

Monday, October 18, 2021

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

The Speaker introduced Pages:

Tanisha Wright-Brown of Jamaica, who is completing their Ph.D. in Pharmacy at Memorial University.

Leisha Toory of Mauritius, who is studying political science and French for Francophones at Memorial University.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for St. George's - Humber (S. Reid) recognizing Stephenville Rotary Club's 50 years of service to the Bay St. George area.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing the late Wayne Andrews of Mount Pearl.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing former Member of Parliament Scott Simms, and his service to his constituents in the District of Coast of Bays-Central-Notre Dame.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) recognizing Zara Rutherford's attempt to become the youngest woman to fly solo around the world, and the accomplishments of Labrador women in the aviation industry.

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing fisher Peter Marche on their retirement.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality (P. Parsons) congratulating Ophelia Ravencroft, the first openly transgender councilor elected in the city of St. John's.

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The Members for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) and St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

Pursuant to paragraph 26(5)(a) of the *Financial Administration Act*, the Minister of Finance (S. Coady) tabled the following pre-commitments:

Order in Council OC2021-251 to facilitate a four-year agreement with Gartner Canada Co. for information technology advisory and research services; and

Order in Council OC2021-252 to enter into a lease agreement with the Deer Lake Regional Airport Authority for 1,394 square meters of land at Deer Lake Regional Airport.

Notices of Motion

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act Respecting Off-Road Vehicles” (Bill 22);

“An Act to Amend the Automobile Insurance Act” (Bill 23);

“An Act to Amend the Corporations Act” (Bill 24); and

“An Act to Amend the Management of Information Act” (Bill 25).

The Minister of Health and Community Services (J. Haggie) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

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“An Act to Amend the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, 2005” (Bill 26);

“An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, 2012” (Bill 27); and

“An Act to Amend the Various Acts of the Province Respecting the Publication of a Summary of a Decision or Order of an Adjudication Tribunal” (Bill 28).

The Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (S. Coady) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider a resolution and a related bill entitled: “An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act, No. 3 (Bill 29) relating to the imposition of tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

The Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (S. Coady) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act Respecting the Requirement for a Balanced Budget” (Bill 30);

“An Act Respecting a Future Fund for the Province (Bill 31);

“An Act to Amend the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 32); and

“An Act to Amend the Services Charges Act (Bill 33).

The Minister of Education (T. Osborne) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Schools Act, 1997” (Bill 34); and

“An Act to Amend the Memorial University Act” (Bill 35)

The Government House Leader (S. Crocker) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting the Office of the Auditor General and the Auditing of the Public Accounts of the Province (Bill 36)”.

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (K. L. Howell) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting the Conduct of Municipal Officials” (Bill 37).

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The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (J. Abbott) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act Respecting Accessibility in the Province” (Bill 38);

“An Act to Amend the Adoption Act, 2013” (Bill 39); and

“An Act Respecting the Protection of Adults” (Bill 40).

The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act Respecting a Province-Wide 911 Service for the Reporting of Emergencies” (Bill 41); and

“An Act to Amend the Law Society Act” (Bill 42).

The Government House Leader (S. Crocker) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS section 7 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* prescribes that, upon nomination by the House of Assembly, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be appointed by Lieutenant-Governor in Council by Commission under the Great Seal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Robert Escott be appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Government House Leader (S. Crocker) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS Covid-19 has been identified as a communicable disease which presents a significant risk to public health;

WHEREAS the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, the Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have strongly recommended that all eligible persons be fully vaccinated against COVID-19;

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will require mandatory vaccinations for public service employees in core provincial government departments, as well as agencies, boards and commissions in an

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effort to ensure continued safety in the workplace, as well as to ensure additional health protection for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House requires all Members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of **December 17, 2021** unless the Member obtains an exemption;

AND THAT a Member is fully vaccinated where

- a) that person has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as approved by Health Canada, or one dose where the vaccine is a one-dose vaccine approved by Health Canada; **and**
- b) two weeks have passed since the person's second dose of COVID-19 vaccine or, where the person has received a one-dose vaccine, two weeks have passed since that dose;

AND THAT where a Member requests an exemption to this requirement, the exemption must be for medically supported reasons, and that Member shall provide medical documentation to the Speaker outlining the medical reasons for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 provided by an appropriate health care provider, in line with guidance from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the details of operationalizing this order shall rest with the Speaker of the House.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Parfrey/Davis Health Accord has described the healthcare situation in Newfoundland and Labrador today as a "health crisis," and their assessment is justified

- when some 99,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians do not have a family doctor,
- when emergency response personnel cannot respond to people in urgent need because of inadequate resources,
- when frontline healthcare professionals are overworked to the point of burnout,

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- when healthcare professionals are leaving this province because the government does not address their concerns, and
- when the government has refused to enter into meaningful negotiations with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, whose contract expired more than four years ago, but is threatening to split the Association instead of addressing the doctors' core concerns, which are fundamental to physician recruitment and retention;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this hon. House urge the Government to recognize that there is a healthcare crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to immediately address this crisis with the urgency the circumstances warrant.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten), announced the resolution introduced by the Member Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) will be the one presented on Wednesday, October 20.

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

There were no answers to questions for which notice had been given.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding recruitment of physicians in the District of Bonavista.

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) regarding access to motor vehicle registration services in the province.

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) replied to the petition.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding the addition of Trikafta, a drug which treats cystic fibrosis, to the provincial Prescription Drug Program.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

Pursuant to Standing Order 32, the Government House Leader (S. Crocker), moved orders of the day.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Securities Act” (Bill 16).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Securities Act” (Bill 16) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 16 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Securities Act” (Bill 16).

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (B. Warr) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (B. Warr) reported the Committee of the Whole had considered the matters to them referred and had directed them to report the Committee had recommended, without amendment, a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Securities Act” (Bill 16).

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the report be received and adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 16 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Lotteries Act” (Bill 18) and, on motion, debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

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On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 19 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.