

Monday, March 22nd, 2004

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Oram) made a Statement to congratulate the people of Glovertown, Traytown and Cull's Harbour who recently played host to the first Provincial Girls High School Hockey Tournament ever held in the Province.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) made a Statement to extend condolences and pay tribute to the late Father Leo Burke who for more than 30 years served the spiritual needs of the communities of Bishop's Falls, Botwood and Fortune Harbour.

The Member for Humber Valley (Ms. Goudie) made a Statement to congratulate the curling team of Bas Buckle, Bob Freeman, Gerry Young and Harvey Holloway of Corner Brook who won the Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championship in Vernon, B.C. on February 1st, 2004.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to recognize Aliant for their contributions to the Community of Badger after the 2003 Flood. The Member congratulated the Aliant Pioneers and the Exploits Club for awarding the first scholarship to a University student from Badger namely, Mr. Dane Hurley.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to bring to the attention of Members the accomplishments of fifteen year old Joey Russell, a figure skater from Labrador City, who won the Silver Medal in the National Novice Men's event in Nepean, Ontario.

By leave, the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board and the Member for Ferryland (Mr. Sullivan), made a Statement to pay tribute and offer condolences to the family of the late Mr. Michael Ryan, a former mayor of Bay Bulls and community activist.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) made a Statement respecting his discussion with the Prime Minister of Ireland and the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding to develop relationships with the Irish in areas of trade, commerce, investment and bi-lateral cooperation.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Taylor) made a Statement to comment on his meeting with the Federal Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, Mr. Geoff Regan, and the Government's position about the importance of re-opening the cod fishery in 3PN4RS Area.

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The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) tabled the following fifteen Special Warrants for 2003-04:

- (a) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2004-146 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$287,600 to be expended under the Department of Government Services and Lands Head of Expenditure;
- (b) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-647 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$230,000 to be expended under the Department of Government Services and Lands Head of Expenditure;
- (c) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-557 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$175,000 to be expended under the Department of Environment Head of Expenditure;
- (d) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-398 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$497,500 to be expended under the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Head of Expenditure;
- (e) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-407 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$2,500,000 to be expended under the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods Head of Expenditure;
- (f) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-348 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$2,000,000 to be expended under the Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods Head of Expenditure;
- (g) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-559 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$635,000 to be expended under the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Head of Expenditure;
- (h) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-560 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$1,265,000 to be expended under the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Head of Expenditure;

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- (i) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-554 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$2,300,000 to be expended under the Department of Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure;
- (j) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-142 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$19,482,500 to be expended under the Department of Health and Community Services Head of Expenditure;
- (k) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2004-141 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$9,000,000 to be expended under the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment Head of Expenditure;
- (l) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-393 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$1,000,000 to be expended under the Department of Justice Head of Expenditure;
- (m) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2004-051 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$1,842,400 to be expended under the Department of Justice Head of Expenditure;
- (n) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2004-056 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$275,200 to be expended under the Department of Justice Head of Expenditure;
- (o) A Special Warrant, as authorized by Order in Council 2003-381 under Section 28(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** for \$5,000,000 to be expended under the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs Head of Expenditure.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) pursuant to section 5(4) of the *Internal Economy Commission Act* announced the following appointments to the Commission of Internal Economy:

The Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Fitzgerald) in his capacity as Deputy Speaker;

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Ed Byrne) in his capacity as Government House Leader;

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The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) in his capacity as Opposition House Leader;

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Sullivan) and the Member for Topsail (Ms. Marshall) in their capacities as Ministers of the Crown appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council;

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) in his capacity as a Member of the Opposition; and

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) as Chair of the Commission.

The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

AWHEREAS Health Care is one of the essential services provided by a government to the people of this province;

AND WHEREAS there is a demonstrated need for improvements to health care services in many areas of this province;

AND WHEREAS in several cases improvements to health care facilities have been put on hold without sufficient explanation;

AND WHEREAS the government has directed health care boards to produce cost saving plans that will result in service cuts in many rural areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Members of the House of Assembly call on the Government to reaffirm that health care is a priority item that cannot be compromised;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Members of the House of Assembly call on Government to proceed with all previously announced improvements to health care facilities as they were originally scheduled.@

The Member for Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District requesting the Government to improve and expand the Bay D'Espoir Medical Clinic located in St. Albans without any further delay.

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The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of her District requesting the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to commence the building of a road connecting the Trans Labrador Highway with Williams Harbour in 2004.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province urging the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to implement a co-payment or sliding scale program for Betaseron, Avonex, Copaxone and Rebif so that people who do not qualify for assistance under the existing programs may obtain financial assistance with respect to these high cost MS drugs, as is the case in other Canadian provinces.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on Second Reading of a Bill entitled, *An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act* (Bill No. 1).

During the debate, the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) moved pursuant to Standing Order 11, that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House not adjourn at 10:00 in the evening on Monday, March 22nd, 2004.

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

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move pursuant to Standing Order 11 that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House would not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, March 23rd, 2004.

Debate continued on Second Reading of a Bill entitled, *An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act* (Bill No. 1).

The House recessed at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon for the dinner break.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 7:00 in the evening.

Debate resumed on Second Reading of a Bill entitled, *An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act* (Bill No. 1).

During the debate the Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) rose on a point of order to dispute certain remarks made by the Member for Placentia & St. Mary's (Mr. Manning). The Speaker took the matter under advertisement.

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Debate continued and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act (Bill No. 1) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 1 be read a second time presently.

On motion the Bill entitled, An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act (Bill No. 1) was read a second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 1 be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion, the House then adjourned at 8:34 o'clock in the evening.

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