

Wednesday, May 18th, 2011

The House met at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to congratulate Elizabeth Harvey who was instrumental in driving the income tax reassessment case relating to the income tax paid by fishermen on buyouts of their fishing licences in the late 1990s.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement to recognize and congratulate Aprille Whelan and Molly Houlihan who were selected to attend Motivate Canada's 7th Annual ACTIVATE National Youth Leadership Forum at Carlton University.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to recognize the Mary's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson Junior Canadian Rangers Patrols which placed first and second at the JCR National Marksmanship Competition.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to congratulate the organizers of Deer Lake Winterfest 2011.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate the Indian River High School Female Ball Hockey Team, the Indian River Wildcats, which captured the 3A Provincial title.

The Honourable the Minister of Health & Community Services (Mr. Kennedy) made a Statement about the progress of Government's health care infrastructure projects.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour & Employment (Mr. King) made a Statement to inform the House about the grant program to support business to enable them to implement innovative workplace skills and development practices.

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) tabled the Report of the Resource Committee.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to provide additional funding for improvements to Route 510 and connecting branch roads of the Trans-Labrador Highway.

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to provide funding to complete the necessary repairs to the roads at Cape Ray.

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Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael):

“WHEREAS 47,000 people in Newfoundland and Labrador have a diabetes diagnosis as of 2010, which is 9.3% of the population, the highest rate in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the number of people with diabetes in the Province may double in the next ten years without effective prevention;

AND WHEREAS unless properly managed, diabetes leads to kidney and heart failure, disability and early death;

AND WHEREAS dialysis machines are in demand because more diabetes cases are progressing to kidney failure, but if the disease is properly managed, people don't end up on dialysis;

AND WHEREAS diabetes costs our health care system about \$41 million a year for doctor visits, hospitalization, drugs and medical supplies, a cost that could double in ten years without better prevention and management;

AND WHEREAS diabetes requires frequent daily glucose testing with expensive testing strips, which is a hardship for most people who do not have private insurance or government assistance;

AND WHEREAS many people who need glucose testing strips are going without because they cannot afford them, thus endangering their future health and placing an added burden on our health care system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to cover the cost of glucose testing strips for all diabetics in the Province under MCP;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Government place the highest possible priority on releasing the chronic disease prevention and management strategy.”

During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Kennedy), moved the following amendment:

“That recitals 2 to 7 inclusive be deleted and the following substituted:

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“2. **WHEREAS** the number of people in the Province is expected to increase by 55% between 2010 and 2020 without effective prevention; and

3. **WHEREAS** diabetes can lead to kidney and heart failure, disability, and shorten life expectancy; and

4. **WHEREAS** there are increasing demands for dialysis service for individuals with diabetes and other chronic conditions which requires a focus on disease prevention to reduce future demands for dialysis services; and

5. **WHEREAS** in 2010 diabetes cost our health care system \$40 million for doctor visits, hospitalization, drugs and medical supplies, a cost that could increase by 65% without better prevention and management; and

6. **WHEREAS** some individuals with diabetes require frequent daily glucose testing at a cost of approximately \$1 a strip, which can pose a financial hardship for individuals without sufficient financial means; and

7. **WHEREAS** the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program provides support for people who need glucose testing strips but who have difficulty affording them, thus seeking to prevent endangerment of their future health contributing to an added cost to our health care system.”;

“That in the first Resolution clause the word “cover” be deleted and the following inserted:

“give consideration in the next budgetary process to covering”

“and that in the second Resolution clause the words “place the highest priority on” be deleted and the following inserted:

“that the Government “continue to place priority on finalizing and”.

The Speaker (Mr. Osborne) suspended the proceedings at 3:31 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Osborne) resumed the Chair at 3:42 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

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The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended and declared the Resolution as amended carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 19th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.