

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice, by leave, and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Exploits (P. Forsey):

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;

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

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communities; and to take steps in the interim to address Crown Lands' actions against occupied properties in the province.

The Speaker put the question and declared the resolution was carried.

On motion, the House recessed at 11:53 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

The Speaker acknowledged Lin Paddock, member-elect for the District of Baie Verte - Green Bay.

Point of Order - Ruling

Respecting the Point of Order raised by the Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) on May 16 in accordance with Standing Order 49 and the use of the word "misinformation", the Speaker ruled there was no point of order.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing the Lionel Kelland Hospice and the up-coming Hike for Hospice fundraiser.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing winners of the Royal Canadian Legion Annual Poppy and Remembrance Day poster and literacy contest.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Maria Merkuratsuk, recent recipient of the Nunatsiavut Government Cultural Recognition Award.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) recognizing the late Harry Stone of St. John's.

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The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing the success of the Paradise Warrior Elite Kickboxing Club at the WAKO National Kickboxing Championship recently held in Niagara Falls.

The Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (L. Dempster), with leave, recognizing Aiden Sampson of St. Lewis Academy, the first Labradorian to be selected a Loran Scholar.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey) regarding the expansion of the Trail of the Caribou Pilgrimage Student Ambassador Program.

The Leader of the Opposition (T. Wakeham) and the Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights Commission.

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

The Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (G. Byrne) regarding calling on the federal government to reverse employment funding cuts.

The Members for Bonavista (C. Pardy) 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.

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Tabling of Documents

Pursuant to section 5.2 of the *Energy Corporation Act*, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) tabled:

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Annual Report 2023.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

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 Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding need for a high school in Paradise.

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

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding a plan to have all rural locations with civic addressing before the end of the 2024 calendar year, and registered with the Canada Post database.

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change (B. Davis) replied to the petition.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding government funded housing and social housing markets.

The House recessed to await the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor took the Chair.

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The Speaker addressed the Lieutenant Governor, as follows:

"May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present session passed certain bills, to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent."

The Clerk read the following bills:

- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, 2000" (Bill 35);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act" (Bill 44);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting King's Counsel and Order of Precedence in the Courts" (Bill 53);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Colonial Building Act" (Bill 57);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Corporation Act" (Bill 62);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province" (Bill 66);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting Recognition of the 75th Anniversary of Confederation" (Bill 67);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Memorial University Act No. 2" (Bill 69);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act" (Bill 70);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Correctional Services Act" (Bill 71);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Limitations Act" (Bill 74);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Crop Insurance Act" (Bill 76);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act, 2009" (Bill 77);

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A bill, “An Act to Amend the Credit Union Act, 2009 No. 2” (Bill 78); and

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act and the Provincial Offences Act” (Bill 79).

The Lieutenant Governor then said, “In His Majesty’s Name, I assent to these bills.”

The Lieutenant Governor addressed the Members and then left the Chamber.

The Speaker advised Members of the upcoming provincial Mace tour.

The Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey), the Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham), the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn), and the Speaker (D. Bennett) extended best wishes to the Members and staff of the House for the summer break.

All present sang “The Ode to Labrador” and “The Ode to Newfoundland”.

On motion, the House adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Kim Hawley George, KC

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)