

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 62).

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

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

A bill, “An Act Respecting the Quarry Resources in the Province” (Bill 58);
and

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Mineral Act” (Bill 59).

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act Respecting Towns and Local Service Districts” (Bill 54) and, on motion, debate was adjourned for further debate tomorrow.

On motion, the House recessed at 12.15 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members’ Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) congratulating the Kidney Foundation on its achievements in raising awareness of kidney disease.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing the individuals involved in relocating and upgrading the War Memorial in Shoal Harbour.

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The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing the Lion Max Simms Memorial Camp for its induction into the Exploits Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing recipients of the 2023 Premier's Athletic Awards from the district.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) congratulating Alex Ryan of Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove on his achievements in karate.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality (P. Parsons) recognizing the provincial Indigenous Women's Reconciliation Council.

The Members for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (E. Loveless) highlighting supports for agriculture initiatives in the province.

The Members for Exploits (P. Forsey) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

The Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (S. Gambin-Walsh) presented a report entitled:

50th General Assembly – Report 3 – Committee Activity, Second Session.
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Tabling of Documents

There were no documents tabled.

Notices of Motion

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS subsection 16(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* requires that an independent committee, called a Members' Compensation Review Committee, be appointed at least once during each General Assembly; and

WHEREAS in accordance with subsection 16(2) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Speaker has consulted with the Government House Leader, the Opposition House Leader and the Third Party on the appointment to the said committee; and

WHEREAS the Government House Leader, Opposition House Leader and Third Party have agreed with the introduction of this resolution; and

WHEREAS under subsection 16(4) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, a Members' Compensation Review Committee appointed under this resolution must report to the Speaker on its recommendations within 120 days of its appointment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (1) That Heather Jacobs, KC, is appointed to the Members' Compensation Review Committee, with the appointment to be effective on December 1, 2023;
- (2) That in accordance with section 16 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Members' Compensation Review Committee shall inquire into and prepare a report respecting the salaries, allowances, severance and pensions to be paid to the Members of the House of Assembly; and

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(3) That in particular, the Committee shall:

- (a) recommend the annual salary for Members of the House of Assembly;
- (b) review and make recommendations regarding additional salary provisions for positions identified in subsection 12(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*;
- (c) recommend a formula or means for making annual salary adjustments for salary amounts referenced in clauses (a) and (b) above;
- (d) review and make any recommendations regarding the current severance pay policy for Members of the House of Assembly;
- (e) review the current provisions for Members' pensions and provide any recommendations for adjustments;

AND THAT, as part of its inquiries, the committee may consult with appropriate persons who can assist the committee with respect to its required duties and shall consult with current Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Assembly Service regarding any issues identified in the current regime as well as any administrative, legislative or other impacts of proposed recommendations;

AND THAT the House of Assembly shall conclude any contractual arrangements required to carry out the intent of this resolution;

AND THAT the Members' Compensation Review Committee deliver its report to the Speaker on or before April 1, 2024.

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 Exploits (P. Forsey) regarding the need to upgrade and increase the number of Newfoundland and Labrador Housing units in the central region.

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The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) regarding the need to improve cellular service coverage within the district of Harbour Main.

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) replied to the petition.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce):

WHEREAS there is a housing crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador;

WHEREAS there are many vulnerable residents who need social housing;

WHEREAS families are split as residents are in emergency shelters or hotels;

WHEREAS in Corner Brook, the Mayor of Corner Brook stated publicly that the 12 housing units in Corner Brook are not adequate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government to immediately take steps to reduce the lack of social housing in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

During the debate, the Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) 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 carried.

The resolution then read:

WHEREAS similar to the experience across the country, there is a housing crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador;

WHEREAS there are many vulnerable residents who need social housing;

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WHEREAS residents experiencing homelessness are in emergency shelters or hotels;

WHEREAS of the over 600 Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation's units in Corner Brook, the Mayor of Corner Brook stated publicly that the 12 housing units in Corner Brook are not adequate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government to continue to work with all orders of Government and community partners to take steps to address social housing need in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m.

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