

Monday, May 13, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Placentia - St. Mary's (S. Gambin-Walsh) recognizing their mother, Marina Power Gambin, and all mothers, on Mother's Day.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing Burin Peninsula Brighter Futures, on its 30th anniversary.

The Member for St. George's - Humber (S. Reid) congratulating Rachel Cavell McKay on their 100th birthday.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the courage and bravery of the late Martin Sceviour and Harold Miller of Burgoyne's Cove.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) congratulating VOWR on its 100th anniversary in broadcasting.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Education (K.L. Howell) congratulating the College of the North Atlantic on receiving the Silver Program Excellence Award for Early Childhood Education from College and Institutes Canada.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) and Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

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Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

There were no documents tabled.

Notices of Motion

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Deputy Government House Leader (L. Dempster) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21.

The Deputy Government House Leader (L. Dempster) 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 22 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 Deputy Government House Leader (L. Dempster) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

- a) the wait lists for mental health and addictions care are too long, even for youth in crisis;
- b) many not finding help are left with few alternatives;
- c) abuse of deadly drugs is worsening, particularly in Labrador;
- d) the fatal overdose rate is accelerating;

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- e) the drug-related crime rate is accelerating;
- f) up to 87 per cent of inmates suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues, but many are released back into the community without proper treatment or support;
- g) there are too few options for drug detox and rehabilitation, too few drug-free shelters, and too few options for families in crisis;
- h) police are seeing an alarming rise in the number of calls related to mental health crises and addictions, and begging for more support; and communities are afraid;

AND WHEREAS the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions was announced on September 1, 2023 to look at “prevention, early intervention, treatment and support ... with an emphasis on youth and young adults” and the “social determinants of health, such as housing, poverty and education”; yet, the committee has seldom met since then; and some people with lived experience say they have not been properly included;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House urge the government expedite the work of the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions; and fully include people with lived experience; relevant government departments; professionals in health care, policing, justice, corrections, education and social work; community groups, Indigenous communities, faith groups and others who can provide insight to help address the wide array of challenges more effectively, so everyone in need has somewhere to turn right away.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten) announced the resolution introduced will be the one presented on Wednesday, May 15.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

The Minister of Finance (S. Coady) provided additional information in response to a question that had previously arisen in debate.

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Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) regarding amendments to the *Limitations Act* to remove limitation periods for civil child abuse claims.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding reinstatement of walk-in or in-person booking of laboratory services at the Bonavista Hospital.

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

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

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding amendments to the *Limitations Act* to remove limitation periods for civil child abuse claims.

Points of Order – Rulings

Respecting the point of order raised by the Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) on Tuesday, April 30, the Speaker ruled there is a well-established parliamentary convention regarding the mentioning or referring to a Member's presence in the House. The Speaker reminded all Members that they should not refer to the absence or presence of a Member or minister in the Chamber.

Respecting the first point of order raised by the Member Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) on Tuesday, April 30, the Speaker ruled there was no point of order. In his ruling, the Speaker clarified that watching the proceedings on a broadcast did not equate virtual participation pursuant to Standing Order 9.1.

Respecting the second point of order raised by the Member Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) on Tuesday, April 30, the Speaker ruled there was no point of order. In his ruling, the Speaker reminded Members to conduct themselves using order and decorum.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 62).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 62) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 62 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 Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 62).

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Chair of Committees (P. Trimper) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (P. Trimper) 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 Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act” (Bill 62).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 62 be read the third time tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 66 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

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Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a bill entitled “An Act Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (S. Gambin-Walsh) 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 Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 66 be read the third time tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m.

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