

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No. 3” (Bill 27).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No. 3” (Bill 27) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 27 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 Revenue Administration Act No. 3” (Bill 27).

The Speaker left the Chair (B. Warr).

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. War) 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 Revenue Administration Act No. 3” (Bill 27)

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 27 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to the Point of Order raised by the Member for Corner Brook (G. Byrne) on March 14, the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) withdrew their comment.

On motion, the House recessed at 12:19 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing the late Joan Stamp of Labrador West.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) recognizing Charles Warr, pharmacist and resident of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The Member for Placentia - St. Mary's (S. Gambin-Walsh) recognizing Elizabeth Critch of Gaskiers on their 100th birthday.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing residents of the Bonavista area who organized a rally line in support of health care in the region.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing Gary Martin and his almost 40 years of volunteer coaching and officiating amateur sports.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (S. Crocker) recognizing more than 160 Newfoundland and Labrador athletes, including five medal winners, who attended the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island.

The Members for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

The Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality (P. Parsons) acknowledging March 8 as International Women's Day.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

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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 7 of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (S. Coady) tabled:

Pension Investment Committee Province of Newfoundland and Labrador Pooled Pension Fund 2023-25 Activity Plan; and

Government Money Purchase Pension Plan Committee 2023-25 Activity Plan.

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.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding certain health care practices and the access to emergency room physicians at the Bonavista Hospital.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding the need for a high school in Paradise.

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The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) regarding a new long-term care facility for the residents of Bay St. George.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding the doctor shortage in the province and the Trepassey area.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer):

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters are true community heroes who provide an indispensable service to their neighbours despite the risks, costs and sacrifices often required of them;

AND WHEREAS our province's declining, aging population bases in some areas may leave communities with fewer people to serve as volunteer firefighters;

AND WHEREAS our province and other jurisdictions have found innovative ways to support volunteer firefighters, reduce their costs and facilitate their work;

AND WHEREAS more can and should be done to support Newfoundland and Labrador's volunteer firefighters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House urge the government to explore innovative solutions and best practices that will

- further support our volunteer firefighters,
- reduce the costs they bear, both as individuals and as departments,
- help them balance their firefighting roles and their other obligations with policies that better adapt to volunteers' individual circumstances,
- lessen their need to undertake their own fundraising activities,
- improve the gear, facilities and vehicles they rely on for their work and their training,

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- enhance, modernize and mobilize training opportunities and equipment to properly prepare them for the range of circumstances they encounter and the risks they face,
- care for them and their families more effectively if they are injured or their health is compromised while better protecting them from injury or illness,
- debrief firefighters and better support them after traumatic events,
- promote volunteer firefighting to upcoming generations, women and new Canadians,
- better educate the public on effective fire prevention,
- and collaborate inclusively with firefighters on any other measures that may work to attract and retain volunteer firefighters and protect Newfoundland and Labrador communities.

During the debate, the Member for St. Barbe - L'Anse aux Meadows (K. L. Howell) moved an amendment.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(9), the Speaker ruled 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 was carried.

The resolution then read:

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters are true community heroes who provide an indispensable service to their neighbours despite the risks, costs and sacrifices often required of them;

AND WHEREAS our province's declining, aging population bases in some areas may leave communities with fewer people to serve as volunteer firefighters;

AND WHEREAS our province and other jurisdictions have found innovative ways to support volunteer firefighters, reduce their costs and facilitate their work;

AND WHEREAS more can and should be done to support Newfoundland and Labrador's volunteer firefighters;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House urge the government to work with communities and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Service to explore innovative solutions and best practices that will

- further support our volunteer firefighters,
- reduce the costs they bear, both as individuals and as departments,
- help them balance their firefighting roles and their other obligations with policies that better adapt to volunteers' individual circumstances,
- lessen their need to undertake their own fundraising activities,
- improve the gear, facilities and vehicles they rely on for their work and their training,
- enhance, modernize and mobilize training opportunities and equipment to properly prepare them for the range of circumstances they encounter and the risks they face,
- care for them and their families more effectively if they are injured or their health is compromised while better protecting them from injury or illness,
- debrief firefighters and better support them after traumatic events,
- promote volunteer firefighting to upcoming generations, women and new Canadians,
- better educate the public on effective fire prevention,
- and collaborate inclusively with firefighters on any other measures that may work to attract and retain volunteer firefighters and protect Newfoundland and Labrador communities.

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

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On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes

Clerk of the House of Assembly