

Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Petten) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Coralie Dodge for her dedication as a volunteer to making the world a better place.

The Member for Mount Scio (Ms. Stoodley) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Robert Lambe's volunteer commitment and contribution to our Province.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester) made a Statement to congratulate Curtis Edwards and Desiree Dolimont and all other candidates who were awarded Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Medals.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Trimper) made a Statement to recognize and thank all involved in the Roland Shears Memorial Christmas Hamper Project that ensures "no one goes without on the morning of December 25<sup>th</sup>."

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. O'Driscoll) made a Statement to congratulate Kathleen Murphy on being crowned Ms. Achievement Newfoundland and Labrador 2019-2020.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to congratulate the Exploits Hurricanes who were honoured by Special Olympics Canada as the Team of the Year for 2019.

The Honourable the Minister for the Status of Women (Ms. Haley) made a Statement to inform the House of the launch of the annual Purple Ribbon campaign.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) raised a point of order regarding unparliamentary comments during Oral Questions.

The Speaker took the matter under advertisement.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Reid), pursuant to paragraph 38(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, tabled the Report of the Commissioner of Legislative Standards entitled Mitchelmore Report, November 13, 2019.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Osborne) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Cannabis Control Act" (Bill No. 19).

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The Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Coffin) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

**“WHEREAS** democratic reform is an important issue facing our Province;

**AND WHEREAS** many individuals and organizations living in our Province believe our democracy can and must be reformed, modernized, and strengthened;

**AND WHEREAS** the All-Party Committee on Democratic Reform, struck before the last election, has too narrow a mandate, and is not the best mechanism for achieving meaningful non-partisan democratic reform;

**AND WHEREAS** a better approach to democratic reform would be to establish a non-partisan Select Committee on Democratic Reform that works on behalf of and reports directly to the House of Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House urge Government to disband the All-Party Committee on Democratic Reform;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this House establish a Select Committee on Democratic Reform, with a mandate to review and make recommendations on: voting systems and methods; voting age; funding of political parties; the role of third party groups in election campaigns; timing/date of elections; and other items at the Committee's discretion;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, given this Select Committee needs to be, and must be seen to be non-partisan in nature, that the Select Committee consist of the following: two members of the Government, two members of the Official Opposition, two members of the Third Party, and an Independent member, and that the Chair of the Select Committee be elected from within;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House consider how to ensure this Select Committee has the resources it needs to conduct its work”.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Dinn) announced, pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), that the Resolution of which the Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Coffin) had given notice would be debated on Private Members' Day, Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (Mr. Mitchelmore) answered a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Crosbie) during Oral Questions.

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The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) raised a point of privilege regarding the release of a Report to the media before it was tabled in the House.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 2:52 o'clock to consider the point of privilege.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:45 o'clock and ruled that there was a *prima facie* point of privilege by way of contempt whereupon debate commenced and concluded on the following motion moved by the Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady), and seconded by the Honourable the Minister for the Status of Women (Ms. Haley):

**“THAT** the matters raised as a question of privilege by myself earlier today and the responses made be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, and that the Committee submit its report to the House of Assembly.”

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

The Member for Humber – Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) raised a point of privilege regarding interaction between the Premier and the Commissioner for Legislative Standards in violation of protocols in a matter relating to an investigation of the Member by the Commissioner.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 4:01 o'clock to consider the point of privilege.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 4:55 o'clock and ruled that there was no *prima facie* point of privilege.

The Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Wakeham) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to consider repairing, upgrading and maintaining the 10 kilometers of unpaved road to Blue Beach.

The Member for Humber – Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to ensure urgent repair work on Route 450 and other upgrades are carried out during the 2020 construction season.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Dinn) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to

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include parent representations on the Steering Committee for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education.

The Honourable the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (Mr. Warr) replied to the Petition.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) moved that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to notice the Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Osborne), the following Resolution:

**“BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, in accordance with subsection 8(8) of the Standing Orders, the Spring 2020 sitting of the House of Assembly shall commence on March 2, 2020 and end on June 4, 2020, but in all aspects the Parliamentary Calendar for 2020 as issued in 2019 shall remain unchanged.”

The Speaker put the question and declared the Resolution carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Automobile Insurance Act” (Bill No. 9) was read the third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that the said Bill be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her assent.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady):

**“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the House of Assembly concur in the final report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections on the Development of a Legislature-Specific Harassment-Free Workplace Policy dated April 8, 2019.”

During the debate the Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady), seconded by the Honourable the Minister for the Status of Women (Ms. Haley), moved the following amendment:

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“That the proposed Legislature-Specific Harassment Free Workplace Policy tabled by the Privileges and Elections Committee on April 8, 2019 be amended by deleting the effective date in the proposed clause 18.0 and by substituting the following:

18.0 Effective Date

This policy and its related processes will come into effect on April 1, 2020.”

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 5:20 o'clock to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 5:23 o'clock and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate commenced and concluded on the amendment.

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

Debate commenced and concluded on the motion as amended.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion as amended carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

**Sandra Barnes,**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.