

Wednesday, April 14th, 2004

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

The Speaker welcomed visitors to the Public Galleries, but reminded them that they were not to participate or to demonstrate in any way nor to show any approval or disapproval of the proceedings in the House.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate the Grand Bank Theatre Festival Committee for engaging well known writer and performer, Ms. Bernie Stapleton, to write a new play for the 2004 festival season and to direct two other plays for the festival this summer which will celebrate the relationship of the people of the Burin Peninsula with St. Pierre and Miquelon.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Oram) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Chad Holloway of Port Blandford who had received equity funding through the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development under the Small Business Seed Capital Equity Program to purchase new equipment for his Newfoundland Firewood Company.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Grand Falls-Windsor for organizing and providing a music festival to showcase the vast array of talent in the region. The Member also congratulated the participants and the major award winners of this year's festival.

After Oral Questions, there was a disturbance in the Public Galleries, whereupon after warning the visitors in the Galleries, the Speaker recessed the House at 2:39 o'clock in the afternoon.

At 2:46 o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker resumed the Chair.

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 Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) rose on a point of order respecting certain unparliamentary language used by the Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) in particular the use of the work Pinocchio. The allegation was made that one cannot say through the back door that which can not be said through the front door.

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The Speaker took the matter under advertisement.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Hickey):

AWHEREAS Canadian Forces Base 5 Wing Goose Bay has long been and remains one of Canada's strategically important military bases, as well as a key military training site for countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

AND WHEREAS the future of 5 Wing has been clouded in uncertainty in recent months, to the detriment of the people and economy of Happy Valley-Goose Bay;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada, with the support of the Canadian public, is strengthening its investment in national defence, particularly in light of concerns about global terrorism and Canada's ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is advancing large strategic investments in military flight training at 3 Wing Bagotville (Québec) and 4 Wing Cold Lake (Alberta);

AND WHEREAS the Minister of National Defence has announced significant financial support for current training partners over the next two flying seasons and is engaged in developing and implementing marketing, training and cost allocation initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is committed to ensuring the future viability of foreign military training at 5 Wing and has been working cooperatively with the Goose Bay Citizens Coalition (GBCC) and the Government of Canada to achieve this objective;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government of Canada to expeditiously develop and implement a new strategic plan for 5 Wing Goose Bay that includes substantial new investments in the base in order to make optimal use of the infrastructure, expertise, geography, climate and other tremendous advantages of 5 Wing while boosting the local economy and making Canada stronger.

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During the debate, the Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Andersen) moved, seconded by the Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) the following amendment:

That the Resolution be amended by adding the following at the end of the Resolution Clause:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an all party committee of this House of Assembly be established to work on this issue.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) ruled the amendment in order.

Debate resumed and concluded on the Resolution and the amendment.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution carried unanimously.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) put the question on the Resolution as amended.

The Speaker declared the Resolution, as amended, carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 15th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

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