that promise?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, Newfoundland and Labrador has no master other than the electorate.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** We are certainly willing to work with the Members opposite –

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** We're certainly willing to continue to work with the Members opposite towards democratic reform. I think it's important, especially in the wake of this election in particular. This affords us all an opportunity to reflect and to modernize the Elections Act moving forward, and equally, make good progress in democracy so that we can be leaders across the country here in Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for St. John's Centre.

**J. DINN:** Then I ask the Premier: Wouldn't re-establishing the All-Party Committee on Democratic Reform be the best place to start the process?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think a little later this afternoon we will read into the record here the establishment of the Striking Committee. That Committee will take some time in the coming days to get the necessary Committees in place that will be in place for the 50th General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Labrador West.

**J. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is no relief in the federal budget for Muskrat Falls. The clock is ticking. We can't wait for this boondoggle to come online; the people of this province will never be able to afford it, especially residents of the Island.

I ask the Premier: Where is the plan?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Premier.

**PREMIER A. FUREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As mentioned earlier, there are ongoing talks between Brendan Paddick and Serge Dupont with respect to the Lower Churchill Projects. Despite the comments earlier, we have made good progress. There is over \$850 million in debt forgiveness and \$450 million – let me spell it out – in the COREA payments, that not only do we not have to come up with, so we don't have to pay it back, we can use that money

towards financing this infrastructure project that has gone awry on the other Members' watch.

We are making good progress, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to let it go to the 12th or the 11th hour; we're making progress every day. Again, I'd be willing and happy to provide substantive updates when they occur.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands.

**E. JOYCE:** Mr. Speaker, cellphone coverage is very important to many rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. This coverage will entice new business, safety and tourism. Lark Harbour and York Harbour, who recently received funding, are seeing the essential services of cellphone coverage.

There was a request for proposals several months ago and two towns in Humber - Bay of Islands applied for funding: Cox's Cove and McIver's.

Can the minister provide this House with an update on the status of these proposals?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** I thank the Member for the question. It's an issue, I think, that many of us in this House share in the concern to have connectivity all over our province.

We all know it's fundamental to economic development, to social prosperity. The fact is that I think it's been pronounced, as we saw with COVID, and the things that we want to do with economic opportunities, with educational opportunities.

What I can say is that we've built on the 2018 proposal that was out and we saw awards all across this province. We announced a second call for proposals in 2020 in Phase II. Right now, Bell is working with these communities to figure out the funding arrangements, to figure out the technical specs.

What I can say even on a bigger level is that I've had conversations with the majority of our Members on this side, and I think connectivity, broadband coverage and cellphone coverage is something that we as a province need to move closer to as we move into the future.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands.

**E. JOYCE:** Mr. Speaker, this province has seen an increase in deaths, serious accidents and many calls to reform the snowmobile regulations. This commitment was made by the government in 2018, 2019 and 2020. To date, we have not reformed the snowmobile regulations.

I ask the minister: With all the serious accidents and all the people asking for this, will you have a comprehensive review and bring in new regulations for snowmobiles to protect our residents, which many people are asking for?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL.

**S. STOODLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the Member for the question. ATV safety is incredibly important to this government and to this province. We have completed a comprehensive review of the ATV and the snowmobile legislation. We are in the final consultation stages.

Actually, this morning, I met with SafetyNL, MLN, the RCMP and the RNC, along with many other community organizations and we're talking about how to increase the level of education around this province in terms of changing the culture around ATV and snowmobile safety. I look forward to bringing legislation to the House when it's ready.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** Seeing no other questions – do you have a question?

The hon. Member for Humber - Bay of Islands for a quick question, no preamble, please.

**E. JOYCE:** Mr. Speaker, I was never stuck for asking questions on behalf of the people.

I say to the minister thank you for that. Thank you for that broad review on the ATV and the snowmobile regulations, but in 2018 there was a comprehensive review, we were told. In 2019, there was a comprehensive review. In 2020, there was a comprehensive review.

**SPEAKER:** Get to the question, please.

**E. JOYCE:** When are we going to have the regulations brought to this House of Assembly to be approved?

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL for a quick answer, please.

**S. STOODLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have completely finished the review. We are doing final consultations to make sure that all the appropriate groups are consulted. I anticipate that legislation coming forward when it's ready; it shouldn't be too much longer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The time for Question Period has expired.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees.

#### **Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees**

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Burin - Grand Bank.

**P. PIKE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Select Committee appointed to draft a reply to the Speech from Her Honour the Lieutenant-

Governor, I am pleased to present the report of the Select Committee as follows:

To Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the hon. Judy Foote:

May it please Your Honour, we, the Commons of Newfoundland and Labrador in legislative session assembled, beg to thank Your Honour for the Gracious Speech which Your Honour has addressed to this House.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Tabling of Documents.

#### **Tabling of Documents**

**SPEAKER:** I do have one.

In accordance with section 19(5)(a) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, I hereby table the minutes of the House of Assembly Management Commission meeting held on February 24, October 16 and December 7, 2020.

Any other tabling of documents?

Notices of Motion.

#### **Notices of Motion**

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following motion:

That notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, but shall continue to sit and conduct government business and, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall adjourn the House at midnight.

**SPEAKER:** Any other notices of motion?

The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following motion:



That under the authority of Standing Order 65, the Member for Carbonear - Trinity - Bay de Verde, the Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair, the Member for Conception Bay South, the Member for Harbour Main and the Member for St. John's Centre shall comprise a committee and, in accordance with the *Standing Orders*, shall report within the first 20 days of appointment a list of Members to compose the Standing Committees for the House, referred to in Standing Order 65(1).

**SPEAKER:** Other notices of motion?

Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given.

Petitions.

### Petitions

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for St. John's Centre.

**J. DINN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have in my possession a petition signed by 168 individuals and a further 300 online. It's regarding the minimum wage.

WHEREAS this province has one of the lowest minimum wages in Canada at \$12.15 an hour; and

WHEREAS more than 89 per cent of Canadians live in jurisdictions with a higher minimum wage; and

WHEREAS almost a quarter of workers in Newfoundland and Labrador earn \$15 an hour or less and 55 per cent of minimum-wage workers are women; and

WHEREAS having a low minimum wage is a major contributor to poverty and gender inequality; and

WHEREAS raising the minimum wage will benefit workers, local businesses and the economy by putting money in worker's pockets to spend in their local community; and

WHEREAS any increase in the minimum wage rate must be legislated through the House of Assembly;

Therefore, we petition the hon. House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to legislate a \$15-per-hour minimum wage by the end of 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the notion that somehow a minimum wage job is an entry-level job is a fallacy. There are many people who are working, not one but two and sometimes three jobs just to keep food on the table for their families. If we are going to address the social determinants of health by making fresh, healthy food available to all people and accessible, then it has to be affordable. One way of doing that is to make sure that the people have the money in their pockets to afford it. Again, when it's cheaper to buy a two litre of Pepsi than a two litre of milk, it is very hard to put nutritious food on the table.

The pandemic highlighted many of the problems that minimum wage workers face. It's time to rectify them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

**B. DAVIS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to respond to my learned colleague from St. John's Centre. I think his research is a little old. It's not \$12.15 anymore; it's \$12.50 as of the 1st of April.

We have a process in place for increasing minimum wage. We understand that it's pressures for people all across the country and, truly, the globe. We have a process in place where we consult with a group that put in place, each and every couple-of-year period. That process is starting shortly to put that committee in place that will look at that. We have had four increases, or will have four increases, by October 1 of this fiscal year.

I look forward to moving towards where the hon. Member wants, but it has to be a balanced approach: looking at the needs of the employers and small business, which is such an important piece for our province, as well as the employees. We want to ensure that we plan for that balanced approach each and every time we do this.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans.

**C. TIBBS:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This is going to be directed towards Education, this petition, Mr. Speaker. It's very important.

Many of our young residents of Newfoundland and Labrador have had to deal with intimidation and bullying within our education system. Students are terrified to go into our schools and this disrupts their right to a fair education. Many parents are frustrated and they feel they have very few options as they send their children to school each and every day.

Therefore, we petition the hon. House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to commit to a comprehensive review of bullying and intimidation present in our school system and to format a plan to mitigate this problem so our children can feel safe when receiving an education.

Mr. Speaker, the anxiety that many children face, as they are bullied or intimidated in school, is unbearable to some children. Suicides have happened in the past and I am sure that they will happen again. It can have much to do with one or two students within the school.

We feel as though the parents are at their wits end: they don't know what to do anymore. Parents have had to move and it's not fair for them, it's not fair to the children that are looking to get an education. It's also not fair to the teachers. The teachers feel as though they are pretty much handcuffed too: they don't have any solutions to this.

