

Monday, May 27, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

By leave, the Premier (A. Furey) delivered a statement acknowledging the repatriation of the remains of an unknown First World War soldier.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Members' Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing the sporting community contributions of Darrell Chip of Stephenville.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) recognizing the achievements of small businesses in the province and the Town of Conception Bay South's anniversary celebrations of businesses operating 50-plus years in the area.

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) recognizing the advocacy of the West Coast Health Care Action Committee.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Ellen Adams of Rigolet.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) recognizing the 2024 graduating class of Eric G Lambert School in Churchill Falls.

The Member for Virginia Waters - Pleasantville (B. Davis), with leave, recognizing Ed Dunne of Virginia Park.

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### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Education (K. L. Howell) recognizing a delegation from the Republic of Korea, including representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Office of International Cooperation.

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

There were no documents tabled.

### **Notices of Motion**

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** Crown Lands' application of the provisions of the *Lands Act* abolishing squatters' rights against the Crown has, in some cases, resulted in challenges to the claims of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who honestly, and in good faith, have occupied and developed their lands;

**AND WHEREAS** some historical titles in Newfoundland and Labrador trace back centuries, and are relied upon by the public, but are not accepted by the Crown;

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**AND WHEREAS** people have occupied their lands for generations based on informal title without a grant from the Crown;

**AND WHEREAS** some people have strong local community support for their claims of title, but do not have clear title from Crown Lands;

**AND WHEREAS** some municipalities maintain records of land ownership that are not considered by the Crown in determining title claims;

**AND WHEREAS** some applicants for Crown Lands access are frustrated by wait times for their applications to be resolved, even for land which has long been occupied;

**AND WHEREAS** the policies and practices of the province's Crown Lands Division are impeding economic development in Newfoundland and Labrador and imposing high costs upon the public;

**AND WHEREAS** this issue impacts potentially thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House urge the government to move expeditiously to bring forward legislative amendments to ensure fair reconciliation of existing claims for people seeking title to the land they have occupied in good faith for generations and which is recognized within their communities; and to take steps in the interim to address Crown Lands' actions against occupied properties in the province.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten) announced the resolution introduced by the Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) will be the one presented on Wednesday, May 29.

### **Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given**

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (J. Haggie) provided additional information in response to a question that had previously arisen in debate.

The Minister of Housing (F. Hutton) 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 Terra Nova (L. Parrott) regarding the number of designated beds for veterans at the Veterans' Pavilion.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding the number of designated beds for veterans at the Veterans' Pavilion.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding resources for residents in long-term care and all other applicable regional health facilities housing persons with cognitive debilitating conditions.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding the reinstatement of marine services between the island portion of the province and Labrador.  
The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (J. Abbott) replied to the petition.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding viable LSDs within the province being incorporated as municipalities to provide better governance for their residents.

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (J. Haggie) replied to the petition.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding funding for the Supported Employment Program.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker (D. Bennett) called orders of the day.

Pursuant to notice, the Deputy Government House Leader (L. Dempster) moved:

**THAT** notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 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.

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Pursuant to notice, the Deputy Government House Leader (L. Dempster) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the following bill was read the third time and passed:

A bill, "An Act Respecting King's Counsel and Order of Precedence in the Courts" (Bill 53).

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act" (Bill 79).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act" (Bill 79) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 79 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 Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act" (Bill 79).

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 to Amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act" (Bill 79).

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

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On motion, it was ordered that Bill 79 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 28 at 1:30 p.m.

**Kim Hawley George, KC**

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)