

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

On motion, the House recessed at 10:03 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 10:19 a.m.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Coat of Arms Act” (Bill 20).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Coat Of Arms Act” (Bill 20) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 20 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 Coat of Arms Act” (Bill 20).

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 Coat Of Arms Act” (Bill 20).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 20 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House recessed at 11:11 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

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Point of Privilege

The Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) raised a point of privilege respecting the lighting in the House of Assembly Chamber.

The Government House Leader (S. Crocker) spoke to the point of privilege.

The Speaker noted the process to raise a point of privilege had not been followed but that they would give consideration to the concerns raised by the Member and invited other Members to bring their concerns forward.

The Speaker recognized the new interim Leader of the Third Party, the Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn), and the new Third Party House Leader, the Member for Labrador West (J. Brown).

The Speaker introduced Page:

Emma McIsaac of St. John's, who is studying science at Memorial University.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) recognizing members of Rotary St. John's East and their Christmas Hamper Project.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) congratulating two winners of the Newfoundland Talent Contest at MusicNL: Summer Bennett and Mackenzie Critch.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing all the candidates and their teams participating in the 2021 municipal elections.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Rutie Dicker of Nain, Nunatsiavut.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing Bill Guiney for his work in raising funds and awareness for mental health.

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Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change (B. Davis) recognizing October 18-24 as Waste Reduction Week in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for Torngat Mountain (L. Evans) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (G. Byrne) respecting a government-wide initiative to respond to the province's demographic challenges.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) and the Leader of the Third Party (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 section 10 of the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) tabled:

PEGNL 2020 Annual Report.

Pursuant to section 6 of the *Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act, 2008*, the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) tabled:

The Embalmers and Funeral Directors Board of Newfoundland and Labrador Annual Activity Report 2020.

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Pursuant to section 9 of the *Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accountants Act*, the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) tabled:

CPA Newfoundland and Labrador 2020-21 Annual Report.

Notices of Motion

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 Thursday, October 21.

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 Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding the need for brush cutting along Route 10, Southern Shore Highway.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding the policy and decision-making approach of the government with respect to climate change.

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change (B. Davis) replied to the petition.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn):

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,

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- 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,
- 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 Honourable 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.

During the debate, the Member for St. John's East - Quidi Vidi (J. Abbott) moved an amendment.

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate resumed and concluded on the amendment and the resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question and declared the amendment carried.

The resolution then read:

WHEREAS Health Accord has described the health care situation in Newfoundland and Labrador today as a "health crisis,"

- According to the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, 99,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians do not have a family doctor;
- When front-line healthcare professionals are overworked to the point of burnout; and
- Government is engaged in negotiations with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this hon. House urge the government to recognize some individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador are experiencing a health crisis, and to immediately address this with the urgency the circumstances warrant.

The Speaker put the question on the resolution as amended.

The House divided.

AYES	NAYS
S. Crocker	D. Brazil
L. Dempster	B. Petten
J. Haggie	P. Dinn
G. Byrne	L. Evans
T. Osborne	T. Wakeham
S. Coady	C. Tibbs
P. Parsons	C. Pardy
S. Stoodley	H. Conway Ottenheimer
A. Parsons	L. Parrott
J. Hogan	J. Wall
B. Davis	P. Forsey
D. Bragg	L. O'Driscoll
J. Abbott	J. Dwyer
B. Warr	J. Dinn
E. Loveless	J. Brown
K. L. Howell	E. Joyce
P. Pike	P. Trimper
S. Reid	
S. Gambin-Walsh	
L. Stoyles	

The Speaker declared the resolution as amended carried.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(3), the Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow, Thursday, October 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.