I think the department needs to come together and put in more resources or find a way to mitigate this, to help the children that are bullying, maybe educate them more, but also help the children that are being bullied each and every day. It is not fair to them. It's disrupting their lives; it's disrupting their education. To live in fear like that at such a young age is going to have problems as they move further down the road.

I would call on the Minister of Education to maybe talk to me or have a chat sometime, and move forward with this for the betterment of our children, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Further petitions?

The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

**L. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador who call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure that all future provincial elections have written and verbal instructions on the voting process translated into all provincial Indigenous languages and their respective dialects. Providing our Indigenous people with accurate information in their own language is essential to ensuring that they have the ability to cast a valid and democratic vote. Inuit, Innu and Mi'kmaq are the Indigenous peoples, the First Peoples of our province, so we believe that information regarding the democratic right to vote should be available in the province's first languages.

Therefore, we petition the hon. House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure all future provincial elections have written and verbal instruction on the voting process translated into all provincial Indigenous languages and their respective dialects.

Just looking at this, what happened during the election, I think it was an oversight. Elections NL weren't really prepared for language barriers that were created when all their communication

was in English only. I use the word “oversight” because I believe it was an unintentional failure to recognize existing language barriers for our three Indigenous peoples in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Just my take on it, it’s very important to recognize that it was unintentional, but we need to be able to identify what happened so we can learn from it. We need to ensure this doesn’t happen again.

When you go to vote in person, you show up and, basically, you mark an X next to the name of the person you want to represent you in the House of Assembly. I know from personal experience in my district the returning officer has always ensured that the six Indigenous communities had adequate translation services, so it wasn’t a question. That’s why I say a lot of it was an oversight. But translation into Indigenous language is about respect of the First Peoples of this province.

It goes back to the overused word “reconciliation.” A lot of Indigenous people – the Mi’kmaq, the Innu and the Inuit – really are starting to be offended by the word “reconciliation,” because without change and without progress to help Indigenous peoples regain their dignity and regain the lives that they had before the white man came, there can be no reconciliation. One of the things is the right to vote. We shouldn’t have barriers where people cannot vote because they don’t understand the language that’s presented in front of them. Their Indigenous languages are important.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Labrador Affairs.

**L. DEMPSTER:** Mr. Speaker, you did tell us we should jump up or something, so maybe I’ll try that next time, get some exercise.

I thank my hon. colleague for the petition on this very important topic, Mr. Speaker. As this hon. House would know, it was this particular Premier, under this administration, that put a

minister in Cabinet for the first time in history with the word “reconciliation” in the title.

Reconciliation, Mr. Speaker, is about narrowing that gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, about increasing that understanding. It’s about consulting with Indigenous people before we do things, before we bring in policies in government.

Before I get to the election part, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker – and I’ve said it here in this House before – I heard an Indigenous leader say never before in their history had they had an open door with the Premier’s office like they have here now. I believe that’s a positive step. The Premier and I have weekly calls with Indigenous leaders around this province. Just today, before coming into this House, we had some very great discussion and a part of that was the importance of language, language matters, place names matter.

On the election, we had a different election in a different time, as we find our way through this first-ever public health emergency. But, again, our Premier, a simple google will show you that he has been out on record a number of times saying things like, regardless if there was a pandemic or not, these ballots should have been translated into Indigenous languages so people could vote in their mother tongue.

I know that we will certainly support the direction that the hon. Member wants to go. Our Premier has said that it seems like it’s an easy fix. We don’t understand why it wasn’t done. We look forward to debating.

My hon. colleague, the new Minister of Justice, Bill 1 – we’re all excited to have some good spirited debate on that important Elections Act upgrade, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Ferryland.

**L. O’DRISCOLL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

These are the reasons for this petition. An extension was announced to the Robert E. Howlett highway on March 25, 2014:

WHEREAS the environmental assessment, design and engineering of this project is completed; and

WHEREAS continued residential and commercial growth has increased traffic on the Southern Avalon;

Therefore, we petition the House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to continue with this significant piece of infrastructure to enhance and improve traffic in the Southern Avalon.

Mr. Speaker, I drive this road every day. When you're driving back and forth with the traffic that's on this road early in the mornings, midday and in the evenings – it's incredible that this has been passed since 2014 and no movement has been done. I was on the council in Bay Bulls in 2009 for a year or two. It was always the expectation that it was going to be done and it hasn't been spoken. It fell by the wayside and no one ever touched it.

We have a marine base in Bay Bulls, another proposed one in Fermeuse that would alleviate this kind of traffic from the main highway there now to get to these sites; also, very big tourism between Bay Bulls right to Trepassey, including Petty Harbour. When you get in there, you can jump off the highway. It's very important.

Also, the Gushue Highway, which they have completed a portion of, came to Mount Pearl. I drive that every day coming in here, which is great, but it doesn't join in. It's supposed to join in to the Robert E. Howlett, then continue on and an extension to that as well. It's something that supposedly in the works. Now it's stalled and it doesn't seem to be gone anywhere. We're trying to bring attention to it.

Also, on that highway as well, when you're driving right now, you're going through a residential community that the speed limit is 50 kilometres an hour. To get a road to bypass this, the same as you have in Torbay that bypasses that's been very significant and helped the areas. This would help our area extremely and it's something that we look forward to. I would love to look at the government and look at the

ministers, to be able to sit down and speak to this.

Thank you so much.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Lake Melville.

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

It's nice to have some competition on the petition world today. I'm reading this for a second time to a new minister.

In 2020, government announced that Route 520, the highway between Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the communities of North West River and Sheshatshiu, was now a priority under the Five-Year Provincial Roads Plan. Although a tender call was issued during late summer to complete upgrades and pave some sections, the submitted bids far exceeded the allocated budget. In September and again in December of 2020 in the House of Assembly, the minister of Transportation and Infrastructure stated government will expand the scope of the contract to find better value for next year's construction season; i.e., in 2021, which is where we are now. Since these commitments were made, the current state of this highway has further deteriorated to what we describe as an appalling condition.

Therefore we, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to issue the tender as committed to the people of Lake Melville for expanded work on Route 520 as soon as possible so that the expanded contract can be awarded and work started immediately at the beginning of this 2021 construction season.

Mr. Speaker, as I alluded to this yesterday, the highway has really suffered. It's been on the radar for attention for some time. I was pleased to see it finally get on the Roads Plan. We've been throwing our apples in the basket of the Trans-Labrador Highway. It is really time to fix this very important linkage between North West River, Sheshatshiu and Happy Valley-Goose Bay and elsewhere, and far beyond, by the way.

As I said, we have names on these holes and these dips that we call a roller coaster of a

highway. Just during the campaign, the safety pylons that we're using to designate potholes, areas that have caved in, given way on the side, I'm thinking we're going to run out of safety pylons before we run out of opportunities to repair it.

I would like to say that we appreciate the efforts of the contractor, but it's now well beyond patches and repairs. The entire highway needs to be addressed. There are major sections that need an elevation change to get out of the water table and provide a safe and stable transportation connection between these very important communities. I look forward to hearing an update from the minister.

I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Like my previous colleague, I do have a petition about roads, but I think it's more than the second time I've presented this one. As a matter of fact, I'm on my third minister.

I would like to start again and simply say: The maintenance and upkeep of the roadway through the community of Cold Brook is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Sections of the roadway have been in deplorable condition for the last five years and need repairs and resurfacing. Children are required to ride school buses twice daily over roadways where sections of the paved road are missing. There have been a number of close calls where vehicles have to swerve in order to avoid driving over a section of the roadway where the pavement is totally missing. The residents of Cold Brook deserve better.

Therefore we petition the hon. House of Assembly as follows: We, the undersigned, call upon the House of Assembly to urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to consider repairing, upgrading and maintaining the paved road through the community of Cold Brook in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about a kilometre – one kilometre of road that has not been looked at for more than five years. The local transportation officials have it on their radar for more than five years. Former Member Reid, when he represented the area, had it on his agenda and we still are waiting for that section of road to be repaired.

This past summer there was supposed to have been work done on Route 460. Cuts were made in the road; three months later the cuts were repaired because the local contractor who was supposed to do some paving in the area, there were some challenges with him that the department ran into so those cuts were paved over. I would imagine that they will be back this summer on Route 460. When they come back, it would be an appropriate time, and strategically, to be able to take advantage of the fact that the equipment is in the area to actually get this section of road done.

I ask the minister: Will you take that under advisement and finally get the kilometre of road in Cold Brook repaired?

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day.

