

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

The House met at 10 a.m.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

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

On motion, the House recessed at 12:28 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

The Speaker welcomed His Excellency Margus Rava, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Canada, His Excellency Kaspars Ozolins, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to Canada, and His Excellency Darius Skusevicius, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Canada, to the Chamber.

The Speaker also welcomed Jim McKenna, Member-elect for Fogo Island - Cape Freels, to the Chamber.

## **Members' Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) recognizing the East Coast Trail Association on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing volunteers and coaches of the Southern Shore and Goulds Minor Hockey Associations.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing the Central Newfoundland Hospital Auxiliary.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) recognizing Emma Foss (11) and Katie Foss (8) of Conception Bay South on their successful business: Emma & Katie's Candy Shop.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) recognizing Audrey Snow of South River, who is the reigning Junior Miss Newfoundland and Labrador.

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### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Education (K.L. Howell) recognizing recipients of the 2024 RISE Awards.

The Members for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

### **Oral Questions**

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

### **Point of Order**

After oral questions, the Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) raised a point of order regarding the Minister of Education (K.L. Howell) referring to them as being disingenuous.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

### **Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees**

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

### **Tabling of Documents**

By leave, the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) tabled:

Photographs of conditions at the Health Sciences Centre.

### **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 Exploits (P. Forsey) regarding the repair and increase of Newfoundland and Labrador Housing (NLHC) units in central Newfoundland.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding timely access to laboratory services at the Bonavista Hospital.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding needed repairs to Long Run Road in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove.

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

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding timely access to medical care for patients in northern Labrador by ensuring medical flights are available for patients as needed.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding access to mental healthcare in the province.

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION**

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane):

**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

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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.

During the debate, the Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) moved an amendment.

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

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

Debate resumed and concluded on the amendment and the resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment carried.

The resolution then read:

**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;

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**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 the House support the government in initiating a process and recommend the allocation of the required time and resources to allow 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.

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

On motion, the House recessed at 4:30 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 5:33 p.m.

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

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Limitations Act" (Bill 74).

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

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

**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.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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

**THAT** notwithstanding Standing Order 63, this House shall not proceed with Private Members' Day on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 but shall instead meet at 2:00 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.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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

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, May 2.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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

The Speaker put the question on the sub-amendment and declared the motion defeated.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the budget motion (being a non-confidence motion).

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the motion defeated.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider the estimates of the Legislature and Executive Council.

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Supply.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (S. Gambin-Walsh) reported the Committee of the Whole on Supply had considered the matters to them referred and had directed them to report the Committee had passed without amendment the estimates of the Legislature and Executive Council.

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

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On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 25 at 1:30 p.m.

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