

Wednesday, November 24th, 2004

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

The Member for Carbonear - Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Claude Garland who recently died following nineteen years of public service as Councilor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Carbonear.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) made a Statement to congratulate and recognize Mr. Calvin Smith, Mayor of St. Bernard's-Jacques Fontaine for his twenty-five years of volunteer service to the community.

The Member for Trinity North (Mr. Wiseman) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Fanny Short originally of British Harbour and Old Bonaventure who celebrated her 100th birthday.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Paul Andrews, a native of Point Leamington who competed in the Canadian National Arm Wrestling Championship in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba in September. The Member noted that Mr. Andrews won the initial championship with his right arm this year having won in the same competition with his left arm last year in his weight class.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement to advise Members of a new volunteer-based recycling initiative called "FREECYCLE" which provides a network that connects people who have goods to throw away to people who need the goods.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Labrador Affairs (Mr. Taylor) made a Statement to advise Members that the 5 Wing Goose Bay Military Base had been cleared by an environmental assessment to engage in chaff and flare activities for its aircrew training program.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal & Provincial Affairs (Mr. Jack Byrne) made a Statement to advise Members of the Government's plan for the funding of municipal capital works for 2005 and beyond so that municipal capital works funding is based on a multi year Capital Works Program so that cities and towns in the province may plan ahead to ensure that projects are undertaken in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS government revised the 2003-2004 budget so that they could describe the financial situation in a manner that served their political purposes;

Wednesday, November 24th, 2004

AND WHEREAS government has received new revenues based on new health care funding, equalization adjustments, higher than expected revenues from gasoline taxes and higher than expected royalties due to high oil prices;

AND WHEREAS budget estimates are inaccurate due to the public sector strike and departmental, health, and education restructuring;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly supports the tabling of a revised budget to provide a more accurate measurement of the present financial situation of the province and to lay out new spending initiatives in health care, education and provision of public services to the people of the province.”

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

“**WHEREAS** second hand smoke is a health hazard that has caused serious health problems, death and a strain on the health care system;

AND WHEREAS the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Municipalities has called upon government to enact a provincial ban to see a 100 per cent smoke free environment in public buildings, including bars and bingos;

AND WHEREAS community groups such as the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco, the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, the Music Industry Association, the Federation of Labour and other organizations have been calling upon government to implement a ban;

AND WHEREAS government has already banned smoking in schools, hospitals, daycare centres, public buildings and restaurants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly supports a ban to provide 100 per cent protection from second hand smoke in all public places, including bars and bingo halls.”

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Andersen) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of Labrador requesting the Government of the Province to provide the \$2.4 million designated, but now deferred, and to begin construction of the auditorium in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Wednesday, November 24th, 2004

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 continue snow clearing on the Red Bay to Lodge Bay section of the Trans Labrador Highway during the winter months.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon):

“WHEREAS Fishery Products International (FPI) is a critical part of the fishing industry, provides economic and social well-being and contributes to stability and prosperity in many communities of this province;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador refused to lift the 15% share restriction that is forcing an end to the NEOS Seafood bid to buy all outstanding shares of FPI;

AND WHEREAS in correspondence with government and reports in the media, John Risley said in May 2001 that “None of FPI employees have anything to fear” and “We are going to do this (expand the company) by investing in the company, not laying people off”;

AND WHEREAS in a Proxy Circular to Holders of Common Shares of FPI in April 2001, John Risley stated “(We) do not intend to close any of FPI’s processing facilities in Newfoundland or elsewhere.”;

AND WHEREAS in 2002 when FPI was preparing to implement an investment strategy which would have resulted in more than 600 job losses in the three ground fish plants in Marystown, Fortune and Harbour Breton, government undertook to ensure that FPI lived up to previous commitments on employment related issues, resulting in legislative amendments to the FPI Act to protect processing workers;

AND WHEREAS in January of 2003, FPI and its unions reached a tentative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the company’s groundfish operations on the province’s south coast, which promised significant capital investment while protecting workers and enhancing plant productivity;

AND WHEREAS FPI is a creature of the Fisheries Restructuring Act and later the FPI Act;

Wednesday, November 24th, 2004

AND WHEREAS FPI announced that it will not be re-opening the Harbour Breton Fish Plant, rocking the entire province, shaking the industry and devastating FPI workers, families and communities along the south coast;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly calls on the Provincial Government to demand that FPI make the necessary investment to save the Harbour Breton Fish Plant and restore confidence and trust in the company.”

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Taylor) moved the following amendment:

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

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Assembly demand that Fisheries Products International work with the Provincial Government, the Federal Government, the F.F.A.W. community representatives and the local M.H.A. to find a lasting solution for the Community of Harbour Breton.”

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

Debate continued on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

It was agreed to stop the clock before 5 o'clock in the afternoon in order to conclude the debate.

Debate continued and concluded on the above noted amendment to the Resolution.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) put the question on the amendment to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution carried unanimously.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution, as amended, and declared the Resolution, as amended, carried unanimously.

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

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Wednesday, November 24th, 2004

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