

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on third reading of the following bill, and said bill was passed:

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act No. 2" (Bill 101).

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 104 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 Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104).

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, reported they had made progress and asked leave to sit again.

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

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the Committee have leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b), the sitting recessed at 12:30 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

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The Speaker introduced Page:

Emma Harris of St. John's, who is studying psychology at Memorial University

The Speaker welcomed Orion Ayesu, infant son of the Minister of Education (K.L. Howell), to the Chamber.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Marjorie Flowers of Hopedale, lay-minister of the Moravian church and Member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

The Member for Waterford Valley (J. Korab) recognizing the impact of the Little Free Pantries in Shea Heights and on Southside Road.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (L. Paddock) recognizing the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the King's Cove and Area Volunteer Fire Department on its 50th anniversary.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) recognizing 17 recipients of the Confederation 75 Anniversary medals from the district.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (P. Pike) recognizing Seniors of Distinction Award recipients.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

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The Minister of Health and Community Services (J. Hogan) the positive impact of well-being initiatives across the province.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) 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

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 2024-173 authorizing the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit the following amounts (exclusive of HST) against its budgetary appropriations: \$27,600 in 2025-26, \$28,428 in 2026-27, \$29,281 in 2027-28 and \$30,160 in 2028-29, to facilitate the award of a multi-year agreement with SLAM Technologies Limited for asset management services; and

Order-in-Council 2024-183 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the amount of \$2,351,315, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations in fiscal year 2025-26, to facilitate the purchase of 13 school buses for Nova Enterprises Limited.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

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Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

The Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills (S. Stoodley) provided additional information in response to an access to information request to the department.

Point of Order

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) raised a point of order regarding the appropriateness of the Minister providing an answer to an access to information request when it was not a question raised in the House.

The Speaker ruled that providing an answer to a question not raised in the House was not in order and asked the Minister to take their seat.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (L. Paddock) regarding brush cutting on Routes 410, 413 and 419.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (F. Hutton) replied to the petition.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding road maintenance in the district.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (F. Hutton) replied to the petition.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham):

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has said that seniors in this province have the lowest incomes in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has stated that the cost of living for seniors has increased by 22%; and

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WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has outlined that despite the NL Seniors' Benefit being raised by 15%, in reality the purchasing power of seniors has fallen behind by 7%; and

WHEREAS the most recent status update from the Seniors Advocate demonstrates that the recommendation to "Annually index the NL Seniors' Benefit" has not been implemented; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate compassionately and correctly states that one third of seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador cannot afford necessities, with many cutting pills in half or not eating nutritious food; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has said that seniors are getting poorer annually while costs continue to rise,

BE IT RESOLVED that this honourable House urge the government to increase the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit by 20% for a maximum benefit of \$1,819 effective January 2025 and further commit to annual increases indexed to inflation.

During the debate, the Minister of Finance (S. Coady) moved an amendment.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(9), the Speaker ruled the amendment was considered in advance and had been found in order.

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

The Speaker put the question and declared the amendment carried.

The resolution then read:

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has said that seniors in this province have the lowest incomes in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has stated that the cost of living for seniors has increased by 22%; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has outlined that despite the NL Seniors' Benefit being raised by 15%, in reality the purchasing power of seniors has fallen behind by 7%; and

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WHEREAS the most recent status update from the Seniors Advocate demonstrates that the recommendation to “Annually index the NL Seniors’ Benefit” has not been implemented; and

WHEREAS the Seniors’ Advocate compassionately and correctly states that one third of seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador cannot afford necessities, with many cutting pills in half or not eating nutritious food; and

WHEREAS the Seniors’ Advocate has said that seniors are getting poorer annually while costs continue to rise,

BE IT RESOLVED that this honourable House urge the government to further increase the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors’ Benefit in the next budget and commit to annual increases indexed to inflation.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to resume consideration of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2” (Bill 104).

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 Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2” (Bill 104).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 104 be read the third time now.

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With leave and pursuant to order and on motion, the following bill was read the third time and passed:

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104).

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

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.

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 Respecting the Amalgamation of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro-Electric Corporation and Nalcor Energy" (Bill 33);

A bill, "An Act Respecting Health Research Ethics" (Bill 64);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Animal Health and Protection Act" (Bill 65);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Lands Act No. 2" (Bill 68);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 and the Psychologists Act, 2005" (Bill 80);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act" (Bill 82);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Medical Act, 2011 No. 2" (Bill 83);

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- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Registered Nurses Act, 2008" (Bill 84);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Provincial Health Authority Act and the Fatalities Investigations Act" (Bill 85);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act" (Bill 86);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners" (Bill 87);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Municipal Financing Corporation Act" (Bill 88);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act, No. 5" (Bill 89);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Family Relief Act" (Bill 91);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008" (Bill 92);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John's Municipal Taxation Act" (Bill 93);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting the Management of Law Enforcement Articles, Uniforms, Vehicle Markings and Vehicle Equipment" (Bill 94);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Public Safety Act" (Bill 95);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Financial Services Appeal Board Act and to Amend Various Acts of the Province to Eliminate Appeals to the Financial Services Appeal Board" (Bill 96);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Family Violence Protection Act" (Bill 97);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Arts Council Act" (Bill 98);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act No. 2" (Bill 101); and

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A bill, "An Act to Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104).

The Lieutenant Governor then said, "In His Majesty's Name, I assent to these bills."

The Lieutenant Governor addressed then left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

All present sang "The Ode to Newfoundland" and "The Ode to Labrador".

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, March 3, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

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