### Orders of the Day

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper, Motion 10.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Deputy Government House Leader, that under Standing Order 11(1) this House not adjourn at 5:30 today, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

**SPEAKER:** The motion is that we do not adjourn at 5:30 today.

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Mr. Speaker, I call from the Order Paper, first reading of Motion 4, Bill 9.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Government House Leader, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007, Bill 9, and I further move that the said bill be now read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology shall have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007, and that the said bill shall be read for a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007," carried. (Bill 9)

**CLERK (Barnes):** A bill, An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007. (Bill 9)

**SPEAKER:** This bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the said bill be read a second time?

**S. CROCKER:** Tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 9 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper: Motion 5, Bill 10.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, Bill 10, and I further move that the said bill be now read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Government House Leader shall have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, Bill 10, and that the said bill shall now be read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

Motion, the hon. the Government House Leader to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act," carried. (Bill 10)

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act. (Bill 10)

**SPEAKER:** This bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the said bill be read a second time?

**S. CROCKER:** Tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 10 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper: Motion 6, Bill 11.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Labrador Affairs.

**L. DEMPSTER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Government House Leader, for leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend the Children, Youth and Families Act, Bill 11, and I further move that the said bill be now read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Labrador Affairs shall now have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Children, Youth And Families Act, Bill 11, and that the said bill now be read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

Motion, the hon. the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The

Children, Youth And Families Act," carried. (Bill 11)

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The Children, Youth And Families Act. (Bill 11)

**SPEAKER:** This bill has now been read a first time.

When shall the said bill be read a second time?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** Tomorrow.

On motion, Bill 11 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** The Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper, Motion 8.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Education.

**T. OSBORNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will read out the resolution at the start, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 4 of the *Auditor General Act* provides that the Auditor General is to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on resolution of the House of Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Ms. Denise Hanrahan be appointed as the Auditor General effective April 22, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, just to give a little bit of background on Denise Hanrahan: I think most Members in the Legislature would be familiar with her.

**SPEAKER:** Order, please!

We didn't have a seconder for that motion.

**T. OSBORNE:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker; seconded by the Government House Leader.

**SPEAKER:** Thank you.

The hon. the Minister of Education.

**T. OSBORNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think most people here would be familiar with Denise Hanrahan, having been most recently the deputy minister of Finance, then the secretary to Treasury Board. Mr. Speaker, I know she entered the public service in 2002, so she has 18 or 19 years of service to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I'll read out a bit of a bio on her, Mr. Speaker, for those in the House who do not know her as well as some of us who have been here a little longer, or the general public.

She served as the secretary to Treasury Board, a position that she's held since 2017. She has previously held positions within the public service, including the deputy minister of Finance; assistant deputy minister of Financial Planning and Benefits Administration with the Department of Finance; assistant deputy minister of Strategic and Corporate Services with the former department of Transportation and Works. She also held several director level positions within the public service, Mr. Speaker, including the pension joint sponsorship, the audit committee as a director with the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation and OilCo.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006 she was awarded a Public Service Award of Excellence, and before joining the public service in 2002, Ms. Hanrahan held numerous senior leadership positions within the retail, wholesale and not-for-profit sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Co-op) and master of business administration degrees from Memorial University. She's a chartered professional accountant. She has completed a master's certificate in project management through York University, the director's education program through the University of Toronto and obtained her director designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Mr. Speaker, I worked directly with Ms. Hanrahan when she became deputy minister of Finance for almost three years. I was there for over three years; she was almost three years. I can say that she is absolutely a dedicated public

servant. I'm sure that other Members in the Legislature who've had an opportunity to work with her and get to know her would agree that she's dedicated, that she's dedicated to the public service in this province, and I'm honoured, as somebody who's most recently worked with her for about three years, to be putting forward this motion in the Legislature today.

On a personal side, Mr. Speaker, I can say that coming into the department budget time, as most people know, public servants burn the midnight oil. They spend a number of hours – public servants within Finance and the budgeting division. I came in one evening, we were working on the budget about 11 o'clock and you'd swear there was a rock concert down the hallways of the Department of Finance. She was taking a break eating a Dairy Queen banana split and blaring out Pearl Jam, which I believe is her favourite band. She's also been known to hum; I've heard her singing Tina Turner's "Better Be Good To Me." I'm not sure, it's a wide array. All I can think now as a Minister of the Crown is: you better be good to me. I'm sure most Members of the Legislature would think that.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I'll end it with a verse from her favourite band, and while she's independent and I know she'll do due diligence in keeping government's feet to the fire: You don't have to stray two oceans away.

I'm sure the friendships that you've maintained in this House will go beyond, even though you'll perform your functions and keep us accountable.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, am honoured on behalf of the Official Opposition to support this motion. I think the hon. minister has taken many of the bullets that were written here for me, about Denise, Ms. Hanrahan, and certainly has acknowledged the tremendous role she has played in the last



number of years in working in government as well.

I think she's lead government through seven budget processes; two pension reform processes; has been part of teams that actually have been charged with federal government negotiations. She is well qualified. She has worked, as the minister has said, in several senior public sector management roles. For me, I think, I've been privy now to a couple of Estimates Committees, and as a former public servant I can attest to the amount of work that officials in the Department of Finance put in and the hours and hours and hours they spend getting the budgets ready and the Estimates ready.

I guess, Ms. Hanrahan is a well-balanced and qualified professional. She has worked with many MHAs directly through a wide range of interactions and, of course, as I mentioned particularly the annual budget processes and the Estimate processes. She is known for her honesty and, what I would call, truth to power – that style; a deep knowledge of government operations at many levels; and, certainly, problem-solving skills.

Again, I'm deeply honoured to be able to support the motion.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands.

**E. JOYCE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to concur with the minister and the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port. My dealings with Denise since 2016-2017 and other stuff in between – I, like the minister, have been around for a while and dealing with Denise. I can tell you, when we were going through a few difficult times in 2016-2017, the style of work of the group was Denise. She'd come in early in the morning, she'd leave late at night and she'd have everything so professional. She was such a great person to deal with.

I agree with both the minister and the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port, you couldn't get a more qualified person to be Auditor General of this province; a more honest, upfront, truthful,

present the facts the way they are. When there were times when there was tension, she knew how to bring levity to the situation so that we all get back.

I just want to congratulate Denise. I remember in 2016-2017 one of the things that she missed the most about the turbulent times that she had getting the budget ready for us was missing her family. I hope now she has time to make up for that because the service that she gave to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and put her family behind – that she has time now to spend with her family.

I'm just so pleased that this motion was brought forth for such a great lady, for a great worker, a great person and someone who is going to serve this province well in the future. Congratulations, Denise.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

**S. COADY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to add to the chorus of congratulations and speak to the qualifications of Ms. Denise Hanrahan. She is not just knowledgeable, but her integrity, her work ethic and her enthusiastic demeanour, I think it's all been noted well here this afternoon. Her dedication to this province and her deep and profound love of this province, I think, make her an ideal candidate as Auditor General. I think this province will be very well served.

I had the honour to work with her in her role for a few months as Minister of Finance, and I can say that she understands and knows more about the construct of this government over multiple years. I think she will serve us very well as Auditor General and she will make this province proud.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Labrador West.

**J. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of myself and my colleague here, we would like to also support this motion for Ms. Hanrahan. From the sounds of my fellow colleagues here, she has had a very impactful career, especially in the Department of Finance. She seems like she has made a lot of good friends over there in that. It's good to hear that she has also guided us through seven budgets and many other negotiations and different changes in our province.

Myself and my colleague here also do support this motion. We congratulate Ms. Hanrahan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality.

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

I want to add my voice to this. Of course, I want to applaud this motion and congratulate Ms. Hanrahan on this very prestigious opportunity. As we all know, arguably we're facing our most challenging fiscal times here in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador.

On behalf of the proud department of Women and Gender Equality, I want to congratulate this very well-deserving recipient for this. We look forward to collaborating and working with her. I have great confidence in her.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Topsail - Paradise.

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

If I didn't speak up on this I would probably get a call from Denise later on saying I didn't support her appointment. For those who know Denise, she would do that.

I had the pleasure of working with Denise many years ago when she first came to government. As the Member opposite said, it's not unlike to

see her working hard at her job, but then having some levity to relax and play some music loud.

I'm sure – I'm totally 110 per cent confident – that she is the right person for this job. She has all the tools to make this job work and to do the best for the province. She's a person of integrity and a hard worker, but she also has some levity. She can keep things real, and as the Member for Humber said over here, sometimes she brings a bit of humour to her job that takes the stress away from the staff that are working around her. She does that quite easily.

I just want to say I congratulate her. I think she's fabulous for the job and no need to give me a call tonight.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands.

**P. LANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I was waiting for the light to come on.

I'm not going to make this long, but as has been my past practice, any time there's any bill or any motion that comes before the House, as I am an independent Member, I'd like to speak for myself and give my point of view on it.

I just want to say that I don't really know Denise very well, as some others would know. I've obviously met her a few times through briefings with the Department of Finance, through the Estimates process and so on, but her reputation precedes her and I've heard a lot of good things about her.

