

Wednesday, May 3rd, 2006

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

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) welcomed the following World War II Veterans to the House: Mr. John Adams, RCAF; Mr. Wilfred McLennon, RCAF; Mr. Reginald Penney, 166th NF Field Regiment; Mr. Eli Rogers, RN Rescue Unit; Mr. Joseph Clarke, RN; Mr. Alexander Murray, 166th NF Field Reg. Royal Artillery; Mr. Leo Bishop, RAF; Mr. John Good, Can. Army.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Mahalla Reid of Old Shop, Trinity Bay who was named Branch 39 Legionnaire of the Year.

The Member for Topsail (Ms. Elizabeth Marshall) made a Statement to pay tribute to the firefighters of Conception Bay South whose 33rd Annual Ball she attended on April 1st.

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding) made a Statement to congratulate the Beothic Maple Leafs Hockey Team of New-Wes-Valley which captured the gold medal in the Provincial Midget E Hockey Championships.

The Member for Carbonear - Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Wesley Saunders of Carbonear who earned a bronze medal in the 100kg Men's Individual at the 2006 Juvenile Wrestling Nationals held in Edmonton in April and for earning honours during the Atlantic Freestyle Wrestling Championship held in New Brunswick on March 26th.

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) made a Statement to congratulate all volunteers in the Communities of Milltown and Head of Bay D'Espoir.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to pay tribute to hockey legend Jimmy Dawe who died in Labrador City on April 7th.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Ms. Whalen) made a Statement to advise the House of the efforts of high school students enrolled in the Workplace Safety 3220 course and to raise awareness of workplace safety.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Osborne) made a Statement to recognize May 1 - 7 as Mental Health Week in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Honourable the Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) presented a Petition on

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behalf of certain residents of her District calling upon the House to urge Government to ensure that the quotas traditionally processed by Fishery Products International for the area of Grand Bank and Fortune remain within the region.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris):

“WHEREAS the cost of prescription drugs is rising and is an increasing proportion of health care spending from all sources, and now exceeds the cost of doctor’s services as a percentage of overall health care costs;

AND WHEREAS drug therapies play a crucial role in the management of disease and treatment for illness or other medical conditions and can avoid hospitalization or other institutional care while providing a better quality of life;

AND WHEREAS current access to prescription drugs depends on a mixture of public, workplace and private plans and according to the Canadian Diabetes Association up to 35% of our population has no access to a drug plan at all and must pay for drug therapies with their own resources, which in many cases are inadequate;

AND WHEREAS there are opportunities to provide greater fairness of access to drug treatments and to save money for the health care system by having a more comprehensive system;

AND WHEREAS Government has taken an important step in the recent budget in recognizing the importance of access to prescription drugs for those with low family incomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee of the House of Assembly be struck to inquire into and report on the feasibility and options with respect to the development of a province-wide comprehensive system that would ensure that all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have access to a prescription drug plan”.

The Speaker put the question on the motion.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Reid; Mr. Parsons; Mr. Butler; Mr. Barrett; Ms. Jones; Mr. Sweeney; Ms. Foote; Mr. Joyce; Mr. Harris; Mr. Randy Collins.

Against: Mr. Rideout; Mr. Tom Marshall; Mr. Hedderson; Mr. Jack Byrne; Mr. Shelley;

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Mr. Harding; Mr. O'Brien; Ms. Burke; Mr. Tom Osborne; Ms. Whalen; Mr. Jackman; Mr. Hickey; Mr. Denine; Mr. French; Mr. Young; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Skinner; Ms. Johnson; Ms. Elizabeth Marshall; Mr. Ridgley; Mr. Oram; Mr. Forsey; Mr. Felix Collins.

The Speaker declared the motion defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 4th 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.