

Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) made a Statement to recognize the community spirit and activities of various community groups in the District.

The Member for Bonavista (Mr. Pardy) made a Statement to recognize Saltwater Community Association Inc., a group of dedicated volunteers in Bonavista, which has had recent success in implementing food security measures.

The Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Ms. Gambin-Walsh) made a Statement to recognize the work of the Placentia Area Food Bank.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Petten) made a Statement to acknowledge the winners of the Economic Developers Association of NL (EDANL) 2020 Economic Development Awards of Excellence Community Project of the Year winner: CBS Community Garden.

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Buchans (Mr. Tibbs) made a Statement to recognize the work of volunteer, Jackie Thompson, in the community of Grand Falls – Windsor and surrounding areas.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (Mr. Loveless) made a Statement to advise the House of a special permit program, in partnership with the Community Food Sharing Association, which allows food banks to accept and distribute donations of moose and caribou meat.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize Dawson Mercer and Alex Newhook for being named to Team Canada for the 2021 International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championship.

The Honourable the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to address Mud Lake and potential flooding.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Reid) pursuant to Section 6 of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, tabled the following documents entitled:

- 1) 2019-2020 Annual Performance Report for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner; and
- 2) 2020-2023 Activity Plan for the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

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The Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Wakeham) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

**“BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this Honourable House urges the Government to change the Medical Transportation Assistance Program to allow 100 per cent reimbursement of travel for people who have to travel for medical reasons outside their region, in order to ensure every patient, no matter where they live, receives timely and affordable care”.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Brazil) announced, pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), that the Resolution of which the Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Wakeham) had given notice would be debated on Private Members’ Day, Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Honourable the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (Ms. Stoodley) gave notice that she would ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54).

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) gave notice that he would ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

**“THAT**, notwithstanding any Standing Order of this House:

**AND THAT** notwithstanding Standing Order 84 in particular, if it is the pleasure of this House, Bill 54 may be read a second time, referred to Committee of the Whole and read a third time on the same sitting day;

**AND THAT** notice shall be deemed to have been given and moved under Standing Order 11(1) that this House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. today, Monday, December 14, 2020”.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to reconsider their decision not to plow Garden Road so to allow a disabled student access to education.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Harbour Main (Ms. Conway Ottenheimer) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to immediately take the necessary steps to repair and repave important roadways to ensure the safety of the driving public who use them on a regular basis.

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The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Trimper) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to issue the tender for expanded work on Route 520 as soon as possible so that the expanded contract can be awarded and work started immediately at the beginning of the 2021 construction season.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) replied to the Petition.

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 maintain and repair the roadway through the community of Cold Brook.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Dinn) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to find a more permanent solution for Route 60 and install curb and gutter to the areas effected by erosion.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) replied to the Petition.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54) was introduced and read the first time and on motion it was ordered the said Bill be read a second time presently with leave.

Pursuant to notice and by leave, the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) moved the following Resolution:

**“THAT**, notwithstanding any Standing Order of this House:

**AND THAT** notwithstanding Standing Order 84 in particular, if it is the pleasure of this House, Bill 54 may be read a second time, referred to Committee of the Whole and read a third time on the same sitting day;

**AND THAT** notice shall be deemed to have been given and moved under Standing Order 11(1) that this House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. today, Monday, December 14, 2020”.

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The Speaker put the question and declared the Resolution carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 54 be referred to a Committee of the Whole presently.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Pardy took the Chair of Committee of the Whole House.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (Mr. Pardy) reported that the Committee of the Whole House had considered the matters to them referred and had directed him to report that they had passed a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54) without amendment.

On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 54 be read the third time presently.

The Speaker put the question on the motion.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Crocker, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Haggie, Ms. Dempster, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Davis, Ms. Coady, Mr. Loveless, Ms. Stoodley, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Warr, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Haley, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Gambin-Walsh, Mr. Brazil, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Wakeham, Mr. Lester, Mr. Petten, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Pardy, Mr. Paul Dinn, Ms. Conway Ottenheimer, Mr. Tibbs, Mr. O’Driscoll; Mr. Lane, Mr. Trimper.

Against: Ms. Coffin, Mr. James Dinn, Mr. Brown.

The Speaker declared the motion carried.

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Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill No. 54) 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.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn to the call of the Chair.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

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