Any dealings that I did have with her were positive. Looking at her résumé that's been presented to us, she's obviously very qualified, both from an educational point of view and from the perspective of experience, knowing government and how government operates. I have no problems supporting this motion.

I certainly want to congratulate her. I just also want to give her a heads-up that in her new role now, she can expect a visit from me very soon to discuss the audit of Nalcor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER:** Seeing no other speakers, if the Minister of Education speaks now, he will close debate on this resolution.

The hon. the Minister of Education.

**T. OSBORNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think Members in the House spoke very eloquently and very positively. I know that Denise is probably sitting in her office listening, to have the vote of confidence of Members of the House of Assembly.

It's an Independent Appointments Commission appointment, Mr. Speaker, unlike the old days. But if it were the old days, her name would probably come forward anyway because she is very capable and very qualified. She earned this, was chosen by the Independent Appointments Commission. I know that tonight, her and her family will probably celebrate this and tomorrow she gets to work.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure and an honour to see this motion passed.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Is the House ready for the question?

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper, Order 3, Bill 5.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, that Bill 5, An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015, be now read a second time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, Bill 5, be now read a second time.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015." (Bill 5)

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you for the first opportunity in my time here, a very short time, obviously, to speak to a bill and speak to an amendment of this piece of legislation. I know all the Members of the House of Assembly are familiar with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*. It's a very important piece of legislation.

As everybody knows, the work that we do here as Members of the House of Assembly and in our various departments is all in the interest of the public. The public should and do have the ability to make requests about the documents that we work on, the documents that we send back and forth to each other, so that we do the work in a public manner and that information is accessible to the public if they make requests.

Of course, there are exceptions to that. Not every piece of information that passes through our hands is public. One example of something that wasn't public information was documents that were provided to the commissioner of the Muskrat Falls inquiry. For Members who were here at that time, they might remember that Schedule B of the legislation provided an exemption to the Commission of Inquiry Respecting Muskrat Falls where the ATIPPA would not apply.

As everyone knows, as well, there has been an Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue for Lost

and Missing Persons in Newfoundland and Labrador that has been established. There is work ongoing in that. I think we'd all agree that's a very important piece of work that's being done, headed up by former Provincial Court judge, James Igloliorte. He's carrying out that work right now.

To that end, he has made a request that the House of Assembly provide an exemption to ATIPPA for that inquiry. The judge has indicated he believes the work of the inquiry may be prejudiced if the inquiry is not exempted from the operation of this act. The commissioner believes that the requirements of the ATIPPA could potentially interfere with the work of the inquiry and impose unnecessary demands on the staff of the inquiry.

Of course, I know no one in this House wants that to happen. It's very important that the work he is doing move forward as quickly as possible. It's very important work. He is examining the adequacy of search and rescue in Newfoundland and Labrador. Once his inquiry is done, as soon as he is able to – and this will help him move faster to complete his work – he will report back with any recommendations that he has to improve search and rescue in this province, to help improve the safety of everyone here.

This amendment is consistent, as I said, with an exemption that was provided to the Muskrat Falls inquiry. We all know Commissioner LeBlanc provided numerous recommendations following his completion of the inquiry. One of the recommendations he did make was that future inquiries should be exempt from ATIPPA.

This is the first inquiry since the Muskrat Falls inquiry was completed. In line with his recommendations, as this government is doing with numerous of his recommendations, we're agreeing to it. We're bringing this amendment forward to comply with the recommendation made by Commissioner LeBlanc.

I do want to stress – this is the most important part of what I say today – that the amendment is not frustrating anyone's ability to access public government records. Any government record that can be – and I guess this is a verb now – 'ATIPP-able,' will remain 'ATIPP-able.' If anybody wants a document from the Department

of Justice and Public Safety, they can still make that request under the current legislation; however, they cannot make that request directly to the Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue.

It does not change the public's ability to access any information that is public right now; it will simply allow the commissioner to do his work without the burden of having to comply with ATIPPA legislation. The scope of this amendment is extremely narrow. I can't imagine anything that would be more narrow than exempting this one inquiry from the applicability of ATIPPA legislation.

As I said, it's very important work. It's investigating a very sad event in Labrador and it's about time this moves forward. In order for it to move forward as quickly as possible, I ask that the House grant this amendment at the request of the commissioner, so he can move forward with his work in an expedited manner.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I can say with respect to this bill, as the Minister of Justice and Public Safety has stated, it is a very important piece of legislation. Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 – this legislation plays an important place in the public forum.

For example, when we look at this legislation, we see that the purpose of the legislation – it has been stated in the act – is to, first of all, facilitate democracy. One of the more important functions of this legislation is to safeguard the values of transparency and accountability.

The legislation, in its nature, is there to ensure that citizens have information, that they're able to participate meaningfully in the democratic process. I'm sure we'll all agree how important that is. We need to increase transparency in government and public bodies. We need to

increase transparency so as to ensure accountability of elected officials, of MHAs, of people who are employees and officers of public bodies.

The legislation is quite lengthy. When we look at it, it's a very detailed document. The amendment that is the subject of today is just one section of this very detailed act, which is there for the people of this province.

It is important to note, as well, that this legislation not only is there to facilitate democracy, it's to ensure transparency. It's also there to protect the privacy of individuals – the privacy of individuals, with respect to their personal information about themselves, which is in possession of public bodies. This legislation, for all of us, is very important because it does protect our privacy, it does protect personal information that public bodies have in their possession.

One other interesting thing that I think we need to note about this legislation – the actual act in itself – is that the purpose there is to be achieved by giving the public the right of access to records and public information. That's really what this act is all about. ATIPPA is there to give people in our province the right to access their records, the right to access their personal information.

I think it's important to set that background, just to summarize what the fundamental purpose of the legislation is and what the rationale for the purpose is, which is to increase transparency and to hold government accountable. Those are some of the important things that we need to make sure are evident. This is all about facilitating democracy.

This specific bill, Bill 5, as the Minister of Justice and Public Safety has indicated, is really just a simple exemption – one exemption for the commissioner of the Inquiry into Ground Search and Rescue for Lost and Missing Persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. It provides an exemption to the commissioner so that the inquiry and the commissioner will not be subjected to ATIPPA. I do find comfort in hearing that the Minister of Justice and Public Safety say, and he recognizes, that this is a very narrow-scope amendment. It is very specific as

to the inquiry and it certainly will not – what we're hearing is that it will not at all affect people from being able to access their information. It's not, in other words, a block of information becoming public. So that's really important to know and that's really important to hear.

It's really, I would say, a procedural kind of an amendment, if you will, to allow the commissioner the ultimate, I guess, discretion to access, for example, which exhibits will be made public and which will be confidential. The commissioner will make that determination. I think it's safe to say that that determination will be made by the commissioner in the public interest.

As has been referenced by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety with respect to the Muskrat Falls inquiry, that was just a narrow-scope exemption as well. It only applied to that inquiry. When the inquiry was over, the documents became the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's property, and thus were subject to ATIPPA and could be accessed by people. It is my understanding that will be the same with respect to this legislation.

With respect to that, Mr. Speaker, I can say that the Opposition Party is in support of this amendment. As has been stated, the work that will be taking place in this inquiry is very important to the people of the province and to the families that were involved, so we really want to support the efficient functioning of the inquiry so that they can do the important work that needs to be done and that the commissioner is not hindered, burdened or inundated by ATIPPA requests that are not necessary.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we, the Opposition, do support Bill 5.

Thank you very much.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, and Labrador Affairs.

**L. DEMPSTER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just waiting on the clock.

**S. CROCKER:** You are only given 20 minutes anyway.

**L. DEMPSTER:** I am only going to take five, I say to the Government House Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I am really pleased to see this amendment come before the House. I want to thank my colleague, he is pretty new in the department but it is nice to see some papers moving through quickly. As has already been discussed this is just a brief amendment to An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Mr. Speaker, what this is really about, if we go back to the Muskrat Falls inquiry, where we saw that Commissioner LeBlanc, he stated that: “A Commission should be exempted from the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* legislation so that its investigations can be conducted fully and without potential interference or influence.”

Really, that’s what this amendment is about; moving this inquiry forward that we have been waiting a long, long time for. I go back to 2012, when I was then a deputy mayor in my community, Mr. Speaker, and if there was one thing that galvanized Labradorians, it was the call for improvements for search and rescue when young Burton Winters went missing.

That very difficult time in Labrador’s history that we all went through, really, stays fresh in your memory. We were also very honoured that Judge Igloliorte from Hopedale, from a neighbouring community of that boy, when he was appointed the commissioner into the inquiry, and it was Judge Igloliorte that said: “I hope that I can honour Burton Winters’ memory by identifying steps that can be taken to prevent similar tragedies in the future ....”

