

Wednesday, April 25th, 2007

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

The Member for Carbonear-Harbour Grace (Mr. Sweeney) made a Statement to congratulate the Conception Bay North CeeBee Stars, the 2006-2007 Herder Memorial Senior Hockey Champs.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Oram) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late William Burry of Hare Bay.

The Member for Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) made a Statement to pay tribute to the work of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and to recognize Sean Kirby and Sarah Cowan who work for the society.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to pay tribute to Master Warrant Officer Terry Hurley of the Goulds who was presented with the Chief of the Defense Staff Commendation for bravery in foiling a robbery.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Dick Baker of St. Jude's for rescuing two snowmobilers whose vehicle had plunged through the ice.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. French) made a Statement to congratulate Zita Butler who was named Conception Bay South 2006 Citizen of the Year.

The Honourable the Minister of Business (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement to inform the House of the status of the red tape reduction initiative.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture & Recreation (Mr. Hedderson) made a Statement to inform the House of recent acquisitions by the Art Procurement Program.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled on a point of privilege raised by the Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote) on March 26th, 2007. The Speaker ruled that the Member had not established a *prima facie* case of privilege.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled on a point of order raised by the Honourable the Government House Leader on March 26th, 2007.

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The Speaker ruled that there was a valid point of order and asked the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) to withdraw some unparliamentary comments. The Opposition House Leader complied with the Speaker's request.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) presented a Petition from injured workers and the NL Injured Workers Association calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to address the hardship created by the offsetting of pensions provisions of the *Workplace, Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Act*.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Grand Bank (Ms. Foote):

“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 has increased by thousands this past year;

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

AND WHEREAS the present Government has taken action which hurts 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 actions 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 could get even worse as a result of an expanding crisis in the fishery; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly condemns government on its failure to deliver any comprehensive actions to deal with the crisis situation in rural Newfoundland and Labrador”.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 26th at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.