

Wednesday, April 21st, 2004

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

The Honourable the Minister of Environment & Conservation (Mr. Osborne) made a Statement to announce that Government had enhanced its coyote management plan by amending the *Wildlife Regulations* to introduce a new coyote harvest for the province.

Before Oral Questions, the Honourable the Speaker reminded Members of the appropriate time sequence for questions and answers during Oral Question period.

During Oral Questions, the Speaker was required to remind visitors to the Public Galleries on two occasions not to participate in the proceedings before the House.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents and retired public service pensioners in the Province urging the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to restore its contribution to the pension increase so that affected pensioners would once again receive the full 1.5 percent increase as promised.

There was a disturbance in the Public Galleries whereupon the Speaker reminded visitors not to participate in the proceedings in the House.

After the second and third warning the Speaker ordered that the Public Galleries be cleared and closed for the remainder of the sitting day.

Following the disturbances in the Public Galleries the Speaker recessed the House at 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:54 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling on the Government to change the air ambulance policy immediately to allow for palliative care patients to return to their homes in a timely fashion so they can spend their final days next to their families and friends.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Carbonear - Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney):

WHEREAS a strong and dedicated civil service is an important part of maintaining and improving both the social and economic life of people in this Province.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly does not agree with a downgrading of the civil service in this Province.

During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs and Member for Cape St. Francis (Mr. Jack Byrne) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works and Aboriginal Affairs and Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Rideout), the following amendment to the Resolution:

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

and that downgrading be defined, in this context, as eroding the ability of the government to provide high-quality public services to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador within the Province's ability to pay.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) recessed the House for a few minutes in order to consider the amendment and upon returning to the Chair ruled the amendment in order.

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

The Speaker put the question on the amendment to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution 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, April 22nd 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