

FROM THE CELLAR

Updates from the Office of the Third Party



OVERVIEW:

- Events
- Update from the MLAs
- Q & A
- Election Finance Reform

Shout out to those who have contacted us with your ideas and concerns via phone, email, Facebook, Twitter and in person. Your input is integral to our democratic approach in all things legislative, whether it be introducing and debating motions and bills or holding government to account. We look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks with your input.

Feel free to SHARE this newsletter with your friends.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Legislature - Week 3

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch LIVE

[CLICK HERE](#) to view sitting archives

UPDATE FROM PETER BEVAN-BAKER

Highlights in the legislature this week: questions to government on campaign finance reform; rural amalgamation; electronic access to budget information; OTP Motion 41 on Campaign Finance Reform and Motion 42 on Rural Governance; Member's Statement on Citizens' Assembly. You can find records of all Third Party questions, motions, statements and bills here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Always a privilege on a poignant day to join Matthew Murphy's family and friends for the memorial fisherman's breakfast in Bonshaw. I never fail to be touched by Matthew's family's resilience and generosity.



[CONTACT US](#)

UPDATE FROM HANNAH BELL

I was honoured to rise in the House to recognize an amazing community partnership with the PEI Women's Institute and Murphy's Pharmacies in coordinating the delivery of Taking Care of Women's Business, a program tackling the need for feminine hygiene products for the shelves of PEI food banks. This is a great example of community work in District 11.

I also stood in the House to ask government questions about the Elections PEI independent audit and why the recommendations have not been implemented.



ELECTION FINANCE REFORM

In May 2016, the Premier stood in the Legislature and promised to table legislation that would ban corporate and union donations. In December 2016 he announced that he had reconsidered the issue and would not be banning corporate and union donations.

The federal government, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia, have legislation to ban corporate and union donations. The Third Party "strongly believes that these types of donations have a corrupting influence. I cannot accept that it is merely a coincidence that some of the biggest donations to the two largest political parties on PEI come from construction companies, accounting firms, legal firms. The one thing these donors have in common is that they are businesses that either receive millions of dollars in government contracts, or they are regulated by government."

- Peter Bevan Baker, November 30th, response to the Speech from the Throne.

[CLICK HERE](#)

to watch Throne Speech Response excerpt

Q & A

Q: What is the role of an MLA?

A: The role of Legislator involves understanding current laws, studying, discussing and then supporting or opposing the enactment of new laws.

As a Representative of his or her constituency, a Member may voice concerns on behalf of constituents, represent viewpoints or intercede and assist in resolving problems.

As a member of a caucus an MLA may be involved in working with and supporting caucus colleagues to achieve common goals, and developing expertise in given subject areas.

An MLA may also serve as a Cabinet Minister or Critic. Members of the Legislative Assembly divide their time between their constituencies and their work in the assembly.

An MLA's duties will vary, depending on whether he/she is a member of cabinet, a member of an opposition party, an independent member, or a government backbencher.

Members spend much of their time researching and asking questions in the House regarding their constituencies and critic areas. Members also present petitions, motions, and private members' bills to the House.

MLAs also serve as members of various standing committees. Committee membership is allocated to the political parties in approximately the same proportion as their representation in the House.

MLAs spend time helping their constituents on a variety of issues: individual problems, navigating government departments and agencies, and issues specific to the district.

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

SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK

Q: Do you think corporate and union donations to political parties should be banned?

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT
YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

WHAT WOULD YOUR QUESTION BE FOR QUESTION PERIOD?

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT
YOUR QUESTION](#)

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