Mr. Speaker, be it on the Coast of Labrador, or anywhere in the province for that matter, as we know there was a ground search underway at that time, but it was two days before a military aircraft would be dispatched and the outcome was very tragic: we have to learn from those events.

Mr. Speaker, search and rescue continues to be an issue of provincial and national importance and one that we take quite seriously; so I am really pleased to support this amendment today to Bill 5.

I’m sure the family is very anxious for this inquiry to be up and running. There will be one hearing of this inquiry dedicated solely to Burton Winters. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family.

Again, I commend my colleague, the Minister of Justice, for moving forward on this rather quickly since he’s been in the portfolio.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Labrador West.

**J. BROWN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I’ll speak briefly to this as well.

We understand the importance of this kind of an amendment to the protection of information, especially from the last inquiry’s request for such a thing. It’s important that we do – this is a good sign that this is the first step actually towards the inquiry finally taking place after a number of years.

We do support this housekeeping amendment, more or less than anything, to allow the commission and the inquiry to function correctly in the most expedient ways possible, but also, at the same time, protecting people’s information and allowing the flow because we also have to protect whatever information we take in. It goes back to the minister’s statement today about protecting people’s information but also allowing access to it when it is relevant.

I just want to briefly say that and that we do support this motion.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Lake Melville.

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

I think I could say without any doubt that those of us who can remember back nine years and certainly those of us who are very lucky to live in Labrador, will recall the emotions at that time and what happened with this tragedy of this young man. Many of us knew him, knew his family, we knew the people involved in the search. We knew the efforts that were being expended. We knew a lot of frustration that went on at that time.

It is good to see this inquiry move forward. As the sponsoring minister has said, and with his experience in working with inquires, if this is what is needed to proceed, then let's get on with it. I think it's extremely important that we do whatever it takes to get to the bottom of what did happen and what didn't go well.

I have quite a bit of familiarity with this, I've spent 10 years myself working on the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Search and Rescue team. I can tell you when you're watching people respond, it's often 2 o'clock in the morning, your phone rings or a pager rings and off you go. Now, you and your colleagues, you're putting yourselves at risk.

I want the outcome of this inquiry to be such that the tremendous contribution that so many volunteers across our province put forward each time that they are called out, they are really putting their own lives at risk. When I think back on those days – and some of them are very vivid for myself – I can only think that the communications breakdown that occurred here, the potential indecision, I'm not sure, but I do look forward to seeing an outcome that will allow us, will allow Labrador, will allow this family and everyone else around this tragedy and others to feel that we'll make some progress in responding to future situations such as this.

I wish Mr. Igloliorte all the best. I first met Judge Jim, as we all know him, as we knew him back in 1987 at Susie's Boarding House. I've had a long time that I've known this man. I don't think we could've found a better person to lead the inquiry. If Judge Jim is looking for this accommodation, I think we should give it to him.

I'm fully in support of that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Cape St. Francis.

**J. WALL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's certainly a privilege to speak in this hon. House. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this bill, Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, before I go any further, I want to pay tribute to all the families that are affected by this. For those who have lost and are missing loved ones, we remember them here in this House of Assembly today and always.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the crucial work that's done by the members of the ground search and rescue team all around our province. They are called upon in stressful times and their work is very difficult. I'm sure that each Member of the House will agree with me today that their efforts are held in high regard and we appreciate all the work that they do.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of any inquiry is to answer what has happened and why it happened. This particular amendment to the bill is necessary. This amendment won't be hiding anything, it won't block any information coming to the public. By the very nature of the commission of inquiry, information through exhibits and testimony will all be made public. The commissioner will assess the exhibits that can be made public and those that will remain confidential. I'm sure the commissioner will act in the public interest by virtue of his position alone, and make such a determination with public interest in mind.

Mr. Speaker, such instances being handled under this bill are very personal for family and friends of those who have died or are missing. They don't want or need the added worry as to what information will be made public while the ordeal is ongoing. This amendment to Bill 5 will allow the process not to get bogged down with information requests and, Mr. Speaker, there's really no need to play politics here at all.

In addition, there are a number of volunteer organizations who may provide documents to an ongoing inquiry and, of course, these documents are not eligible for ATIPPA requests as they are not from a public body. This proposed exemption for the inquiry will allow the commissioner to make the decision regarding if they to be made public or not.

Mr. Speaker, this inquiry is personal in nature and will rely on the testimony of family members and volunteers, and their personal information must be treated very carefully and with respect. I believe this amendment will do exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015. We are not reinventing the wheel here and we are not playing politics, as I said. This will be a benefit for everyone going forward who is involved in such an instance.

Our work here in the House of Assembly is for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and I support the government on this amendment to Bill 5.

Thank you.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands.

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

I'm not going to take long, but, again, just this past practice, as an independent Member of the House, I like my vote to be recorded in *Hansard* so it's quite clear where I stand on any given issue.

As it relates to this bill, I'm not going to get into repeating all that has been said, I think it's pretty clear what's happening here. We're just simply going to exclude this particular inquiry from the access to information act, basically on a temporary basis, if you will. Once the inquiry is over and everything returns to the government, if there are any documents that could normally be ATIPPed from government, that will still occur.

As has been said, the justice is just looking for – he doesn't want anything that's going to interfere with this very important inquiry and he doesn't want to be bogged down in ATIPP requests and so on. As it is sort of a one-off, if you will, the only other time it happened was with the Muskrat Falls inquiry.

Given the fact that the information will eventually become 'ATIPP-able' after the inquiry is over and as it allows for the inquiry to go through smoothly without problems so that we can get to the bottom of everything that went wrong, I will support it wholeheartedly.

Thank you.

**SPEAKER:** Seeing no other speakers to the bill, if the Minister of Justice and Public Safety speaks now he will close the debate.

The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First, before I make some comments, I note that this was seconded by the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology who was not the House when I first spoke. He is here now, if I can just note that he will second this motion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank all Members who spoke to this today, for contributing and supporting this motion. As everybody noted, it is something very important, something that obviously deals with a very serious situation in Labrador that happened. People spoke about the families and how this was, and continues to be, a difficult time for them. This will, hopefully, be part of the process of moving forward and healing, if that is possible for those family members.

I also acknowledge the Members opposite did recognize that the right to the public to access their records does remain in place, which is obviously very important; something we all want to ensure.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll end my comments.



**SPEAKER:** Is the House ready for the question?

The motion is that Bill 5 now be read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015. (Bill 5)

**SPEAKER:** This bill has now been read a second time.

When shall the said bill be referred to a Committee of the Whole?

**S. CROCKER:** Now.

**SPEAKER:** Now.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently, by leave. (Bill 5)

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 5.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that I do now leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 5.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, the Speaker left the Chair.

### Committee of the Whole

**CHAIR (Warr):** Order, please!

We are now considering Bill 5, An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015.

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015." (Bill 5)

**CLERK:** Clause 1.

**CHAIR:** Shall clause 1 carry?

The Chair recognizes the hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The first question is: Has the minister spoken to Judge Igloliorte, the commissioner? Just for clarification, are you aware if he intends to publicly make available the exhibits, which he is going to rely on throughout the inquiry?

**CHAIR:** The Chair recognizes the hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you very much and thank you for the question, Mr. Chair.

I have not spoken to the commissioner; I've actually never met him. I've heard great things about him and I've heard things about him in the House this afternoon as well. We're very pleased that he agreed to be the commissioner of this inquiry. Obviously, a very important inquiry to all Newfoundlanders and especially to Labradorians.

Any decision to make public records will be his and his alone. Certainly, I won't, and no one from the Department of Justice and Public Safety will dictate to him what he feels that needs to be disclosed to the public in relation to any investigations he makes in the course of his inquiry. I certainly know that's my experience when I was counsel at the Muskrat Falls inquiry. There was no discussion between counsel and the commissioner, and I highly doubt the commissioner discussed anything with the Department of Justice at the time about what should and should not be public. He will decide and he will alone decide what he needs to disclose so that he can do the full investigation.

I certainly expect that he will come across some information that is very private to individuals. It could be health records that he may feel do not need to be disclosed and maybe partially can be disclosed. He can redact things if he sees necessary. I think that concisely and fairly answers the question that the Member opposite had.

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** Has the Privacy Commissioner given an opinion on this amendment? If so, what was his opinion? If he did provide an opinion, can you table it?

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you for the question, Mr. Chair.

It is my understanding that the Privacy Commissioner is satisfied with this amendment, but I can't confirm that right now as a definite. I will certainly check with the department and see the exact conversations that were had with the Commissioner. If there is an opinion, we will look at disclosing it.

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

**H. CONWAY OTTENHEIMER:** This inquiry, as we've already acknowledged, is very personal in nature and will rely on the testimony of family members and volunteers. How will their

personal information be treated by the inquiry? Is there going to be any support made available to these people, to the volunteers and family members, throughout the inquiry?

