

Wednesday, December 4th, 2019

The House met at 10:00 o'clock in the morning pursuant to adjournment.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued on the Mitchelmore Report concurrence motion.

During the debate the Member for Labrador West (Mr. Brown) moved the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution respecting the Member for St. Barbe – L’Anse aux Meadows be amended in the last clause by adding immediately after the word “Assembly” the second time it appears, the following:

“and furthermore instructs the Premier to remove the Honourable Member for St. Barbe – L’Anse aux Meadows from his Cabinet; and direct the Board of The Rooms to vacate the position of Executive Director of Marketing and Development, reassess the position, and fill it using proper human resource procedures.”

The Speaker (Mr. Bennett) suspended the proceedings at 11:28 o'clock to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Bennett) resumed the Chair at 11:44 o'clock and ruled that the amendment was not in order.

Debate continued on the Resolution and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 12:00 p.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker ruled on a point of order raised by the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Coady) on December 2nd. The Speaker ruled that there was a valid point of order and asked the Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) to withdraw comments he had made. The Member complied.

The Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) made a Statement to congratulate Elizabeth Tuck for being selected as a Rhodes Scholar.

The Member for Placentia West – Bellevue (Mr. Dwyer) made a Statement to congratulate the St. Joseph’s All Grade School Timberwolves Soccer Team who were Gold Medalists at the regional championship and Silver Medalists at the Provincials.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Ms. Evans) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mary Jane Nui.

Wednesday, December 4th, 2019

The Member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Jim Dinn) and the Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Paul Dinn) made a Statement to honour their mother, Mrs. Mary Dinn and their late father.

By leave, the Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize Mary Martin and Mary Moylan and all members of Support our Seniors (SOS) for their advocacy on behalf of seniors in the Province.

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Ms. Gambin-Walsh) made a Statement to recognize National Safe Driving Week which takes place from December 1st - 7th.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment (Mr. Bragg) made a Statement to emphasize the importance of practicing fire safety throughout the year and particularly during the Christmas Holiday season.

In accordance with section 51 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Reid) tabled the Report of the House of Assembly Management Commission for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion:

“THAT, in accordance with subsection 8(8) of the Standing Orders, the Fall 2019 sitting of the House of Assembly extend beyond Thursday, December 5, 2019 until it adjourns to the call of the Chair.”

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to adhere to their application approval guidelines and have the Crown Land application for the Cremaillere Bay – Great Northern Port Project approved immediately.

The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour (Mr. Mitchelmore) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to present recall legislation to the House before the end of the Spring sitting in 2020.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Coffin):

Wednesday, December 4th, 2019

“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 Speaker put the question and declared the Resolution carried.

The Speaker then adjourned the House until Thursday at 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 9.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.