

Monday, October 16, 2023

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker acknowledged the retirement of Sandra Barnes, Clerk of the House of Assembly, and thanked them for their 11 years' service to the House.

The Speaker acknowledged the appointment of Kim Hawley George, KC to the position of Clerk of the House of Assembly (A).

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing the inaugural Wheels & Heels Festival, held on the weekend of October 14.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing the contributions of seniors and 50+ clubs in their district.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing Gateway Labrador for hosting the Fall Heritage Festival in their district.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (B. Warr) recognizing the fishers of their district who were involved in the tragedy at sea on September 13, 2023: the late Brian and Leonard Walsh of Coachman's Cove, the late Tim Shea and survivor Dwayne Barrett of Fleur de Lys.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (E. Loveless), with leave, recognizing the late Barry Saunders of Bishop's Falls.

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Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) recognizing Small Business Week and Co-op Week.

The Members for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) and Labrador West (J. Brown) 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 9 of the *Chartered Professional Accounts and Public Accountants Act*, the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) tabled:

Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador. Annual Report, 2022-23.

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

Embalmers and Funeral Directors Board of Newfoundland and Labrador. Annual Report, 2022.

Pursuant to section 10 of the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008*, the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) tabled:

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador. Annual Report, 2022-23.

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Pursuant to section 29 of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) tabled:

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board. Annual Report, 2022-23

Notices of Motion

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

“An Act Respecting Towns and Local Service Districts” (Bill 54).

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

“An Act to Amend the Insurance Companies Act” (Bill 47);

“An Act Respecting the King’s Printer” (Bill 49);

“An Act to Amend the Change of Name Act, 2009” (Bill 50);

“An Act to Amend the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act, 2008” (Bill 51);

“An Act to Amend the Buildings Accessibility Act” (Bill 52); and

“An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act, the City of Corner Brook Act, the City of Mount Pearl Act, the City of St. John’s Act and the Municipalities Act, 1999” (Bill 55).

The Minister Responsible for Workplace NL (B. Davis) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, 2022” (Bill 48).

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The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting King’s Counsel and Order of Precedence in the Courts” (Bill 53).

The Member for St. George’s - Humber (S. Reid) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS Newfoundlanders and Labradorians fully appreciate the need and importance of addressing climate change.

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is doing its part to address climate change by developing and deploying innovative clean technologies and renewable energy, developing green hydrogen and reducing the province's carbon footprint by improving the energy efficiency of homes, businesses and government buildings.

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has committed to achieving net-zero by 2050.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada’s decision to impose the Federal carbon tax and to enact the *Clean Fuel Regulations (Canada)* fails to acknowledge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's efforts to meet emission targets and fails to consider the hardship that residents, families and businesses are experiencing with the high cost of living resulting, in part, from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS the Federal carbon tax and the *Clean Fuel Regulations (Canada)* have a disproportionate impact on Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada's decision to impose the Federal carbon tax and to enact the *Clean Fuel Regulations (Canada)* does not consider this province's unique geography and economy.

WHEREAS the imposition of the Federal carbon tax and the enactment of the *Clean Fuel Regulations (Canada)* further amplifies the dramatic increases in food prices, and costs for energy, transportation and other essential goods and services in this province.

WHEREAS the Premier has publicly expressed his belief that the carbon tax and the *Clean Fuel Regulations (Canada)* be repealed and has stated this belief in a letter to the Prime Minister dated August 15, 2023.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the Government of Canada to immediately repeal the carbon tax and the *Clean Fuel Regulations* (Canada).

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) announced the resolution introduced by the Member for St. George's - Humber (S. Reid) will be the one presented on Wednesday, October 18.

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17.

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 19.

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 Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding amendments to the *Limitations Act* to remove limitation periods for civil child abuse claims.

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

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) regarding upgrades to Routes 350, 351A and 352.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (J. Abbott) replied to the petition.

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

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding drafting a plan to tackle housing affordability and build new homes by 2030.

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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 of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance regarding the affordability of housing in the province.

The Speaker recessed the proceedings at 2:49 p.m. to consider the motion.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:34 p.m.

The Speaker ruled debate on 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.

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, the following bills were introduced and read the first time:

A bill, “An Act to Repeal the Farm Products Corporation Act” (Bill 42); and

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Schools Act, 1997 No. 2” (Bill 43).

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

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act Respecting the Regulation of Aquaculture in the Province” (Bill 17).

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Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act Respecting the Regulation of Aquaculture in the Province” (Bill 17) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 17 be referred to a Committee of the Whole on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC
Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)