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

**J. HOGAN:** Thank you for the question, Mr. Chair.

Again, that's a question that will go to how the commission operates. I'm sure that's part of the work that the commissioner is doing right now, making decisions about witnesses, who they will be and where this will take place.

Obviously, with the ongoing global pandemic, that changes everything in terms of how courts, commissions of inquiry and even the House of Assembly operate. Those sorts of decisions will be made by the commissioner. The funding will be provided and has been provided by the Department of Justice. We will keep an eye on that and any decisions or issues he needs in relation to that specific matter we'll happily talk to him about it. But, again, how the inquiry will be conducted is entirely in the realm of the commissioner's decision-making.

In terms of information that may be private and the families may not want to disclose, again, it's a very sensitive matter that the commissioner is dealing with. I'm sure he can have discussions with council for the family, that if they want things to remain private, they can discuss that. That's between them and not for the Department of Justice and Public Safety to opine on.

Thank you.

**CHAIR:** Shall the motion carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, clause 1 carried.

**CLERK:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows.

**CHAIR:** Shall the enacting clause carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, enacting clause carried.

**CLERK:** An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015.

**CHAIR:** Shall the title carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, title carried.

**CHAIR:** Shall I report the bill without amendment?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I move that the Committee rise and report Bill 5.

**CHAIR:** The motion is that the Committee rise and report Bill 5.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, the Speaker returned to the Chair.

**SPEAKER (Bennett):** The hon. the Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay.

**B. WARR:** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report Bill 5 without amendment.

**SPEAKER:** The Chair of Committee of the Whole reports that the Committee have considered the matters to them referred and have directed him to report Bill 5 without amendment.

When shall the report be received?

**S. CROCKER:** Now.

**SPEAKER:** Now.

When shall the bill be read a third time?

**S. CROCKER:** That's tomorrow, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER:** Tomorrow.

On motion, report received. Bill ordered read a third time on tomorrow.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

I call from the Order Paper, Motion 3, Bill 4.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board.

**S. COADY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology, that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider a certain resolution and a bill relating to the advancing or guaranteeing of certain loans made under the *Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957*, Bill 4.

**SPEAKER:** The motion is that I do now leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

On motion, that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, the Speaker left the Chair.

### Committee of the Whole

**CHAIR (Warr):** Order, please!

We are now debating the related resolution and Bill 4, An Act To Amend The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957.

### Resolution

*"Be it resolved by the House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:*

*"That it is expedient to bring in a measure further to amend *The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957*, to provide for the advance of loans to and the guarantee of the repayment of bonds or debentures issued by or loans advanced to certain corporations."*

**CHAIR:** Shall the resolution carry?

The Chair recognizes the hon. Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

**A. PARSONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would just like to speak for a couple moments on this resolution that's been brought here, which even though it is quite miniscule in the size of the paper that it's printed on, it's actually a very important paper that we're dealing with here today and one that we, as a Legislature, have been dealing with now for over a decade.

To anybody that might be watching here, what we are doing is essentially changing the wording, changing the date on a loan guarantee that we provide to the Stephenville Airport Corporation. Just to speak about the air industry in general, we all note the difficult times that have been present over the last year when it comes to this industry. Not just the industry as it relates to the flights coming in and out, but the airports that receive them. It is global in nature; it is not just as a province. We need to determine what the future is of air travel, passenger traffic and commercial activity. What does that hold for us?

I was very happy to see federal funding announced recently, which I know was much appreciated by the airport corporations. That's a group that we have had a number of meetings with over the last number of months. No matter where they are in the province, we have a number of hubs and we meet with them and try to work with them. A lot of it, obviously, is based on passenger restrictions, which we won't get into now, but we realize it's a lot of the issue that they face.

The Stephenville Airport itself prior to the pandemic had about 7,200 passengers. It has two runways, a fuel farm and operations terminal. As someone that has used it fairly frequently over the last number of years of my life, even before politics, we realize its charm and we realize its importance strategically as well. It is an important backup: you only have to talk to the airlines to see where they – if you have to divert there.

Again, I say to the Member opposite: he's going to be in agreement, as well as my colleague who – this is an airport that we're all very familiar with. The reality is that it has gone through tough times over the last two decades; this is not a new issue. The fact is we are here every year,

on an annual basis, dealing with this loan guarantee and the renewal of it.

I did want to point out, though, some positivity and that is that last year the Stephenville Airport Corporation and the Town of Stephenville embarked upon a partnership with Winnipeg Airport Services Corporation. They're known as WASCO. They provide airport management and they deal with a lot of rural airports all throughout the country. Their goal is to enhance airport operations for the benefit of the community and the region.

One thing I would point out – and this comes directly from meeting with Mayor Rose on a number of occasions – this is not about competing with other airports we have in the province, about diverting a finite base of passengers from one spot to the other, because that's not a game for anybody here. This is about creating new streams of traffic, new streams of passengers and new opportunities that come with it. I have a good feeling about this contract that they signed and I've heard a lot of positivity about this.

One positive is that they do have Sunwing returning to the airport, coming from Toronto in June with a weekly flight. Again, I don't want to belabour the importance of air connections to this province, we all know it, but that's one of the challenges that this airport faces, that this corporation faces and that we face as a province. So we support them, we want to work with them and I'm glad that they'll see the commitment that we've made.

Now, I will point out just for those that might be listening or hearing this for the first time, this was first done, actually, in 2005. Back then, it was a \$350,000 loan guarantee to secure their operating line of credit. It increased in 2010 and then increased further in 2016. Now, we have extended it annually since 2018, but there have been no increases on the amount. The amount went up just over a decade but it's stopped now and it's currently at \$850,000, I believe, or \$900,000. This bill will take it to there. The amount has not changed. The amount that has been incurred on that, I think, has actually gone down. I think there have been some revenues realized there.

We know the asset that's there. We know what it presents to the area and the opportunities that exist. Doing this, providing the support will ensure that they can continue to look for those opportunities, especially during this trying time. We'll see what other opportunities present. We all look forward to the same thing. We're going to see busy, bustling airports and people coming into this province. I think doing this will allow them that possibility to remain there and that hope to remain there.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**CHAIR:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the hon. the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port.

**T. WAKEHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I want to thank the hon. minister for his comments.

He's spot on when it comes to the critical importance of the location of Stephenville Airport. As he has pointed out, the government is not loaning money to the airport, but is guaranteeing their line of credit. They're continuing to guarantee that line of credit.

I also want to thank the provincial government for the support they provided last year to allow the corporation to enter into a contract with the Winnipeg Airport Services Corporation. They do have some exciting plans for the airport and are trying to build business, as the minister alluded to. Certainly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that perhaps that might get extended again, given the fact that we ran into a little bit of COVID this year. So it's something that they may come to government looking for a little bit of an extension with that one.

Stephenville provides a critical service for the whole West Coast when it comes to the air ambulance service. Whether you live in Port aux Basques east, Burgeo or Stephenville, even in the Corner Brook area, the air ambulance lands there a significant amount of time. That's a valuable service for the people of the West Coast. Stephenville Airport provides that. It does provide support to the community college, to the

hospital, private industry and the fish hatchery itself.

It has the critical infrastructure that will be needed if new businesses are set up and require any kind of cargo shipments. There are positive things there. It supports the Marine Institute, and as the minister alluded to already, it's an important alternate landing site for air carriers using St. John's, Gander and Goose Bay. If Stephenville was not there, it is possible that these airports would have to lose business because airplanes would not have an alternate landing site. Even that is of critical importance.

For all of those reasons, I'm glad to see that this has been brought forward. Yes, it's an annual thing. We would like to see if we could extend it out a little farther, but the fact that we're here and it's being supported by all sides of the House, I think the Stephenville Airport actually has – one of the other advantages it has is it probably has some of the best weather patterns in the entire province.

I'd also like to point out an opportunity, which I think is something maybe the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Transportation and others might want to look at as we go forward with our new budget. We clearly are in a different situation when it comes to domestic travel in our province, given the fact that COVID has probably shut down many of our airports and had a significant impact on them. As a government, we spend an awful lot of money on air transportation in this province. I would argue that most of the domestic province travel is probably funded in one way or another by government or people travelling on a government dime, whether they be government officials, departments' officials; whether they be agencies, boards or commissions; or whether, in fact, they're people who have to travel for medical transportation purposes.

Maybe it's time we looked at how much money we're actually spending in providing all that and all this service, and look at entering into a potential contract or contracts with one or two local carriers and say: Guys, we're prepared to give the government business, but we want a service that allows for a daily flight, maybe, that lands in Stephenville, that comes to St. John's or

Gander and Deer Lake, Goose Bay, Wabush, all of our airports.

