

ADMINISTRATOR (Honourable J. Derek Green): Members of the House of Assembly, I have it in command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to acquaint you that His Honour having been informed of the vacancy in the Office of the Speaker of this Assembly and it being necessary that a Speaker of this Assembly be chosen, it is His Honour's will that you, the Members of the House of Assembly, do proceed to the election of a Speaker and that you present that person here today for my approval.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

[His Honour the Administrator leaves the Chamber.]

CLERK: Please be seated.

At the close of nominations for the Office of Speaker at 4:30 p.m. Friday, November 14, 2014, one candidate put his name forward.

Accordingly, further to order 4 suborder (4) of the Standing Orders, I declare Mr. Wade Verge, Member for the District of Lewisporte, elected as Speaker for the remainder of the Forty-Seventh General Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[The Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition lead (drag) the new Speaker to the Speaker's Chair. The Premier and Leader of the Official Opposition help the new Speaker into his robe.]

MR. SPEAKER (Verge): Well, ladies and gentlemen of the House of Assembly, it is my turn just to have a few remarks. This is quite the honour. I want to thank the hon. Premier and the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition for dragging me to the Chair.

I want to start my remarks by welcoming all of you back to the House of Assembly and by acknowledging some family and friends I have in the Speaker's gallery: my daughter, Jenelle; my sister, Marion; two of my nieces, Sara and Michelle; and two of my lifelong friends, Peter and Jim. I want to thank you for joining me in this ceremony today.

We have had a number of changes take place since the House of Assembly recessed on June 5, 2014. I would like to congratulate the hon. Premier on his election and to wish him well in this very important position. We also have a new member with us today and he will be officially recognized and welcomed after the approbation of the Speaker takes place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the great work done during the past three years by my predecessor, the Member for Trinity North and the current Minister of Finance, as he occupied this Chair. Thank you, Sir, for a most excellent job and also for willing to be my mentor during the three years that I served as your Deputy Speaker. I wish you well in your current portfolio and I look forward to listening to you debate matters in this House. Before too long, I fully expect you will be back to your original form and I will find myself having to remind you that your time is up.

I was first elected in October of 2007 and for seven years I have had the honour of representing the people of Lewisporte district in this Legislature. It is a job that I have taken very seriously and it is also a privilege that I am thankful to have had and to have.

My sincere thanks must first go to the people of my district who have placed their faith in me to be their representative in this hon. House. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all members present today. You have agreed to have me serve as your Speaker. This is an honour and a privilege that I willingly accept. It is my desire to conduct the duties and the responsibilities of this office in a fair, impartial, and competent manner.

This is a position – some of you may know – that I have wanted and hoped for since first being elected. The tradition of dragging a Speaker to take his or her place in the Chair dates back to the beginnings days of the British Parliamentary system in 1377. In those days, the Speaker was the person who delivered messages from the Commons, or the ordinary people, to the Monarch. It was not a safe thing to be doing because if the King or Queen were displeased with the news then the brunt of the Monarch's displeasure was felt by the messenger: the Speaker.

Some of the Speakers at that time met with a violent death when bringing unwanted news to the Monarch. Therefore, being a Speaker was a job that historically people had to be pressured into taking. In this modern age I feel no danger in accepting this position, and to be truthful, I did not have to be pressured into it. In fact, I would have been willing to run to the Chair, because I am honoured to be able to sit in this Chair and to preside over the proceedings that will take place in this House.

Finally, to my close friends and family, especially to my wife Lori, and to my two children, Jenelle and Latoya, thank you for standing by me, thank you for your support. You are the people I am most indebted to. You are the people who deserve my greatest thanks. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

(...)

PREMIER DAVIS: May it please Your Honour, the House of Assembly, agreeable to Your Honour's command, have proceeded to the choice of Speaker and have elected Wade Verge, Member for Lewisporte, to that office, and by their direction I present him for approbation of Your Honour.

ADMINISTRATOR: On behalf of Her Majesty, I assure you, Mr. Speaker, of my sense of your efficiency and I do fully approve and confirm you as Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Honour having approved the choice of this House in constituting me as their Speaker, it now becomes my duty in the name of the representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects to ask that I, as Speaker, may have full access to Your Honour's presence at all times.

ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

[His Honour the Administrator leaves the Chamber.]