

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Memorial High School Hockey Tournament.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing the late Cecil Jacque of Postville.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the Discovery Collegiate Destroyers of Bonavista on winning the female division of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Memorial High School Hockey Tournament.

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing Ella Humphries of Northern Arm for their 38 years of service to the town.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing Tyler Hynes of Topsail Paradise for their donation of aluminum pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (E. Loveless), by leave, recognizing Noel Joe of Miawpukek First Nation on the showing of their documentary *The Forgotten Warriors*.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (J. Abbott) recognizing the Provincial Roads Plan's facilitation of transportation infrastructure improvements. The Members for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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 paragraph 19(5)(a) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Speaker tabled the minutes of the meeting of the House of Assembly Management Commission held on:

January 24, 2024.

Notices of Motion

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 Monday, April 29.

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, April 30.

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

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 63, this House shall not proceed with Private Members' Day on Wednesday, May 1 but shall instead meet at 2 p.m. on that day for routine proceedings and the conduct of Government business;

AND THAT, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall then adjourn the House at midnight.

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, May 2.

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

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

“An Act to Amend the Limitations Act” (Bill 74).

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the House of Assembly currently has an annual budget estimates process allowing Members to complete a line by line examination of the annual budgets of core government departments and ask questions to Ministers and relevant senior departmental staff concerning estimated departmental revenues and expenditures;

WHEREAS no such process currently applies to government agencies, boards, commissions and other government entities such as NL Health Services, Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic, NL Hydro, Oilco, the NL Liquor Corporation and others;

WHEREAS Members of the House of Assembly are elected by the people of NL to, among other things, be stewards of the public purse;

WHEREAS a significant portion of the provincial government's annual budget flows through agencies, boards and commissions without examination by elected Members of the legislature;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House direct the government to initiate a process and allocate the required time and resources to allow elected Members the opportunity to review budgets and question appropriate senior staff of government agencies, boards, commissions and other similar entities on an annual basis similar to the process utilized in budget estimates.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Speaker confirmed with the Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) that the resolution introduced by that Member will be the one presented on Wednesday, April 24.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

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

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Petitions were not called, as the Government House Leader moved orders of the day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Pursuant to Standing Order 32, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved orders of the day.

The Speaker put the question and the motion carried.

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 Act, 2000" (Bill 35).

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

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved:

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, but shall continue to sit for the conduct of 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 notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 25.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

On motion, debate continued on the amendment to the budget motion (being a non-confidence motion).

During the debate, the Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) moved the following sub-amendment to the budget motion (being a non-confidence motion):

THAT the amendment that was previously presented, the non-confidence motion, be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and also by adding immediately thereafter the following words: "and that this House also faults

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

the government for failing to guarantee people access to a primary care provider; for failing to retain health care professionals such as nurses and doctors while wasting a fortune to replace those they have driven away; for failing in all its years to introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction plan like the one they cancelled; for failing to address the social determinants of health such as affordable food, housing and medicine; for failing to address serious mental health and addictions needs; for failing to address violence and crime in our communities; for failing to provide proper resources to police; for failing to rehabilitate inmates; for failing to address the housing needs of our people; for failing to ensure women are paid equitably for the work they do; for failing to protect homeowners from court action by Crown Lands to seize the homes they live in; for failing to review and reform all taxes, fees and income support programs; for failing to cut red tape and other impediments to business growth that have worsened on their watch; for failing to hear and include persons with disabilities; for failing to hear and include Indigenous communities; for failing to plan ahead to make early childhood education available; for failing to listen to and support teachers and make our schools safe places for our youth to get the quality education they need; for failing to listen to students and make postsecondary education affordable; for failing to be transparent and accountable about its dealings on energy and other matters; for failing to diversify our economy and derive maximum community benefits from the development of all our resources, from oil and gas to minerals; for failing to raise the bar on food security by driving local agriculture; for failing to prevent crises in the fishing industry year after year; for failing to multiply the value of our fishing industry; for failing to make the case for joint fisheries management; for failing to manage the finances of the province responsibly and sustainably; for failing to make the case for fair health transfers based on need; and for failing to fight early or effectively enough against the Liberal Government's carbon tax that the Liberal Government of Newfoundland and Labrador repeatedly endorsed and rammed through the House of Assembly."

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the sub-amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the sub-amendment in order.

Debate commenced on the sub-amendment to the budget motion (being a non-confidence motion).

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Point of Order

During the debate, the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) raised a point of order regarding statements made by the Member for Corner Brook (G. Byrne) regarding a PET scanner at the Western Memorial Regional Hospital.

The Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) took the matter under advisement.

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

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan), by leave, gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following motion:

THAT for the purpose of reviewing the estimates of Executive Council in Committee of the Whole House, debate shall proceed in the same manner as adopted by Committees of the House reviewing estimates; that is, in ten-minute question and answer periods.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 24 at 10 a.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)