One of the things we have, of course, is a very small population. We have one tertiary care centre and it's in St. John's, and we're not going to build another one. There is a lot of travel that has to happen. A lot of people have to travel in to St. John's for treatment and for medical reasons. A lot of those times they take advantage of, or try to take advantage of, the Medical Transportation Assistance Program and, of course, all of us here have travelled on different ways. I think maybe it's time, as part of the process of what we look at in budget, to look at exactly what our expenditures are, and maybe there's a way to do it.

I would say, in our Blue Book we did propose an opportunity for what we call a routine air ambulance service. What I mean by that is, there are lots of times that people in our province have to travel to the tertiary care centre and sometimes they're not deemed emergency and they travel by road ambulance over long kilometres.

I can give you an example. In my own district where a young man had severe burns, but he wasn't in what they called critical condition but he needed to go to the burn unit in St. John's. The air ambulance was called and said, yes, they would come get him, but the unfortunate part was, because he was not an emergency, the air ambulance would have to divert if an emergency came up. So the young gentleman was put in the back of an ambulance with a nurse, giving morphine every so many hours for pain, and travelled nine hours from Stephenville to St. John's in the back of an ambulance.

That's just one example. There are lots of people who are in palliative care and maybe need to be transported back to their communities, wherever they may be. It's just another opportunity here, I believe, to take a look at how we do business and the use of our airports and certainly how we provide air travel.

Again, I'm certainly glad to see the support for the Stephenville Airport here from my colleagues.

Thank you.

**CHAIR:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Member for St. George's - Humber.

**S. REID:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to have an opportunity to speak on this motion today.

Before I begin, I just wanted to thank the people of St. George's - Humber again for re-electing me in the recent election for the fourth time. It's quite an honour to serve in this House and I look forward to the next four years serving them again and speaking on their behalf on topics that are important to them.

The Stephenville Airport is an important piece of infrastructure for the whole Southwest Coast. It's been an important facility for some of the many reasons that have already been mentioned: the business travel, the tourism travel and the air ambulance that comes in there as well; it provides an important service.

It's very important that we have this kind of support for the airport and the government. I think both sides of the House for a long period of time have supported the Stephenville Airport in significant ways, as has the town and the communities in the area as well, in a financial way as well as moral support for the facility.

I'm very encouraged that the Winnipeg Airport Services Corporation is now involved in the Stephenville Airport. They have a track record of providing leadership at smaller airports throughout Canada. They have a very good track record and I'm very impressed by the way they're approaching things in Stephenville. I look forward to seeing – once we get through this COVID period – wonderful things from them as they work on the airport in Stephenville.

I don't know if people know the history of the Stephenville Airport but it's a former US Air Force Base and, at one point, it was an alternate landing site for the space shuttle. It's quite a big airport, quite a big facility and it's had a significant place in the history of this province. I think it still has a bright future and still has a lot more to offer to the province.

I'm very pleased with the actions that are being taken here to support the Stephenville Airport. I'm very pleased to see support on both sides of the House for these actions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**CHAIR:** Thank you.

Further speakers to the resolution?

The Chair recognizes the hon. the Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands.

**P. LANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

It's always a pleasure to speak in this hon. House. I'm going to be supporting this bill as well. As has been said, this is something that basically we do on an annual basis. As one Member did point out, this is not about year over year loaning money to the airport authority, it's basically the equivalent as you're co-signing a loan, like if you were co-signing a loan for a family member or something, that's basically what the government is doing here and continues to do year over year for this particular airport.

We know that this has been a particularly tough year on all of our airports and our entire province, all of our industries for the most part with COVID-19. It's been particularly rough, but I think it's important, particularly as we talk about our tourism strategy and trying to grow our tourism, as one example, that we maintain the assets that we have that can help our tourism industry grow. There's a lot of potential, I believe, for our airports, not just in the St. John's area, but out on the West Coast.

Quite frankly, a lot of people that I know and have met over the years who come to Newfoundland and Labrador, many of them tend to flock to the West Coast because they want to see Gros Morne and all those beautiful places there. The West Coast of our province is a beautiful part of our province. That's not to mention, obviously, the benefit to the region and to the people and to the businesses of the region.

There's no doubt there are people out there, possibly from this side of the Island, who might

say: Do we really need all these airports? We have one in Deer Lake and so on and now there's another one in Stephenville. Do we need both of them? I understand why some people might have that view, particularly because it's not impacting them, but the reality of it is that it is important to the West Coast of the province and to the region. It does benefit that area and, as I said, it does provide that potential for economic growth and growth in our tourism industries.

Again, it's not like we're providing loans or grants and so on, that's not what's happening here. It's simply co-signing, basically, on the line of credit.

I'm prepared certainly as a Member from this end of the Island, if you will, to support the greater good and to support the people of the West Coast in that regard.

Now, Mr. Chair, with that said, this is a money bill so that means that we're not required to stick to the subject of the airport. I've already said that I support that, but it's an opportunity for us, as Members, to raise other issues as well. There are a couple of issues I do want to just put out there, not related to the election. I think I ranted on enough about that yesterday and I'm going to rant on again tomorrow, and many days to come until, hopefully, we get some action on what went on there and get an investigation.

There are many other things that are happening in our province, there are many issues that people bring to all of our attentions as MHAs, and anytime we can find an opportunity to speak to those issues and bring it to government's attention, then I think that it's incumbent upon us, as Members, here to do just that. So that's what I'll be doing.

Mr. Chair, one issue I just want to bring forward just for the record and for the information of all Members of the House – and I'm sure other Members have probably heard similar concerns. One of the things that the government did, I guess it was in last year's budget, I think, with the best of intentions, and something that I voted for, I supported and I thought it was a great initiative – I still think it's a great initiative, and certainly the spirit of it. It was brought in by the Minister of Education and it was the \$25-a-day

child care. That was applauded by many people throughout the province, as I said, unanimously supported in the House of Assembly. I supported it, and I think the intent was and is great; the best of intentions. I'm not knocking the concept from an overall perspective.

I do just want to point out that I've heard from some people, some operators and so on, and families as well, who have concerns with how it went. Because while there were a number of daycare operators that went with the \$25 a day and were able to go with the \$25 a day, which was obviously beneficial to the families, the part that you don't necessarily hear about, like the public wouldn't hear about, is if you were a daycare operator, as an example, and you've built your business model – and anyone who's been in any kind of a business, whether it's child care or the service industry, the restaurant industry, it doesn't matter; manufacturing, doesn't matter, any kind of a business model, you build a business model and then, of course, the revenues and so on have to match the expenses. It has to match the model that you've established so that you can earn a living, you can make a profit.

Profit is not a dirty word, right? Some people seem, for some reason, to think it is, but it's not. As long as it's a fair profit, it's not gouging, of course there are issues with that. In the case of a lot of these child care operations, a lot of them, they were based on say \$45 a day was what they were charging. When the government came in with the \$25 a day, the government said: \$25 a day to the families, but we're going to subsidize the daycare to the value of – I think it's \$38 a day. I think it's an extra \$13. I could be wrong, maybe it's \$39, \$38, \$39, something like that.

If you were running a daycare operation and your model and the salaries you're paying and the rent you're paying or the mortgage you were paying on the building and all the expenses, if you built a model around \$45 a day, in order to offer that \$25 a day, you have to cut your rate to \$39, which means you're taking a \$6-a-day cut in revenue as a business for every single child in your daycare.

I understand their challenge, but if you said to the government, well, you can charge \$25, but you need to give me the \$20 so that I'm still



getting my \$45 to keep my business going. The government is saying: No, you're only getting your \$13 or \$14, whatever the amount. I think it's \$13. That's all you're getting. You're expected to take a \$6 or \$7 loss per child. That's the issue that has been brought forward to me by a number of daycares.

Then you hear from the parents, of course, because there are a number of child care operators who said: I just can't do it. I'll just have to close my doors. The only way I can operate is I have to say to the families here: I'm still charging \$45; I'm not charging \$25 because I can't get \$13 from government. They would say: Well, maybe I can charge you \$38 a day, but the government is not going to give me that \$13 subsidy unless I charge you \$25. I can't avail of the program; therefore, if you want to stay with me, you are going to have pay the full \$45.

There are a lot of families who have had to make that tough choice and say: Well, if I don't go with you, there's nowhere else to take my child. Some families are kind of forced to stay there, and not be able to avail of the \$45 a day. Some families are saying: Well, my child is here. They're with their friends. They like where they're going. They're used to the child care operators and so on, so I'm going to have to suck it up and pay the \$45 a day. A lot of them are prepared to do that.

The point I'm making, I guess, is that while the initiative was great, it's not necessarily working exactly the way, perhaps, it was conceived.

