

Monday, November 4, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) took the Chair as Speaker for the proceedings.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay, Lin Paddock, duly elected in the by-election of May 27, 2024, was formally introduced to the House of Assembly, and took their seat.

The Member for Waterford Valley, Jamie Korab, duly elected in the by-election of August 22, 2024, was formally introduced to the House of Assembly, and took their seat.

The Speaker recognized the family of the late Kevin Parsons, Jr., former Member for Cape St. Francis.

The Speaker introduced Page:

Riley Tucker of St. John's, who is studying political science at Memorial University.

By leave, the Leader of Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) paid tribute to the late Kevin Parsons, Jr., Member of the House of Assembly for the district of Cape St. Francis, 2008-2021.

The Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey) and Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Speaker led the House in a moment of silence in recognition of the late former MHA Parsons.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Members' Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Waterford Valley (J. Korab) recognizing para-Olympian Liam Hickey.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (L. Paddock) recognizing Sgt Ernest Goudie of Port Anson, a two-time recipient of the Military Medal during the First World War.

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The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing David Gill of Burgoyne's Cove on their over 38 years of service with the Canadian Forces (Infantry).

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) recognizing 13 recipients of the 2024 Premier's Athletic Awards for Athletic Excellence from the district of Cape St. Francis.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) recognizing the award recipients of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Bright Business Awards in Conception Bay South.

The Member for Humber - Gros Morne (A. Furey), with leave, acknowledging the late Eugene Spoon of Winfield, Kansas, and the loss of the Driftwood Inn in Deer Lake on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey), recognizing the eight recipients of the 2024 Order of Newfoundland and Labrador: Bud Davidge, Clifford George, Liam Hickey, Saqamaw Mi'sel Joe, Andy Jones, Patrick O'Callaghan, Guy Poole and Dr. Andrea Rose.

The Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) and 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 paragraph 26(5)(a) of the *Financial Administration Act*, the Minister of Finance (S. Coady) tabled the following pre-commitments:

Order-in-Council 2023-181 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit funds, excluding HST and incorporating annual increases of three per cent, against its budgetary appropriations for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26, respectively, as follows:

- a) \$1,992,535.00 and \$2,052,311.05 to award a contract for provision of the Francois – Grey River – Burgeo Ferry Service by Puddister Trading Company Limited, including an option to renew for up to two additional, one-year periods under the same terms and conditions;
- b) \$1,992,535.00 and \$2,052,311.05 to award a contract for provision of the South East Bight – Petite Forte Ferry Service by Puddester Shipping Limited, including an option to renew for up to two additional, one-year periods under the same terms and conditions;
- c) \$1,992,535.00 and \$2,052,311.05 to award a contract for provision of the La Poile – Rose Blanche Ferry Service by Puddester Shipping Limited, including an option to renew for up to two additional, one-year periods under the same terms and conditions;
- d) \$1,992,535.00 and \$2,052,311.05 to award a contract for provision of the Rencontre East – Bay L'Argent – Pool's Cove Ferry Service by Puddester Shipping Limited, including an option to renew for up to two additional, one-year periods under the same terms and conditions; and
- e) \$1,992,535.00 and \$2,052,311.05 to award a contract for provision of the Gaultois – McCallum – Hermitage Ferry Service by Puddister Trading Company Limited, including an option to renew for up to two additional, one-year periods under the same terms and conditions;

Order-in-Council 2024-077 authorizing the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the following amounts against its budgetary appropriations: \$563,843 for fiscal years 2025-26 to 2033-34 and \$93,974 for 2034-35, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement with The Morgan Group of Companies Inc. for 15,671 square feet of space at 41 Major's Path, St. John's;

Order-in-Council 2024-087 authorizing the Department of Education to pre-commit funds up to \$120,000 per year, excluding HST, against its budget appropriations for fiscal years 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and 2028-29, to facilitate the award of a contract to Vretta Inc. for the provision, administration, and support of a computer-based testing platform for high school assessments and evaluations;

Order-in-Council 2024-141 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the amount of \$17,702,259, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations in fiscal year 2025-26 to facilitate a contract with

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Harvey & Company Limited for the purchase of plow trucks and associated attachments; and

Order-in-Council 2024-142 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the following amounts against its budgetary appropriations: \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$9,996,300.00 in fiscal year 2026-27, excluding HST, to facilitate the award of a contract to Bursey Excavating & Development Inc. for the completion of the Team Gushue Highway.

### **Notices of Motion**

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (J. Haggie) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act” (Bill 93).

The Minister of Finance (S. Coady) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act to Repeal the Municipal Financing Corporation Act” (Bill 88); and

“An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No. 5” (Bill 89).

The Minister Responsible for Labour (L. Dempster) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act” (Bill 82).

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

“An Act to Amend the Family Relief Act” (Bill 91).

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (E. Loveless) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008” (Bill 92).

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act” (Bill 90).

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The Minister of Health and Community Services (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 No.2” (Bill 83);

“An Act to Amend the Registered Nurses Act, 2008” (Bill 84);

“An Act to Amend the Provincial Health Authority Act and Fatalities Investigation Act” (Bill 85);

“An Act to Amend the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act” (Bill 86); and

“An Act Respecting Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners” (Bill 87).

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

Be it resolved by the House of Assembly as follows:

**WHEREAS** section 85 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* provides that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be filled by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on a resolution of the House of Assembly;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Kerry Hatfield be appointed as the Information and Privacy Commissioner effective November 25, 2024.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Newfoundland and Labrador has a rich military history, strategic location and capability.

**WHEREAS**, 5 Wing Goose Bay is strategically located and plays an important role in protecting North American airspace.

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has identified 5 Wing Goose Bay as one of the four Forward Operating Locations in the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) Modernization Plan.

**WHEREAS**, having primary search and rescue (SAR) capabilities in Labrador is a key priority for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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**WHEREAS**, 5 Wing Goose Bay continues to support NATO allies with specialized training.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the House of Assembly calls on the provincial government to urge the Government of Canada to advance these and other important roles that Newfoundland and Labrador fulfill with respect to national defence, NATO, and NORAD.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) announced the resolution introduced by the Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) will be the one presented on Wednesday, November 6.

### **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 Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding the Bull Arm fabrication site.

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) replied to the petition.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding timely access to 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 Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) regarding the restoration of the 24-hour emergency service of the Dr. Hugh Twomey Health Centre in Botwood.

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) regarding facilitating adequate inclusive educational supports.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) regarding improving air access to Labrador.

The Minister of Labrador Affairs (L. Dempster) replied to the petition.

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The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding facilitating adequate inclusive educational supports.

## **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 declared the motion carried.

On motion, debate continued on the motion standing in the name of the Chair of the Select Committee struck to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne as follows:

**THAT** the report of the Select Committee struck to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne presented on October 5, 2022, be adopted.

On motion, debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan) informed the House of an adjustment required to the title of Bill 80 in the records of the Assembly, that it will now be reflected as follows:

“An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005” (Bill 80).

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005” (Bill 80).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005” (Bill 80) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 80 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 Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005” (Bill 80).

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.

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The Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) 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 Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005” (Bill 80).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 80 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m.

**Kim Hawley George, KC**

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)