

# FROM THE CELLAR

Updates from the Office of the Third Party



## OVERVIEW:

- Events
- Update from the MLAs
- Q & A
- Conflict of Interest

The Office of the Third Party has been preparing for the next Legislative Assembly sitting.

We've been receiving some great feedback from communities around PEI about their concerns, asking the Third Party to work on their behalf on various issues.

Our team has been working hard to reflect these issues and concerns in prospective motions, bills and questions that may be presented in the Legislature. We will be updating our newsletter as the House sits and will feature weekly highlights. Stay tuned.

Feel free to SHARE this newsletter with your friends.



Benefit for Laverne Ellands at the Crapaud Curling Club

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Legislature Opens April 5th**

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch LIVE

[CLICK HERE](#) to view archives

### Community

- March 29, 6:30pm - Celebration for Paralympian Mark Arendz at the Kingston Legion

## UPDATE FROM PETER BEVAN-BAKER

We are continuing to reach out to Islanders from tip to tip. What a pleasure it is to take the trip up west and visit with people sharing their great ideas for a better future. And as Spring is trying hard to push to the surface, the rivers are flowing full and lively in the East.

We are truly fortunate to live in such a place of beauty, both in its people and place. I am constantly being reminded of how engaged Islanders are in politics and how much people care about the well-being of their communities. Thank you to all who take the time to get involved at the community level and step up to help. I look forward to meeting with more Islanders as we make our way around this great place.

Congratulations to the pride of District 17, MARK ARENDZ! Mark was named Closing Ceremony flag bearer for Canadian Paralympic Team in PyeongChang. Mark won five medals in PyeongChang, medaling in each event he competed in: one gold, one silver, and three bronze in biathlon and cross-country.

## UPDATE FROM HANNAH BELL

I had the opportunity to take part in a Community Forum on Aging, Housing, and Diversity, at the Murchison Centre this month. Big thanks to the presenters and to those who took part and shared the experiences and information vital to helping shape future public policies.

I loved dropping in to chat with the Newcomers 'civics class'. Amazing questions and interactions with new Islanders wanting to learn about how politics works on PEI.



On the road with Hannah Bell, Lynne Lund and Peter Bevan-Baker.

## Q & A

Q:

What is a Private Member's Bill?

A:

Most of the bills that are introduced in the legislature are introduced by Cabinet Ministers on behalf of the government.

These are called government or public bills. But it's not just Ministers who can introduce bills; in fact, other MLAs can introduce legislation as a Private Member's Bill.

The rules around Private Member's Bills are a bit different than government bills. The member must give the legislature 48 hours notice before introducing the bill, and it can't be related to matters of finance. But essentially the bills must be reviewed and debated in the legislature the same as government bills.

Unfortunately, it is very rare for a Private Member's Bill to be passed in the legislature, especially when there is a majority government.

Over the past three years, the Office of the Third Party has introduced a number of Private Member's bills including bills:

- to require government to track measures of well-being;
- to lower the voting age to 16; and
- to create whistleblower protections for members of the private sector.

[CLICK HERE](#)

*to view Office of the Third Party  
Private Members Bills*

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

In the upcoming legislative sitting, the Office of the Third Party will be introducing amendments to the Conflict of Interest Act. These amendments are based on recommendations made by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in his 2015 Annual Report. The Leader of the Third Party asked the Premier about these amendments in Question Period on December 8th, 2017 ([click here to view](#)). When government wouldn't commit to enacting the amendments, we decided to prepare a Private Member's Bill.

These amendments will:

- Allow members of the public to refer concerns directly to the Commissioner.
- Increase the amount of time that restrictions around accepting certain contracts or benefits are placed on Ministers upon leaving office (the cooling off period) from six months to one year.
- Reduce the value of acceptable gifts that MLAs may receive from \$500 to \$200 per year.
- Introduce a mandatory review of the Act after every general election.

[CLICK HERE](#)

*to view the 2015 Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner*

## THE OFFICE OF THE THIRD PARTY WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

### SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK

Q: How long do you think cabinet ministers should be restricted from accepting certain government contracts or benefits after leaving office?

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT  
YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

## HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT ANSWERED?

### SUBMIT A QUESTION

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT  
YOUR QUESTION](#)

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