

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008

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

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate the Town of Baie Verte on a successful Come Home Year and on their 50th anniversary celebrations.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Desiree Bowering of Bay Roberts who was awarded first prize in the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest.

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding) made a Statement to congratulate pupils of Lester Pearson Memorial High School who won first place in NTV/OZ FM's 25 Second Ad Challenge.

The Member for Burgeo – LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to congratulate St. James' Regional High School on hosting a successful leadership conference.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to recognize the heroic efforts of Austin Keeping, Kristen Leights, Daniel Barnes, Jodie Keeping and Cecil Dominix who helped save the life of Megan Dominix.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to recognize the accomplishments of Jeffrey Belben of Forteau.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) made a Statement respecting a change to the 1:1 journey person to apprentice ratio.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Hedderson) made a Statement respecting the support provided by the Department of Fisheries to a Green Crab mitigation project being carried out by the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to re-assess their decision to drop Conception Bay North on the priority list for a long-term care facility and commit to all residents of the area that the assessment of 2000-2001 will be implemented and a new facility will be built in the Conception Bay North area.

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Grand Bank (Mr. King):

“WHEREAS Memorial University enjoys its well-deserved reputation as a world-class institution serving some 18,000 students with a budget in excess of \$400 million;

AND WHEREAS the Government’s White Paper on public post-secondary Education in Newfoundland and Labrador states that the Government is committed to maintaining autonomy and academic freedom and notes that Memorial University is an autonomous organization;

AND WHEREAS the Government recognizes that autonomy is a necessary precondition to the proper functioning of Memorial University and has accepted the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada’s “Statement on Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy”;

AND WHEREAS academic freedom is defined by the Canadian Association of University Teachers as: “...the right to teach, learn, study and publish free of orthodoxy or threat of reprisal and discrimination”;

AND WHEREAS section 51 of the legislation governing the university – namely, An Act Respecting The Memorial University of Newfoundland, which has been in place since 1973 – defines a process whereby the Board of Regents, in consultation with the University Senate, must forward the names of candidates for President of the university to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for approval;

AND WHEREAS the Government recognizes that education is fundamental to Newfoundland and Labrador’s growth and prosperity; is committed to a strong, vibrant post-secondary education system in our Province; and is willing to work collaboratively with the Board of Regents and the university’s administration to ensure Memorial is one of the best universities in the world with the best leadership in the world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly affirms its full support for the academic freedom and academic autonomy of Memorial University.”

During the debate, the Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) moved, seconded by the Member for Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones), the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the motion be amended by adding to the end of the motion:

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008

“and give consideration to measures which would result in the automatic acceptance of the recommendation brought forward by the Board of Regents for the appointment of a new president for the university.”

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) suspended the proceedings at 3:08 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:25 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued on the amendment to the Resolution.

During the debate on the amendment to the Resolution the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) moved, seconded by the Member for Burgeo – LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) the following amendment to the Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly affirms its full support for the academic freedom and institutional autonomy of Memorial University.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) suspended the proceedings at 4:25 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 4:39 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled that the amendment was not in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Ms. Jones, Mr. Kelvin Parsons, Mr. Butler, Ms. Michael.

Against: Ms. Burke, Ms. Dunderdale, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Jackman, Ms. Whalen, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Tom Marshall, Mr. Collins, Mr. Ridgley, Ms. Pottle, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Oram, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Kent, Dr. King, Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, Ms. Perry, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Sheila Osborne, Mr. Peach, Mr. Verge, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Harding, Mr. French, Mr. Young, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Loder, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Cornect, Mr. Kelly.

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008

The Speaker declared the amendment defeated.

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, December 4th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.