

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008

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

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to congratulate Wayne Lee, Bruce Lee, Ernest Howell, Paul Bell and David Bell who have earned their sixth-degree black belts in Karate.

The Member for Burgeo – LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to thank all those involved in the Hockeyville 2008 competition in which Port aux Basques ranked third with 956,000 votes.

The Member for St. John's East (Mr. Buckingham) made a Statement to acknowledge the athletic success of Teddy Purcell who has recently signed with the Los Angeles Kings of the National Hockey League.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Murray Penney of Port Hope Simpson who recently received an invitation to the 2009 United States Presidential Inauguration.

The Member for Grand Bank (Mr. King) made a Statement to recognize Clem Edwards who was inducted into the Provincial Sports Hall of Fame as a Player Builder and his son, Sean Edwards, who was recognized as the Provincial Junior Male Athlete of the Year.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Wescall Department Store in Bay Roberts which received the 2008 Merit Award presented by Mariner Resource Opportunities Network (MRON).

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) made a Statement respecting the *Skills Work for Women* Conferences.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement respecting the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Advisory Committee.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones):

“WHEREAS nurses are currently in negotiations with the Provincial Government on a new contract;

AND WHEREAS nurses in this Province are the lowest paid in the entire country;

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AND WHEREAS there is a nursing shortage in our Province and little success has been achieved in addressing recruitment and retention issues;

AND WHEREAS previous nursing shortages were cyclical, the current shortage is structural in nature characterized by such things as an aging nursing workforce and fierce market competition;

AND WHEREAS job stress and dissatisfaction are driving nurses to leave the profession in record numbers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly calls on the Provincial Government to end the practice of pattern bargaining when dealing with specialized professions such as nursing that are faced with critical recruitment and retention issues.”

During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout), the following amendment:

“That the last paragraph of the Resolution be deleted and the following substituted:

“**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House of Assembly calls on the Provincial Government to continue to bargain fairly and equitably with specialized professions, such as nursing, as it does with all of its employees.”

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:29 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:35 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

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

The Speaker 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.

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By leave, on motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout), the Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Mr. Collins) and the Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) were appointed to the Privileges and Elections Committee.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 10th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.