Now, I'm hearing from some people today, operators saying: It was all bad enough what happened with the \$25 a day, now the federal government is saying we're going to have \$10 a day. Who's going to pay me the difference? Or am I expected to take another cut as I had to take? The province made me take a cut and now the feds are going to look for me to take another cut. How am I going to keep my doors open?

**CHAIR:** (Inaudible.)

**P. LANE:** Yes, Mr. Chair, I understand I have, like, 10 seconds.

So winding it down, I would just say, Mr. Chair, that I applaud the initiative; heart was in the right place and there are a lot of people benefiting, but I would ask government to look at this program to see if there are improvements that can be made so that more people can avail of this service and daycare operators can keep their doors open.

Thank you.

**CHAIR:** Thank you.

Further speakers to the resolution?

The Chair recognizes the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

**D. BRAZIL:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

It's an honour to speak to this bill, but, particularly, this is my first opportunity to speak to legislation in the House in the 50th sitting.

I first want to congratulate all Members for being elected to the House of Assembly. I do want to thank the people in the great District of Conception Bay East - Bell Island for giving me an opportunity to serve them again in the House of Assembly for the fifth time.

I do note that when I first came in the only other Member who was here at the time was the Minister of Education, so welcome back again.

**T. OSBORNE:** (Inaudible.)

**D. BRAZIL:** I don't know if that speaks volumes about us or we've been around.

It's indeed a privilege to come back here. I do want to thank all of those volunteers who supported every candidate, no matter what party or if they were independents, because it does show the importance of our democratic process and the fact that people do go out of their way to give their time and energy to ensure that people get an opportunity to exercise that right. It has been a privilege. I look forward to the 50th sitting of the House of Assembly and I congratulate and look forward to working with the government and all of our colleagues here on the Opposition side.

I did want to acknowledge this piece of legislation because I do agree, it's an important piece of legislation. While it may not seem like a lot when it comes to – and I think one of the former speakers, the minister himself had said: At the end of the day, while it may not seem like a lot on the Order Paper, it's very important to the region and to the community of Stephenville, but particularly to the southern part of the West Coast.

I've had a very connected history, because I do remember spending a lot of time as a civil servant travelling to Stephenville. Stephenville was the hub of the southern part of the West Coast when it came to education with the college being there, when it came to things around infrastructure, conferences, conferences for the province, but the national conferences, because of the location, it was a real good area for people to congregate and discuss issues that were relevant to the whole region. We managed to do that.

I remember being on the tarmac at one point and having an EPA airline – Air Atlantic would have the smaller ones and, even later, Canadian Airlines coming with Air Canada. So there was a lot of traffic coming and seeing fighter jets further down who would land and do some various things there as part of it.

Knowing the history of that asset to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador – and that's what it is now, it's an asset to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We have a responsibility to ensure that we keep those assets. Too often, we flippantly see things deteriorate and we let them deteriorate, without realizing the value they could have by being proactive.

This is a case where, for a number of years, different administrations have seen the value of the airport authority in Stephenville and the airport itself, and have contributed to ensure that it stays viable while it's looking for an opportunity to expand and find other markets. I was fortunate enough, as a Member of the PC caucus at one point, that we had discussions around increasing the loan guarantee which made it viable for the airport authority to move forward, and the Town of Stephenville to ensure that asset stayed in that region. As minister of

transportation and works, I had the opportunity, in meeting with the airport authority and councils, to discuss how we further could support that infrastructure asset.

I think we all agree that this is an asset that not only benefits that part of the region, but it benefits all of Newfoundland and Labrador. The world has gotten so small now from a global perspective and from a business perspective. What we need to sell are the assets that we have here. We need to market the fact that globally we're in the middle of perhaps the most economically diverse parts of the world, from Europe to North and South America. Having our assets ready to go when industries change, when there's an uptake for a multitude of reasons, being able to enhance it by making more equitable investments and modernize things so that we can now be as competitive with anybody else.

I was a bit skeptical, I don't mind saying, when I did hear that the Winnipeg Airport Authority was going to take over the operations. I was skeptical because maybe we get a little bit defensive in this province when somebody outside, we feel, has control of something we're doing, but it is smart business. It was a smart move to bring in an authority that has that as their speciality, that has that keen knowledge of operating facilities like this and have the expertise.

The expertise we could get for a fraction of the cost, if we had to go on our own to do it, was a very smart move here. I welcome that. I did a little research to see their background. They're as competent as any of the top airport authorities in this country. Hats off that we could reach out to our western colleagues in those industries and get them to come to Newfoundland and Labrador, keeping in mind they then have contacts all over the world that could be of use to the airport authority in Stephenville itself. Having this asset guaranteed – and as we know, additional monies, time changes, there is additional costing, but there is also the ability for this board, who are very creative, to find ways to enhance the attractiveness of the airport itself and of that asset.

We wholeheartedly support this, as my colleague, the MHA responsible out there, has

said. The dialogue and the support from all of the agencies, organizations and councils in the region dictate that we owe this to the people of that region to ensure this asset stays viable. I think we're all confident that in the near future we'll see this prosper and be an economic contributor.

The loan guarantees won't be around these types of things. It will be infrastructure investments because it's creating employment, it's a tax-revenue generator and it's bringing people to Newfoundland and Labrador while providing services that are necessary. I wholeheartedly support this and look forward to a day when we can get back there again and I land on that tarmac, I look out a window and there are two or three other airlines landing next to us.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for that opportunity.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**CHAIR:** Further speakers to the resolution?

Shall the resolution carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, resolution carried.

A bill, "An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957." (Bill 4)

**CLERK:** Clause 1.

**CHAIR:** Shall clause 1 carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, clause 1 carried.

**CLERK:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows.

**CHAIR:** Shall the enacting clause carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, enacting clause carried.

**CLERK:** An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957.

**CHAIR:** Shall the title carry?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, title carried.

**CHAIR:** Shall I report Bill 4 carried without amendment?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the resolution and a bill consequent thereto, carried.

**CHAIR:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I move the Committee rise and report the resolution and Bill 4.

**CHAIR:** The motion is that the Committee rise and report the resolution and Bill 4.

Is it the pleasure of the Committee to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**CHAIR:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

On motion, that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, the Speaker returned to the Chair.

**SPEAKER (Bennett):** The hon. the Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay.

**B. WARR:** Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Ways and Means have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report that they have adopted a certain resolution and recommend that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

**SPEAKER:** The Chair of the Committee of Ways and Means reports that the Committee have considered the matters to them referred and have adopted a certain resolution and recommend that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

When shall the report be received?

**S. CROCKER:** Now.

**SPEAKER:** Now.

On motion, report received and adopted.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, that the resolution be now read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the resolution be now read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

**CLERK:** "*Be it resolved by the House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:*

"That it is expedient to bring in a measure further to amend *The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957*, to provide for the advance of loans to and the guarantee of the repayment of bonds or debentures issued by or loans advanced to certain corporations."

On motion, resolution read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I moved, seconded by the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, that the resolution be now read a second time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the resolution now be read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

All those in favour, 'aye.'

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, 'nay.'

Carried.

**CLERK:** "*Be it resolved by the House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:*

“That it is expedient to bring in a measure further to amend *The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957*, to provide for the advance of loans to and the guarantee of the payment of bonds or debentures issued by or loans advanced to certain corporations.”

On motion, resolution read a second time.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, for leave to introduce a bill, An Act To Amend The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957, Bill 4, and that the bill now be read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the hon. the Government House Leader shall have leave to introduce a bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957, Bill 4, and that the said bill be now read a first time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, ‘aye.’

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, ‘nay.’

Carried.

Motion, that the hon. the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board have leave to introduce a bill, “An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act,” carried. (Bill 4)

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957. (Bill 4)

On motion, Bill 4 read a first time.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I moved, seconded by the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, that Bill 4 be now read a second time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that the said bill be now read a second time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, ‘aye.’

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, ‘nay.’

Carried.

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957. (Bill 4)

On motion, Bill 4 read a second time.

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I moved, seconded by the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board, that Bill 4 be now read a third time.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that Bill 4 now be read a third time.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, ‘aye.’

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, ‘nay.’

Carried.

**CLERK:** A bill, An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957. (Bill 4)

**SPEAKER:** This bill has now been read a third time and it is ordered that bill do pass and that its title be as on the Order Paper.

On motion, a bill, “An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957,” read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill 4)

**SPEAKER:** The hon. the Government House Leader.

**S. CROCKER:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I’ll try this again.

I move, seconded by the Member for Conception Bay East - Bell Island, that this House do now adjourn.

**SPEAKER:** It is moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

All those in favour, ‘aye.’

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aye.

**SPEAKER:** All those against, ‘nay.’

Carried.

This House stands adjourned until 10 o’clock tomorrow.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10 a.m.