

Tuesday, April 24th, 2007

The House met at 10 o'clock in the morning pursuant to the adjournment motion adopted on March 26th, 2007.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Edward Roberts, Q.C.

The Speaker left the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor took the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to make the following Speech:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The Third Session of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of this Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued, but before releasing you from your duties, I wish to thank you for the careful and sympathetic attention given to the important matters brought before you by My Ministers. Your commitment to your work and diligence deserve our appreciation and acknowledgment.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

Sixty-eight pieces of legislation were enacted during this Session of the Honourable House of Assembly. In particular, legislative initiatives were taken in the areas of natural resources, health, education, the fishing industry, justice, government services, municipal affairs and the environment.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

As noted in My Speech opening this Session, My Government introduced and this House approved the *Act to Amend the Hydro Corporation Act* and the *Electoral Power Control Act, 1994* which was Bill 1 of this session. This Act enables Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Corporation to expand into new areas of opportunity as a diversified energy corporation, while maintaining a low cost power rate of citizens. This House also approved *An Act Respecting Mental Health Care and Treatment*, which modernized an outdated Act, and confirmed the rights of individuals under the Act. During the Spring Sitting of the Honourable House, an *Act To Establish the Council on Higher Education* was passed, which will ensure greater collaboration between the College of the North Atlantic and Memorial University.

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Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

One of the key achievements of this Session was the enactment of the *Act to Amend the Human Rights Code*, which presented the most comprehensive series of amendments since the Code was adopted in 1988. These amendments will protect the rights of seniors, single parents and social assistance recipients as age, family status and source of income are now prohibited grounds of discrimination. My Government is proud to have modernized the Code to protect these citizens. My Government is also pleased that this House passed an *Act Respecting the Enforcement of Support Orders*. This Act provides additional enforcement mechanisms to benefit children and families.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government also brought forward amendments to the *Fish Inspection Act* to enhance the enforcement of that Act and this Honourable House passed amendments to the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act to assist in settling disputes.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government also brought forward amendments to the *House of Assembly Act* to give effect to the recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Commission prior to the October 2007 General Election. Among the other legislative measures enacted during this Session were: *An Act to Amend the Buildings Accessibility Act*, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act*, *An Act Respecting the Delivery of Health and Community Services and the Establishment of Regional Health Authorities*, *An Act to Amend the Child, Youth and Family Services Act*, *An Act Respecting the Practice of Physiotherapy*, *An Act to Establish a Health Research Ethics Authority for the Province*, *An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act*, *An Act to Amend the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act*, *An Act Respecting the Sale of Certain Items at a Flea Market*, *An Act to Revise the Law Respecting the Conduct of Public Inquiries*, *An Act to Amend the Taxation of Utilities and Cable Television Companies Act*, *An Act Respecting Pharmaceutical Services*, *An Act Respecting the Assessment of Real Property for the Purpose of the Imposition of Real Property Taxes* and *An Act Respecting Municipal Taxation in the City of St. John's*.

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Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

I thank you for the large measure of Supply you have granted. I assure you that the appropriations that you have granted have been and will be expended by My Ministers with care and efficiency.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

It is my pleasure that the Third Session of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly now be prorogued and it is prorogued accordingly.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Speaker then said, "It is the wish and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this General Assembly be prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly".

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly