

# FROM THE CELLAR

Updates from the Office of the Third Party



## OVERVIEW:

- Events
- Update from the MLAs
- Q & A
- Citizens' Assembly

We have not heard back from the Minister responsible for the Employment Standards Act to be able to share with the public any documents related to the decision to exempt athletes. We will share any new information as it comes in. We attended the rally on rural governance and heard words from various MLA's. We will continue to present solutions with the focus on inclusive public engagement processes. Update on office space: We are temporarily in the attic in the J. Angus MacLean Building across from Coles Building. Very bright space.

Feel free to SHARE this newsletter with your friends.



J. Angus MacLean Building

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Legislature - Week 2

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch LIVE

[CLICK HERE](#) to view sitting archives

## UPDATE FROM PETER BEVAN-BAKER

It's been a busy week working for and with Islanders. Several motions and bills are in the works. One in particular, I intend to introduce, is a motion on Campaign Finance Reform that calls on government to "amend the Election Expenses Act, prior to the next general election, to remove the ability for corporations and unions to make contributions to political parties and candidates, and to set annual maximum limits for all contributions to political parties and candidates."

I expect a lively debate on this motion.

Brookvale Provincial Ski Park is now officially named Mark Arendz Provincial Ski Park. This honours PEI's great Paralympian and the six medals he won in Pyeongchang.

As well, in Summerside, a fully accessible park and playground will be built and named Billy Bridges Park for our silver medal-winning hockey player.



## UPDATE FROM HANNAH BELL

I was honoured to table Motion 38, Supports for Ostomy Patients. There are 320 Islanders requiring regular care, consumable medical supplies, and supports. The motion urges government to extend the Pharmacare Formulary to cover ostomy supplies for all patients. I look forward to the debate.

### MOTION 38

Thank you to the Her Honour, The Honourable Antoinette Perry, for the invitation to meet Commodore Marta Mulkins, Commander Naval Reserve, and incredible female role model for the Naval Reserve.



*Hannah Bell and Peter Bevan-Baker at the Montague Waterfront*

## Q & A

**Q:**  
What is a citizens' assembly?

**A:**  
A citizens' assembly is "an independent, non-partisan assembly of citizens" that is convened to deliberate on complex issues of significant importance in society. They are made up of citizens that are randomly selected from the population in such a way as to be

broadly representative of society (e.g. they are typically balanced across genders, geographic region, Indigenous representation, and other factors). This group of citizens examines issues by learning from experts, engaging the public, deliberating and discussing, and making collective decisions on the matter, including issuing recommendations to government.

Who is eligible to be a member of a citizens' assembly?

Typically all eligible voters are eligible to be selected as a member of citizens' assemblies, although elected officials and a few other people are normally excluded. A non-partisan chair (e.g. former judge, academic, etc.) is appointed by government to facilitate the assembly's work.

## CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES AND RURAL GOVERNANCE

Judge Ralph Thompson in the 2009 report of the Commission on Land and Local Governance recognized that in order to reform rural governance on PEI it would be essential to conduct a thorough public engagement exercise in order to "determine the consensus of Islanders". The Report also recognized that there are many challenges associated with the way rural PEI is currently governed and that this has real consequences for the long-term sustainability of our communities. There have been a series of attempts at rural amalgamation over the years on PEI. Currently, we are focused on the Three Rivers area. After several public meetings, plebiscites, and municipal votes a consensus has yet to be reached. The Office of the Third Party is asking Government to review what it has learned from the difficulties in the current process and we've suggested creating a citizens' assembly to help find consensus.

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*to view Questions by the Third Party*

[CLICK HERE](#)

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

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

### SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK

**Q:** In what ways would you like to see your government engage with you on issues important to you?

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT  
YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

**WHAT WOULD YOUR QUESTION  
BE FOR QUESTION PERIOD?  
SUBMIT A QUESTION**

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT  
YOUR QUESTION](#)

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