

Monday, May 2, 2022

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Point of Privilege

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) raised a point of privilege respecting the report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards entitled The Joyce Report (April 12, 2022).

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands spoke to the point of privilege.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for St. George's - Humber (S. Reid) recognizing the late Al Gillespie, Mayor of the Town of Massey Drive.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing Scott Hillyer, owner of Coffee Matters who, since 2019, has been working with the churches and City of Mount Pearl to provide community suppers.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing the Grand Falls Elks Lodge for their 100 years of community service.

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing Sarah Janes of Port au Port East, a student at Stephenville High and recipient of the Loran Scholarship.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) recognizing veteran Bill Saunders, member of the Royal Canadian Legion, for his service in the British Royal Navy and his contributions to St. John's Branch 1 since 1949.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

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The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) recognizing Safety and Health Week 2022.

The Members for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) and Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) 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 # OC2021-300 authorizing the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology to pre-commit funds up to \$90,000 against its 2022-23 budgetary appropriations for the purpose of entering into a contract with the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland to host the 2022 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference;

Order in Council # OC2021-309 authorizing the Minister of Justice and Public Safety to pre-commit \$13,980,400 for 2022-23, \$9,098,000 for 2023-24, \$13,647,100 for 2024-25 through 2032-33, and \$9,098,000 for 2033-24 against its budgetary appropriations to facilitate the award of a contract to Bell Mobility for a new Province-Wide Safety Radio System;

Order in Council # OC2021-310 authorizing the Minister of Justice and Public Safety to pre-commit \$1,000,000 for 2022-23 and \$728,000 for 2023-24 against its budgetary appropriations to facilitate the award of a contract to Musial's Computer Consulting Inc. for Province-Wide Radio System implementation advisory services;

Order in Council # OC2021-311 authorizing the Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador to pre-commit the amount of \$4,200 against its budgetary appropriations in each fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 for annual

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funding contributions related to an agreement with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario for Administrative and Operational Support Services for Inter-Jurisdictional Initiatives.

Order in Council # OC2022-030 authorizing the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation to pre-commit funding of \$810,000 in 2022-23 and \$90,000 in 2023-24, against its budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the Atlantic Canada Agreement in Tourism with the governments of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and the tourism associations of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Order in Council # OC2022-020 authorizing the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation to pre-commit funding of up to \$8,320, against its budgetary appropriations in each of the following fiscal years: 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, to facilitate the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Cooperation for Culture and Heritage with Canadian Heritage.

Order in Council # OC2022-033 authorizing the Office of Executive Council to pre-commit funds up to \$8,750,000 USD in 2022-23, against its budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the award of a contract to Rothschild & Co. US Inc.

Order in Council # OC2022-053 authorizing the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation to pre-commit funds in the amount of \$180,000 in 2022-23 and \$180,000 in 2023-24, against its budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the signing of a Partnership Agreement with NASCAR.

Order in Council # OC2022-054 authorizing the Department of Health and Community Services to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$5,922,043 in 2022-23, \$6,099,704 for 2023-24, \$6,282,696 for 2024-25, \$6,471,177 for 2025-26 and \$6,094,633 for 2026-27, against its budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the award of a contract to Fonemed North America Inc. for the continued delivery of HealthLine services.

Order in Council # OC2022-055 authorizing the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$633,800, against its budgetary appropriations, in each fiscal year of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, to facilitate a contract with Esri Canada Limited for the continued licensing of Geographic Information System software.

Order in Council # OC2022-092 authorizing the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$1,400,000, against its budgetary

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appropriations, in each fiscal year of 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, to facilitate the award of a contract to Bell Canada for the provision of a Wide Area Data Network, with an option to renew for up to two subsequent periods of one year, with the same terms, conditions and pricing.

Order in Council # OC2022-093 authorizing the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$100,000, against its budgetary appropriations, in each fiscal year of 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, to facilitate the award of a contract to Bragg Communications (o/a Eastlink) for the provisions of Internet services, with an option to renew for up to two subsequent periods of one year, with the same terms, condition and pricing.

Pursuant to Section 31 of the Auditor General Act, 2021, the Speaker tabled the following report of the Auditor General:

Atlantic Provinces' Joint Follow-up of Recommendations to the Atlantic Lotto Corporation, 2022.

Pursuant to section 51 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Speaker tabled:

Report of the House of Assembly Management Commission for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year.

Notices of Motion

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

“An Act to Amend the Life Insurance Act” (Bill 55);

“An Act to Amend the Condominium Act, 2009” (Bill 56); and

“An Act to Amend the Income Tax Savings Plans Act and the Pension Plans Designation of Beneficiaries Act” (Bill 57).

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

“An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000” (Bill 58).

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The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the cost-of-living crisis that is making life unbearable for countless Newfoundland and Labrador individuals and families is worsening by the day, to such a degree that it requires urgent relief measures beyond those included in the government's 2022 budget plan;

AND WHEREAS during this Mental Health Week we must recognize that the cost-of-living crisis is causing stress, anxiety and mental health issues for many people, and action must be taken with greater urgency to ensure people get financial relief as well as improved access to the long-term mental health care they need without enduring excessive wait times;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the government to provide immediate relief measures beyond those included in the government's 2022 budget plan, including financial relief along with measures to improve access to mental health care.

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, May 3.

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

THAT, notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday May 4, 2022 but shall continue to sit for the conduct of government business and, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall adjourn the House at midnight.

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, May 5.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten), announced the resolution introduced by the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) will be the one presented on Wednesday, May 4.

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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 Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) regarding reforms to the Newfoundland and Labrador justice system to better serve survivors of sexual assault.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding enhancements to the provincial roads program budget.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) regarding affordable housing and assisted living facilities for seniors in Labrador West.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding lack of regulated childcare spaces in the Bonavista area.

Standing Order 36 – Matters of Urgent Public Importance

Pursuant to Standing Order 36, the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten), asked leave to move the adjournment to discuss a matter of urgent public importance regarding the increased cost of living in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Speaker recessed the proceedings at 3 p.m. to consider the motion.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:32 p.m.

The Speaker ruled the matter was not of urgent public importance and ruled the debate could not proceed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

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Debate continued on the amendment to the budget motion (being a non-confidence motion) and, on motion, was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.