

Wednesday, June 6th, 2007

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

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to congratulate Team Driftwood of Elwood Regional High School in Deer Lake which won the Provincial Envirothon.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Oram) made a Statement to congratulate the 780 Freshwater Royal Canadian Air Cadets of Gambo on their 38th annual ceremonial review and Banquet.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) made a Statement to extend best wishes to the Tour de Rock being undertaken by ten RNC Officers.

The Member for Windsor-Springdale (Mr. Hunter) made a Statement to congratulate Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador on their 2007 Hall of Fame induction ceremony and Awards Banquet.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Jasmine Bennett of Bay Roberts who won the Senior Rose Bowl at the 36th Kiwanis Trinity Conception Music Festival.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to congratulate pupils of St. Thomas Aquinas School in Port au Port East for their participation in the Walk Across Newfoundland Challenge.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation & Works and Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs (Mr. Hickey) on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement to advise the House that Consolidated Thompson Ltd. has announced that a tentative agreement has been reached with Wabush Mines for the purchase of the mining operation in Labrador West.

The Speaker (Mr. Hodder) ruled on a point of order raised by the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Parsons) on June 4th respecting certain comments made by the Honourable the Premier. The Speaker ruled that there was a valid point of order and requested that the Premier withdraw the comments.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) complied with the request.

The Member for Fortune Bay-Cape LaHune (Mr. Langdon) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to revisit their current position and subsequently approve a groundfish processing license for Ramea.

Wednesday, June 6th, 2007

Debate commenced on the following Resolution moved by the Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) which was substituted by leave for the Resolution of which notice was given pursuant to Standing Order 63(3) on June 4th :

“WHEREAS there is a chronic shortage of nurses and other health care professionals in this Province;

AND WHEREAS many health care professionals are overworked and in some cases have been denied vacation time;

AND WHEREAS health care professionals are being asked to work unreasonably long shifts;

AND WHEREAS in many cases pay for health care professionals in this Province is among the lowest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS there have been several incidents where the health care system has not provided proper health care services due in part to the shortage of health care professionals;

AND WHEREAS unions and other professional associations have raised concerns about the current crisis and the possibility that it will further deteriorate in the future;

AND WHEREAS the current efforts to recruit and retain health care professionals in this Province are not adequate to address the problem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urges Government to take immediate and decisive action to deal with the recruitment and retention of health care professionals in this Province”.

During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Wiseman) moved the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended as follows:

by deleting from the first recital the words “is a chronic shortage and substituting the words “are periodic shortages”;

by deleting recitals two to five;

Wednesday, June 6th, 2007

by deleting from the sixth recital the word “crisis” and substituting the word “challenges”;

by deleting the seventh recital and

by deleting the words “take immediate and” from the Resolution and substituting the words “continue to take”.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) suspended proceedings at 3:27 o'clock in order to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) resumed the Chair at 3:35 o'clock and ruled the amendment in order.

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

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) put the question on the amendment to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution 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, June 7th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.