

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to continue consideration of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Act” (Bill 52).

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 Petroleum Products Act” (Bill 52).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 52 be read the third time presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Child and Youth Advocate Act” (Bill 62) and, on motion, debate was adjourned.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the following bills were read the third time and passed:

A bill, “Act Respecting Access to Health and Education Services” (Bill 51);

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products Act” (Bill 52);

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, 2000” (Bill 54);

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

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

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- A bill, “An Act to Amend the Income Tax Savings Plans Act and the Pension Plans Designation of Beneficiaries Act” (Bill 57);
- A bill, “An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000” (Bill 58);
and
- A bill, “An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015” (Bill 59).

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) moved:

THAT, notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 but shall continue to sit to conduct government business and, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall adjourn the House at midnight.

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 Forestry Act” (Bill 61).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Forestry Act” (Bill 61) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 61 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 Forestry Act” (Bill 61).

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 Forestry Act” (Bill 61).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 61 be read the third time on tomorrow.

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

WHEREAS subsection 6(3) of the *Independent Appointments Commission Act* provides that members of the Independent Appointments Commission are to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on a resolution of the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS subsection 7(1) of the Act states that a commissioner may be reappointed;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the following commissioners expires on June 22, 2022:

Peggy Bartlett
Gerald Anderson

AND WHEREAS it is proposed that the said commissioners be reappointed as commissioners for a term of 3 years from the date of the expiry of their terms;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of Philip R. Earle expires on May 24, 2022 and is not eligible for reappointment;

AND WHEREAS the chairperson, Earl Ludlow, has resigned as chairperson and as a commissioner;

AND WHEREAS subsection 6(4) of the Act provides that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council designate one of the members of the commission to be chairperson;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following persons be appointed or reappointed as members of the Independent Appointments Commission for a term of 3 years:

Karen McCarthy, Chairperson
William Mahoney
Brendan Mitchell
Jamie Schwartz

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Peggy Bartlett
Gerald Anderson

The Speaker put the question and declared the resolution carried.

On motion, the House recessed at 11:13 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing Jack White of Port au Port East and their accomplishments in cross-country skiing.

The Member for Burin - Grand Bank (P. Pike) recognizing Charles Penwell of Fortune on his retirement and for his contributions to the community.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (B. Warr) recognizing Greg Roberts of Triton Island and their success with the Mary Brown's brand.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) congratulating Rodney and Kelly Joyce, recipients of Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Witless Bay Kinsmen Club, recipient of the Volunteer Group of the Year Award.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing Ducks Unlimited Labrador West for its conservation efforts to protect wildlife in the area.

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (E. Loveless), with leave, recognizing the Bay d'Espoir Academy Predators, who hosted and won the School Sport NL Badminton provincials.

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Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (G. Byrne) announcing an upcoming job fair for Ukrainian refugees, and recognizing Gannett Construction, Rambler Mines, Eastern Health, and several others who already employ newcomers.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality (P. Parsons) recognizing International Day Against Transphobia, Homophobia and Biphobia.

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.

During oral questions, the Speaker ruled a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition (D. Brazil) was not in order as it did not fall within the purview of the administrative competence of the Executive branch.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

Pursuant to the resolution passed on May 4, the Speaker tabled the report of the mediator, Gail Hamilton:

Mediation Report Re: Joyce Report, April 12, 2022, Issued May 18, 2022.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

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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 Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) requesting pay equity legislation be tabled and debated during the spring sitting.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn):

WHEREAS the science unmistakably tells us that we need a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a 90% reduction by 2050 in order to avoid ruinous climate change;

WHEREAS the Secretary-General of the United Nations recently noted that "addiction to fossil fuels is mutually assured destruction" and that "the world is sleepwalking to climate catastrophe;"

WHEREAS the effects of climate change are already harming the people of this province according to the final report of the Health Accord, through more frequent and destructive weather events, disappearing sea ice in Labrador, or through toxic pollution;

WHEREAS any new development of offshore oil and gas extraction is incompatible with keeping our international commitments, meeting our obligations to future generations, and averting global disaster;

WHEREAS the major economic transformations of the past were carried out without consideration for workers in phased-out industries;

WHEREAS former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney stated in the fall of 2021 that the green transition is "the greatest commercial opportunity of our age," and estimates from Stanford University predict the creation of one to three million new jobs in Canada as we transition towards safe and renewable energy;

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WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador stands to gain by entering early in the green technology sector, since we are blessed with some of the strongest renewable energy resources in North America, a rapidly growing technology sector, world-class education and research facilities, and opportunities to gain federal funding for building this industry;

WHEREAS our workers in the oil and gas sector already have the skills and know-how needed to build the new green industries and are therefore well placed to take advantage of this unique opportunity;

WHEREAS a 2021 survey conducted by The Atlantic Quarterly found that more than four out of five Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders and Labradorians not only wanted a transition to renewable and efficient energy, but also support for affected workers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this government prepare for the coming decline of the fossil fuel industry and make sure that affected workers themselves become leaders of the change by introducing Just Transition legislation in this House, ensuring high-quality, union jobs, guaranteeing workers who want to enter the new industries receive the supports they need to do so, and ensuring local communities are the primary beneficiaries of the green transformation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this government recognize the gravity of the climate emergency by introducing a Climate and Energy bill in this House that stipulates a planned phase-out of the oil and gas industry, sets clear targets so that by 2050, 85% or more of total energy consumption in this province is clean energy, guarantees that all renewable energy production, distribution, and service remain in public hands, and commits to positioning our economy, research centres, and businesses to benefit from provincial, national, and international efforts to create new renewable energy resources in wind, hydro, and solar;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House urge the government to establish a new statutory Office of Climate Accountability with a Climate Accountability Officer, whose mandate would be to guide policy and targets, work with industry to help advance low-carbon industry and infrastructure, and review, audit, and report to this House annually on government, business, and economy-wide progress on legislated reductions of greenhouse gas pollution of 45% by 2030 and 90% by 2050.

The Speaker put the question.

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The House divided.

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

The Speaker declared the resolution defeated.

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Pursuant to order and on motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 19, at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.