

CAPE BRETON POST

CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA

POLITICS

Cape Breton MLA's office driveway adequately accessible, says speaker

ANDREW RANKIN
SALTWIRE NETWORK

HALIFAX — Speaker of the House Kevin Murphy said he believes independent MLA Alan Paon's constituency office driveway is adequately accessible, suggesting she should not have been refused rent money from the province.

Murphy, who uses a wheelchair, is a member of the House of Assembly Management Commission that decided in the summer to withhold rent payment to the Cape Breton-Richmond MLA after Paon refused to pave her office's driveway. The commission determined that the driveway needed to be paved to meet accessibility rules. Murphy said his opinion was overruled by the committee and now the province is forced to pay back rent for the office up to and including October.



Paon

"My recommendation to the commission last spring was that I was OK with the condition of the parking lot as a technical variance," said Murphy. "The commission saw fit after much debate to overrule the recommendation as the speaker and that's well within the power of the commission to do so, and here we are."

Paon issued a news release Monday, with attachments including a copy of a letter confirming the payment of the rent from Gordon Hebb, chief legislative counsel and statute revision officer. It confirmed that the back rent was being paid by the province to the end of October. Paon had been locked out of the St. Peter's office by her landlord on Sept. 15 over the unpaid rent.

In June, Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative leader Tim Houston removed Paon from the PC caucus over issues including the accessibility of her constituency office. Attorney Dennis James sent a letter on Paon's behalf to Murphy on Sept. 30 saying the province had broken its contractual obligations to pay rent on the office. Murphy said the legal advice he received was that the matter was between his office and the MLA's landlord.

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CRIME



Amy LeTournal sits with her 10-year-old daughter Rebecca (Beckie) MacDonald in the living room of their Glace Bay home, which is decorated for Halloween, on Oct. 6. In September, Beckie was riding her bike in her neighbourhood when she was the victim of a hit and run. LeTournal said she is thankful her daughter wasn't badly hurt but the incident has brought back her own memories of landing in hospital after being hit by a driver who left the scene. **NIKKI SULLIVAN/CAPE BRETON POST**

Shared trauma

Hit and run memories haunt Glace Bay mother and daughter

NIKKI SULLIVAN
CAPE BRETON POST

GLACE BAY — Amy LeTournal can't remember exactly what happened after her neighbour's son came running into her kitchen yelling that her 10-year-old daughter had been hit by a car.

She knows she left the kitchen, where she was texting a friend, but can't "remember my feet

hitting the floor." All she remembers is she "panicked."

The driver had left the scene and her daughter, Rebecca (Beckie) MacDonald, was crying as her 12-year-old sister Chloe MacDonald carried her home. Beckie was wearing her helmet when she was hit and had been driving along the side of the road, on the dirt part. Chloe and a couple of other children were with her and say the driver of the

car stopped in the road. Beckie started going across the road when the driver suddenly accelerated and hit her while she was crossing.

Not only was LeTournal afraid her cheerleading-loving daughter was seriously hurt, the 36-year-old was also having "flashbacks" of when she was hit by a driver who left the scene when she was eight.

"I still have pain from the hit

and run I was a victim of," said LaTournal, sitting in the living room of their Glace Bay home with Beckie by her side and Chloe on the floor in front of her.

When LaTournal was hit, she was leaving a corner store in Sydney which was close to where she lived, walking down the sidewalk when the driver swerved and hit her, then left the scene.

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ELECTION

What was in it for Atlantic Canada?

Quick quotes you may have missed in the federal leaders' debate

DAVID MAHER
SALTWIRE NETWORK

In a federal leaders' debate heavy on content for voters in Quebec, voters a little farther east may have missed some moments that matter to those in Atlantic Canada.

Aside from seeing Nova Scotia used as a unit of measuring immigration, there was nothing specific to Atlantic Canada on the debate stage. However, there were comments that can illuminate the federal party leaders' positions on matters important to the region.

CLIMATE CRISIS

As the climate crisis continues, the issue got quite a bit of time on each federal party leader's plan to tackle climate change.

Conservative Party of Canada Leader Andrew Scheer: "This carbon tax is increasing the cost of everyday essentials, like gasoline, home heating, and groceries. . ."

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The federal leaders' English debate was held on Monday night. Clockwise, top left: Jagmeet Singh, Justin Trudeau, Elizabeth May, Maxime Bernier, Andrew Scheer and Yves-François Blanchet. **SALTWIRE PHOTO**

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