

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

The House met at 10 a.m.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No 8” (Bill 108).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No 8” (Bill 108) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 108 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 Revenue Administration Act No 8” (Bill 108).

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 Revenue Administration Act No 8” (Bill 108).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 108 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House recessed at 11:02 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

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## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Members' Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing the late Sylvia Oliver of Mainland, Port au Port Peninsula.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing the volunteers and organizations that established and support community food sharing pantries in Bay Bulls and Witless Bay.

The Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay (L. Paddock) recognizing Green Bay Ground Search and Rescue (GBSAR), serving Green Bay and the Baie Verte Peninsula.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing Mila Lilly of Paradise, and student of Octagon Pond Elementary, on the publication of their book: Mr. Monkey: Detective Agency – “The Case of the Missing Banana”.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing the Rev. Dr., Major, (R) Ian S. Wishart, CD.

### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister Responsible for Workplace NL (P. Parsons) recognizing award winners of the student safety ad contest: Eli Peach of Southwest Arm Academy, Little Heart's Ease, Darwin Anderson and Jayda Crummey of Holy Spirit High School, Conception Bay South, and Mehak Humayun of Macdonald Drive Junior High, St. John's.

The Members for Exploits (P. Forsey) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

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The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (B. Davis) congratulating the College of the North Atlantic on its recent recognition by Research Infosource as one of Canada's top 50 research colleges in 2024.

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 Government House Leader (L. Dempster) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

Be it resolved by the House of Assembly as follows:

**WHEREAS** subsection 6(3) of the *Independent Appointments Commission Act* provides that members of the Independent Appointments Commission are to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on a resolution of the House of Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS** subsection 7(1) of the Act states that a commissioner may be reappointed;

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**AND WHEREAS** the appointment of the following commissioner expired on May 20, 2025:

Karen McCarthy, Chairperson

**AND WHEREAS** the appointment of the following commissioners expires on May 25, 2025:

William Mahoney

Brendan Mitchell

Jamie Schwartz

**AND WHEREAS** it is proposed that the said commissioners be reappointed as commissioners for a term of 3 years from the date of the expiry of their terms;

**AND WHEREAS** the appointment of the following commissioner expired on May 6, 2025 and is not eligible for reappointment:

Cathy Duke

**AND WHEREAS** the appointment of the following commissioners expires on June 25, 2025 and are not eligible for reappointment:

Peggy Bartlett

Gerald Anderson

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following persons be appointed or reappointed as members of the Independent Appointments Commission for a term of 3 years:

Karen McCarthy, Chairperson

William Mahoney

Brendan Mitchell

Jamie Schwartz

Karen Skinner

Nancy Ruth Healey

Rex A. Goudie

### **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 Fogo Islands - Cape Freels (J. McKenna) regarding road conditions in Local Service District Main Point-Davidsville.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding the discrepancy in pay between unionized and nonunionized home care support workers.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(7), the Speaker called for the private members resolution.

## PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer):

**WHEREAS** persons who have disabilities far too often face barriers in the community;

**AND WHEREAS** persons who have disabilities have a right to equal access to services and community spaces, including healthcare, employment, transportation, housing, and education, and a standalone statutory office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities would play a vital role in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador are properly respected;

**AND WHEREAS** according to Statistics Canada, over 30% of the residents of this province live with a disability;

**AND WHEREAS** people, both those who have a disability and those who do not, have consistently been calling for a disability advocate for many years;

**AND WHEREAS** the 2021 mandate letter for the then Minister of Children, Seniors, and Social Development reads: "Please continue work to establish an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador.";

**AND WHEREAS** the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, Newfoundland and Labrador, has said that they are "very much opposed" to adding the role and

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responsibilities of an advocate for persons with disabilities to the role of the Seniors' Advocate;

**AND WHEREAS** the Seniors' Advocate has publicly stated that her statutory office does not have the resources to take on the role and responsibilities of an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities and represent the disabilities community well;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House calls on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately create a dedicated Advocate for Persons with Disabilities who, as a standalone statutory Officer of this Honourable House, will investigate and make recommendations based on the principle of "nothing about us without us".

The Speaker put the question.

The House divided.

Aye	Nay
L. Dempster	
J. Haggie	
B. Davis	
P. Pike	
S.Reid	
G. Byrne	
S. Coady	
E. Loveless	
K. Lynn Howell	
F. Hutton	
S. Stoodley	
J. Abbott	
S. Gambin-Walsh	
J. Korab	
P. Trimper	
L. Stoyles	
T. Wakeham	
B. Petten	
L. Parrott	
P. Dinn	

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H. Conway Ottenheimer	
J. Wall	
J. Dwyer	
L. Paddock	
L. O'Driscoll	
C. Pardy	
P. Forsey	
C. Tibbs	
J. McKenna	
J. Dinn	
J. Brown	
E. Joyce	
P. Lane	

The Speaker declared the resolution carried.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(3), the Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow, Thursday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m.

**Kim Hawley George, KC**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly