

the Acadian community. Who I know, in different meetings I've had around Prince Edward Island, works hard on behalf of the Acadian population, and I'd like to congratulate him very much for all the hard work that I know he does on Prince Edward Island.

It's a pleasure for me to stand and support this motion. I believe it's a shame with regards to the deportation, but I also believe it shows the significance and the perseverance of the Acadians. Today, as it says in the motion here, the Acadians make up - and I'm just going to quote from here: "And whereas Acadians today comprise nearly one-third of the Island's population, forming a vibrant and dynamic presence on the economic, political, artistic and cultural scenes."

When we talk about Acadians, I just want to give a little story here, a couple of little anecdotes about a Page actually in the House, and the Page's last name is Poirier. I believe his first name is Luke. I said to him one day - and this could perhaps predate some people here, or perhaps some others don't remember this show or never saw the show, but back when I was in high school and university, the most popular show on television was a television show called 90210, and the star of that show was a gentleman by the name of Luke Perry. I said to the Page here: Do you know you've got a pretty famous name? If you had went by the Anglicization of the name, your name would have been Luke Perry? He said: Actually, when I was born, I was born Luke Perry.

He had the last name Perry until he was three years old, and then they changed their name to Poirier, and it just shows how many people on Prince Edward Island, even within the last generation, have changed their names back to their Acadian roots, because it's something that - no matter what roots you come from, you should be proud of your roots. I believe it's a great sign today that on Prince Edward Island more and more people are embracing their Acadian roots.

*Et je veux aussi parler quelques minutes en français parce qu'ici à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, peut-être seulement un tiers des personnes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, ou leurs noms de famille viennent de l'Acadie,*

*mais à peu près 5,000 - peut être jusqu'à 10,000 personnes à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard parlent français aussi.*

*Et puis j'ai eu la chance dans les derniers quelques mois de faire le tour de quelques écoles ici à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard - soit dans une école de l'ouest de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. Et puis j'ai été vraiment surpris de voir des jeunes enfants qui vont dans une école française et leurs parents ne parlent pas un mot de français, mais leurs grands-parents parlent très bien le français parce qu'on a eu une période de temps ici à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard ou ce n'était pas bon, peut-être, ou pas la chose à faire de parler français si tu étais Acadien.*

*Mais maintenant à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, à cause des Acadiens et des gens qui parlent français, les jeunes Acadiens et les jeunes enfants de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard ont l'occasion ici à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard de parler français et puis, moi, je pense que dans les générations à venir, l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard fera l'envie du monde parce que je pense qu'on va avoir beaucoup de notre population qui pourra parler les deux langues officielles du Canada.*

And I also want to speak in French for a few minutes because here on Prince Edward Island maybe only a third of the people, or their last names, come from Acadia, but about 5,000, maybe up to 10,000, people on Prince Edward Island also speak French.

And I had the chance to tour some schools here on Prince Edward Island - a school in western Prince Edward Island - and I was really surprised to see young children in a French school whose parents don't speak a word of French, but their grandparents speak entirely in French, because there was a time period here on Prince Edward Island where it wasn't good, maybe, or not the thing to do to speak French if you were Acadian.

But now on Prince Edward Island, because of the Acadians and people who speak French, the young Acadians and young children of Prince Edward Island have the opportunity to speak French, and I think in future generations, it'll make Prince Edward Island the envy of the world because I think a lot of our population will be able to speak both of Canada's official languages.

So just to conclude in English, I believe it's important for us to recognize the rich heritage of the Acadians. It's important for us to recognize the important contributions they make here in the Province of Prince Edward Island, and it's going to be my pleasure to vote in favour of this motion. Again, I want to congratulate the hon. Member for Evangeline-Miscouche because I know that he does a lot of work for the people of the Acadian community and for all Islanders.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Crapaud-Hazel Grove.

**Ms. Bertram:** *Merci, Monsieur le président.*

*J'aimerais aussi - c'est un plaisir aujourd'hui de soutenir cette résolution et premièrement, j'aimerais bien célébrer le député d'Évangéline-Miscouche pour (Indistinct) de cette résolution aujourd'hui pour les Acadiens et Acadiennes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to - it's a pleasure to support this resolution today, and first of all, I'd like to commend the Member for Evangeline-Miscouche for (Indistinct) this resolution today for the Acadians of Prince Edward Island.

*Et cette année marque les 250 ans du Grand dérangement des Acadiens ici à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard. This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians on Prince Edward Island. Et c'était un événement qui était grand dans l'histoire des Acadiens à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et je sais aussi, ayant été une enseignante à l'école primaire - as a teacher teaching elementary school and teaching social studies, the story of the Acadians is very important to be told because there are many students on PEI - whether they're from the east, the west, or the central area of PEI - that can draw their ancestry to the Acadians, and many of them know Poirier, like Arsenault, Doiron, Gallant, and there are many more names on Prince Edward Island, and it's important that students on PEI know the history.*