

JOURNALS AND PROCEEDINGS
of the
SECOND SESSION
of the
FORTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of
NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR
2005

Begun and holden at St. John's in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador on Tuesday, the Fifteenth Day of March, Two Thousand and Five, being the Fifty- fourth year of the Reign of Her Majesty Our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada, and Her Other Realms and Territories, QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edward Roberts, Q.C., having fixed the hour at which he proposed to open the present Session of the Legislature at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th day of March, 2005, the Members of the House of Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 o'clock in the afternoon when Mr. Speaker Hodder took the Chair.

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the Sergeant-at-Arms notified the Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edward Roberts, Q.C. had arrived.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly Chamber preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Speaker left the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor took the Chair.

His Honour was then pleased to open the Session with a Speech From the Throne.

His Honour then left the Assembly Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Ed Byrne) and by leave of the House, a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Municipal Elections Act (Bill No. 1) was introduced and read a first time.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 1 be read a second time on tomorrow.

The Speaker announced that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor had been pleased to make a Speech to the Members of the House of Assembly and directed the pages to distribute copies to all Members.

It was moved by the Member for Humber Valley (Ms. Goudie) and seconded by the Member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Jackman) that an Address of Thanks be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in reply to the Gracious Speech with which he had been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature, and that a Select Committee be appointed to draft the Address In Reply.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Grimes), the Member for Signal Hill - Quidi Vidi (Mr. Harris) and the Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) also spoke to the motion.

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

The motion was adopted by the House and it was ordered accordingly that the following Members be appointed to the Select Committee to draft the Address in Reply:

Ms. Kathy Goudie, Member for Humber Valley,
Mr. Clyde Jackman, Member for Burin-Placentia West,
Mr. Roland Butler, Member for Port de Grave.

The Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Dunne Report recommended the development of a raw material sharing system only when, processors can satisfy the Minister that there are or will be, no substantive and reasonable objections from plant workers and harvesters ;

AND WHEREAS it is obvious that substantive and reasonable objections exist among harvesters and plant workers;

AND WHEREAS in the Speech from the Throne last year Government stated that it would consult before it acted and would be inclusive when it consulted;

AND WHEREAS harvesters and plant workers have clearly not been consulted nor included in this process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly calls upon Government to only impose production quotas if it is agreed upon by the FFAW and the processors as recommended in the Dunne Report.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) gave notice on behalf of the Member for Fortune Bay-Cape La Hune (Mr. Langdon) that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS FPI was created by an Act of this Legislature and Government has a responsibility to ensure its future in the fishing industry in this province;

AND WHEREAS FPI has jeopardized the future of two communities that rely on the processing industry by announcing the closure of the Harbour Breton Fish Plant and the phasing out of operations in Fortune;

AND WHEREAS FPI has approached Government with a plan that would see the sale of 40% of its lucrative marketing and value-added division in the US;

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

AND WHEREAS this sale will have a very negative impact on FPI's operations in this province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government to reject FPI's request to sell its American assets and establish an income trust.

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS health care is one of the most important services provided by Government to the public;

AND WHEREAS Government has engaged the Hay Group and received reports that identified cuts to health care in the Western and Grenfell regions;

AND WHEREAS the Hay Group's reports are focused on cost savings, not health care delivery that considers the unique demographic and geographic challenges that exist in this province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly rejects the drastic cuts proposed by these reports and calls on Government to commit to maintaining and improving current health care services rather than cutting services currently provided.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor (Ms. Thistle) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Abitibi Consolidated announced in January it would be conducting a review of its two operations in Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS *Forestry Act* amendments passed in 2002 provided for the uniform expiration of Abitibi Consolidated timber licences for the Grand Falls-Windsor mill;

AND WHEREAS the continuance of the licences is subject to the company continuing to operate two paper machines and production using the two machines at substantially the same annual levels as those during the preceding three years at the mill in Grand Falls-Windsor;

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

AND WHEREAS these *Forestry Act* amendments passed in 2002 to protect production levels at the Grand Falls-Windsor mill were supported by all parties;

AND WHEREAS Government has an obligation to protect the workers and communities that rely on this important industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly requests that Government reaffirm its commitment to the Bill 27 *Forestry Act* amendments that protect the production levels at the Grand Falls-Windsor mill, and in turn protect the economy of Central Newfoundland.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the education of the youth of this province is of utmost importance to our future;

AND WHEREAS many schools in this province are in a dilapidated and sometimes dangerous condition;

AND WHEREAS the current Government has caused increased problems in the education system by introducing school board restructuring without proper consultation or study;

AND WHEREAS the current Government has drastically reduced the number of teachers;

AND WHEREAS there is evidence that the buses used to transport children to school are unsafe;

AND WHEREAS many people fear there may be campus closures or program cuts in the post-secondary education system in this province;

AND WHEREAS there were a number of promises in the Blue Book related to schools and improvements in the education system which have not been kept;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly calls on Government to recognize the importance of education to the future of this province and to keep the commitments they made during the last election by investing sufficient funds to address the needs of the province's education system.

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS many municipalities in this province are currently experiencing severe financial difficulties;

AND WHEREAS many young people have already left rural communities and out-migration from the province increased to 2077 this past year;

AND WHEREAS the unemployment rate in many communities is at an unacceptable level;

AND WHEREAS the actions of the present Government have hurt the economy of rural areas of this province;

AND WHEREAS despite the promises made during the last election, the current Government has not taken the action necessary to deal with the immediate crisis which exists in rural parts of this province;

AND WHEREAS the situation in many parts of this province will get even worse as a result of an expanding crisis in the fishery;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence that this Government has any plan to deal with the crisis facing rural communities in this province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly recognizes the seriousness of the situation facing rural areas of this province and calls on the Government to fulfill their election promises, commit the necessary resources and take immediate action to deal with this crisis situation.

The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) gave notice pursuant to Standing Order 63 that the Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Twillingate & Fogo would be the Private Member's Motion to be debated on Wednesday.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 16th at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Tuesday, March 15th, 2005

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

A. John Noel, Q.C.,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.