

Tuesday, March 21st, 2006

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to the adjournment motion adopted on February 23rd, 2006.

The Member for Grand Falls - Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Dave Antle principal of Exploits Valley High School who was selected as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement to congratulate athletes, community co-ordinators and volunteers who took part in last week's Labrador Winter Games.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Jamie Porter and Lindsay Roberts who won gold medals at the Youth Bowling Provincial Championships and who will represent the province in the National Championships.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Bill Butler of Hi-Point Industries who is the recipient of the Exporter of the Year Award for 2006.

The Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Team Cartwright on winning the 2006 Labrador Winter Games Championship Corp.

The Member for Gander (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement to congratulate the curling team of Charlene Morgan, Alex Holden, Allison Radford and Chelsea Mercer which won a silver medal in the Labrador Winter Games and Stephanie Nevin who won a silver medal in the Open Ladies' Figure Skating category.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) made a Statement to inform the House that Government intend to commit \$3 million in Budget 2006 to enhance the Mineral Incentive Program and an additional \$500,000 to expand regional geological work in the Province.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) gave notice that he would by leave and with the agreement of all parliamentary groups in the House move the following Resolution and Bill standing in the name of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board:

"That the House Resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to Consider Certain Resolutions for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty (Bill No. 74) and that following the receipt of the Message from His Honour the Lieutenant

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Governor, the Resolution and Bill be referred to Committee of Supply when Orders of the Day are called by the Speaker.”

The Honourable the Government House Leader further moved “That upon adjournment of Committee of Supply this afternoon Bill No. 74 be reintroduced during the 3rd Session of the 45th General Assembly and that the Resolution and Bill appear on the Order Paper at the same stage, that is in Committee of the Whole on Supply.”

The Speaker put the question on the motions and declared the motions carried by leave.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) informed the House that he had received a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. The Message was read to the House by the Speaker as follows:

“15 March, 2006

As Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, I transmit a request to appropriate sums required for the Public Service of the Province for the year ending 31 March 2007, by way of Interim Supply, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 54 and 90 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I recommend this request to the House of Assembly.

Sgd. **Edward Roberts**
Lieutenant Governor”.

On motion of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan), the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider the Message together with a Certain Resolution and Bill No. 74 for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Fitzgerald took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Supply.

The Committee of Supply considered a certain Resolution and Bill No. 74 for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

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The Chairperson of the Committee (Mr. Fitzgerald) reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the matters to it referred, had made some progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee of Supply was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

At 4:52 o'clock the Sergeant-at-Arms notified the Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edward Roberts, Q.C. had arrived.

The Speaker left the Chair.
His Honour the Lieutenant Governor took the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to make the following Speech:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The Second Session of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of this Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued, but before releasing you from your duties, I wish to thank you for the careful and sympathetic attention given to the important matters brought before you by My Ministers. Your commitment to your work and diligence deserve our appreciation and acknowledgment.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Seventy pieces of legislation were enacted during this Session of the Honourable House of Assembly. In particular, legislative initiatives were taken in the areas of justice, the fishing industry, financial affairs, municipal affairs, health, government services and tourism, culture and recreation.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

As noted in My Speech opening this Session, My Government introduced and this House approved the *Smoke-Free Environment Act* which provides for a one hundred percent

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ban on the use of tobacco in all public places. Amendments to the *Wildlife Act* were enacted to provide greater enforcement and increased penalties for violations of the Act, especially related to inland fish species. During the Spring Sitting of the Honourable House further

automobile insurance reforms were enacted based on the review conducted by the Public Utilities Board and the Department of Government Services.

The *Rooms Act* was enacted during this Session in order to create a corporate body and structure for the management and promotion of the archival, historic and visual artistic resources of our Province. As well, *An Act Respecting the Management of Government Information* was enacted.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

One of the key achievements of this Session was the enactment of the *Family Violence Protection Act*, a significant initiative that will help to protect persons who face the threat of, or are victims of family violence. This Act creates a new mechanism through which victims of family violence can apply to a provincial court judge for an emergency protective order. My Government is proud to have proceeded with this important initiative for the benefit of those who suffer such abhorrent situations.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Various Acts to revise or amend existing legislation respecting health care professional groups were enacted in order to modernize their statutes particularly in relation to governance and disciplinary procedures. These Acts are: the *Medical Act, 2005*, the *Dietitians Act*, the *Dispensing Opticians Act, 2005*, the *Hearing Aid Practitioners Act*, the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2005*, the *Massage Therapy Act, 2005*, the *Occupational Therapists Act, 2005*, the *Psychologists Act, 2005*, the *Optometry (Amendment) Act, 2004* and the *Pharmacy (Amendment) Act*.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The *Fish Inspection Act* was amended to tighten enforcement regulations. In accordance with the recommendations of the Cashin Report, My Government introduced amendments to the *Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act* to provide for the establishment of the Standing Fish Price-Setting Panel in order to avert a future crisis in

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the fishery by setting binding prices in advance of the season's start. This new system will be binding on processors and harvesters.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Among the other legislative measures enacted during this Session were: *An Act To Amend The Public Services Pensions Act, Teachers' Pensions Act and Uniformed Services Pensions Act, An Act to Amend The Liquor Corporation Act, An Act to Amend the Natural Products Marketing Act and Farm Practices Protection Act, An Act to Amend the Law Society Act, An Act to Amend the Aquaculture Act, An Act to Amend the Victims of Crime Services Act, An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act, An Act to Amend the Buildings Accessibility Act, An Act to Amend the Motorized Snow Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles Act, An Act to Amend the Municipal Financing Corporation Act, An Act to Amend the Forestry Act, An Act to Amend the Pippy Park Commission Act, An Act to Amend the Public Service Commission Act, An Act to Amend the Tobacco Health Care Costs Recovery Act and An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act.*

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Two important Resolutions were unanimously adopted by this Honourable House during this Session. The first Resolution calls on all citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador to seek out veterans in their community, to thank them for the contribution they made to preserving democracy and restoring peace to the world and to pay tribute to the many veterans who gave their lives for our freedom.

The second Resolution urged that My Government make representation to the Government of Canada to rescind the decision to move weather forecasting services from Gander to mainland sites and to return full weather forecasting services to this Province.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

I thank you for the large measure of Supply you have granted. I assure you that the appropriations that you have granted have been and will be expended by My Ministers with care and efficiency.

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Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

It is my pleasure that the Second Session of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly now be prorogued and it is prorogued accordingly.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Speaker then said, "It is the wish and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this General Assembly be prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly".

A. John Noel, Q.C.,
Clerk of the House of Assembly