

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

On motion, the House recessed at 12:03 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing The Be Kind Project for their contributions to the community.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing high school hockey teams participating in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Memorial High School Hockey Tournament.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing the late John Jarause of Nain.

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing Gordon Lannon of Bishop's Falls on their 100th birthday.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing Jayme Guy of Arnold's Cove for their accomplishments in provincial minor hockey.

The Member for St. Barbe - L'Anse aux Meadows (K. Howell), with leave, recognizing the late Jeanette Hostetter of St. Anthony.

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Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (D. Bragg) encouraging residents of the province to be vigilant during forest fire season.

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) recognizing correctional staff during Corrections Week.

The Members for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) 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

There were no documents tabled.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

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

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Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding the rising cost of fuel and the need for a fuel rebate for truckers in the province.

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 the wait times for access to laboratory services in Bonavista.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding affordable and reliable transportation to isolated communities in Northern Labrador.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(9), prior to the debate the Member for St. John's West (S. Coady) submitted an amendment to the resolution for advance ruling. The Speaker informed the House the amendment was not in order.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham):

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.

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During the debate, the Member for St. John's West (S. Coady) moved an amendment.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(9), the Speaker ruled that the amendment was considered in advance and had been found 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 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 including but not limited to those 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 continue to support the government's efforts to provide immediate relief measures, including but not limited to those outlined in Budget 2022, which include financial relief along with measures to improve access to mental health care.

The Speaker put the question on the resolution as amended and declared the motion carried.

On motion, the House recessed at 4:56 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 5:36 p.m.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, the following bill was introduced and read the first time:

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Income Tax Savings Plans Act and the Pension Plans Designation of Beneficiaries Act" (Bill 57).

On motion, it was ordered the above-noted bill be read the second time on tomorrow.

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Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced on the motion standing in the name of the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) as follows:

THAT this House concur in the report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards entitled, "The Joyce Report, April 12, 2022";

AND THAT the Member for Humber Bay of Islands is directed to submit the required information to the Commissioner for Legislative Standards within 7 business days of the adoption of this resolution;

AND THAT should the information not be submitted, in accordance with paragraph 45(1)(c) of the House of Assembly Act, the Member for Humber-Bay of Islands be suspended from the House of Assembly;

AND THAT the said suspension be without pay and shall continue until such time that the Commissioner for Legislative Standards advises the Speaker that the statutory obligations referred to in the Report have been met.

During the debate, the Member for Carbonear - Trinity - Bay de Verde (S. Crocker) 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 motion itself.

The Speaker put the question and declared the amendment carried.

The motion then read:

THAT this House concur in the report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards entitled, "The Joyce Report, April 12, 2022";

AND THAT the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands is directed to submit the required information to the Commissioner for Legislative Standards within 7 clear sitting days of the adoption of this resolution;

AND THAT the Speaker is ordered to appoint a mediator to assist the parties to resolve the matters described in the Report;

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AND THAT the mediator appointed by the Speaker shall, within 7 clear sitting days, report to this House;

AND THAT if the House is not then in session, that report may be tabled as if it were a report under section 19.1 of the House of Assembly Act;

AND THAT where the mediator finds that a resolution cannot be achieved due to unwillingness by the MHA for Humber - Bay of Islands to comply with a reasonable requirement of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards and as a result the Member's statutory obligations are still outstanding, the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands shall, as of the date of the tabling of the mediator's report, be suspended from the House of Assembly in accordance with paragraph 45(1)(c) of the House of Assembly Act;

AND THAT the said suspension be without pay and shall continue until such time that the Commissioner for Legislative Standards advises the Speaker that the statutory obligations referred to in the Report have been met.

The Speaker put the question on the motion as amended and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider the estimates of the Legislature and the Executive Council.

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (B. Warr) reported the Committee of the Whole on Supply had considered the matters to them referred and had passed without amendment the estimates of the Legislature and Executive Council.

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

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On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.