

Wednesday, May 26th, 2004

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

The Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Fitzgerald) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Jennifer Brown, a resident of Upper Amherst Cove and a Grade 12 student at Discovery Collegiate who had been awarded the \$20,000 National Excellence Award from the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works and Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to draw the attention of Members and the people of the Province to a very important vote for the Labrador Inuit in relation to the ratification of the land claims agreement.

After Oral Questions, by leave, the Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) tabled a copy of a letter written by the Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party to Premier Williams respecting that Party's policy position on a number of federal/provincial issues.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (Ms. Burke) tabled the 2002-03 Annual Report of the Department of Labour.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan), pursuant to section 26(4) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled a copy of Order in Council 2004-233 authorizing certain pre-commitment of funds for the 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 fiscal years relating to the Labrador Coastal Marine Service under the Department of Transportation and Works.

The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province requesting the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador not to decrease the level of service offered by Grenfell Regional Health Services and to maintain the present board structure while providing the necessary funding to fulfill its mandate.

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of his District urging the Avalon West School Board to reverse the decision by that Board to close St. Joseph's School and to reverse the decision to bus students to Harbour Grace and commit funds to construct a new school in Carbonear.

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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 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 not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening on Thursday, May 27th, 2004.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons):

WHEREAS there is an impending Federal Election and many Federal-Provincial issues need attention;

AND WHEREAS this province should be the principle beneficiary of offshore resource revenue;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for improvements to the equalization program;

AND WHEREAS health and post secondary funding from the federal government should be increased;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for improvements in the EI system;

AND WHEREAS the economy of this province is suffering because the Federal Government is not willing to take custodial management over the stocks off our coast;

AND WHEREAS the joint management of the fishery is an important issue for the future of this province;

AND WHEREAS there is a role for the Federal Government to play in the development of the Lower Churchill;

AND WHEREAS there should be an increased Federal presence in the province;

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AND WHEREAS there should be continued operation and marketing of 5 Wing Goose Bay;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly supports the establishment of an all party committee of this House to draft a policy document for presentation and endorsement by all candidates in this province and the party leaders in the upcoming Federal Election.

During the debate, the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Byrne) tabled a letter from Mr. Stephen Harper, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada to Premier Williams explaining that Party's position on certain constitutional and policy questions respecting the Province.

Debate continued and concluded on the above noted Resolution.

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

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the Resolution: Mr. Grimes; Mr. Parsons; Mr. Butler; Mr. Langdon; Ms. Jones; Ms. Thistle; Mr. Sweeney; Mr. Harris; Mr. Collins.

Against: Ms. Dunderdale; Mr. Rideout; Mr. Jack Byrne; Mr. Sullivan; Ms. Elizabeth Marshall; Mr. Shelley; Ms. Burke; Mr. Tom Osborne; Ms. Whalen; Mr. Hedderson; Mr. Hickey; Mr. Wiseman; Mr. Denine; Mr. Harding; Mr. Young; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Jackman; Mr. Jim Hodder; Ms. Goudie; Mr. Skinner; Mr. Oram; Mr. O'Brien; Mr. Ridgley.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 27th 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.