

Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

The House met at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) made a Statement to congratulate Qualified Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jonathan Dunphy of 237 Truxtun Sea Cadet Corps of Lawn on receiving "The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada Medal" for being selected top engineer on course this summer.

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding) made a Statement to acknowledge the achievement of 11 year old Myles Burry who sketched Christmas scenes which he had converted to Christmas cards. The proceeds from the sale of the cards were donated to Pulmonary Fibrosis research.

The Member for Grand Falls-Buchans (Ms. Thistle) made a Statement to congratulate Paul Hennessey and Albert Evans who were named the 2005 Grand Falls-Windsor Citizens of the Year.

The Member for Humber Valley (Ms. Goudie) made a Statement to congratulate Darren Langdon for his success in the National Hockey League.

The Member for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Joyce Hancock, the 2006 recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

The Member for Trinity North (Mr. Wiseman) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Fanny Short of British Harbour on the occasion of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement to advise the House that government has agreed to assist the Brookfield Dairy Group in expanding its premium ice-cream production operation.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (Mr. Shelley) made a Statement to recognize National Housing and Homelessness Day.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move that the House Resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to Consider certain Resolutions relating to the Advancing or Guaranteeing of Certain Loans made under The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957 (Bill No. 48).

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The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Sullivan) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Teachers' Pensions Act" (Bill No. 47).

The Member for Burgeo & LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to construct and operate a waiting room/restroom facility at the Burgeo ferry terminal.

On motion the Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Teachers' Pensions Act" (Bill No. 47) was introduced and read a first time by leave.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 47 be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Twillingate & Fogo (Mr. Reid):

**"WHEREAS** \$15 million in taxpayers money has been allocated for a project to bring two additional fibre optic cables to the province in a deal which involves close personal friends and business associates of the Premier without a call for public tenders or a request for proposals;

**AND WHEREAS** many significant concerns have been raised about the lack of analysis, the role of lobbyists, the disclosure of a benefits analysis, the exploration of other options and the procedures followed in allocating this money;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government majority on the Public Accounts Committee did not support the Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee carrying out an investigation into this matter;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly now calls on the Government to appoint an independent inquiry with broad and expansive terms of reference to immediately investigate all the details and circumstances of the fibre optic deal."

During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Ottenheimer), the following amendment:

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That the Resolution be amended as follows:

“By the addition after the words A House of Assembly” of the words, “in the spirit of openness and accountability” and by the deletion of the words “appoint an independent inquiry with broad and expansive terms of reference to immediately” and the insertion of the expression “ask the Auditor General, an independent Officer of the House of Assembly to”

so that the amended resolution would then read

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly, in the spirit of openness and accountability, ask the Auditor General, an independent Officer of the House of Assembly, to investigate all the details and circumstances of the fibre optic deal.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) suspended proceedings at 4:29 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 4:35 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the Resolution and the amendment to the Resolution.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment carried.

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

**William MacKenzie,**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.