

Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to congratulate the Mount Pearl Sports Alliance which is the recipient of a grant awarded through the Province's Wellness Programme.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate the Trinity Conception Youth Justice Committee.

The Member for Grand Bank (Mr. King) made a Statement to recognize the accomplishments of Juliette Dupre, a former pupil of St. Lawrence Academy.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Loder) made a Statement to congratulate Danika Wheeler, a Level III pupil at St. James All Grade School in Lark Harbour, who is the recipient of The Doctor Leslie Harris Memorial University Alumni Scholarship.

The Honourable the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (Ms. Pottle) made a Statement to congratulate a number of influential Aboriginal women and youth who are broadening their horizons while celebrating and preserving their Aboriginal ancestry.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement to inform the House that Newfoundland and Labrador is hosting the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA).

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), pursuant to section 26(4) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled a pre-commitment with respect to Order in Council 2008-127 authorizing the Department of Justice to spend funds in the amount of \$0.6 million for fiscal year 2009/10 to facilitate the awarding of the contract for project consultant services.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act" (Bill No. 32).

The Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

**"WHEREAS** the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are increasingly concerned at the state of health care services and delivery in our Province;

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**AND WHEREAS** the crumbling infrastructure of health care facilities has been revealed and remains an acute issue that must be addressed, including sprinkler systems installed in personal care homes and hospital facilities to meet fire code;

**AND WHEREAS** the citizens of this Province have been subjected to a barrage of news that has shaken their trust in the health care system, including the impact on women with breast cancer and their families as a result of the faulty breast cancer receptor testing in St. John's, and the revelation that 322 breast cancer patients had received questionable tests between 1997 and 2005;

**AND WHEREAS** the inaccuracies of radiology tests have unsettled patients and their families and created costs for the system as some 6,000 tests had to be reviewed and in some cases repeated;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a health human resources crisis with all health care professionals in the system and the Province has an aging skilled trades workforce;

**AND WHEREAS** Newfoundland and Labrador has an aging population (NL had more deaths than births in 2006);

**AND WHEREAS** the Aboriginal population is growing at a significantly higher rate than general population and our Aboriginal population continues to have a poorer health status than that of our non-Aboriginal population;

**AND WHEREAS** citizens living in rural and remote areas have difficulty accessing health care services and incur great cost to access services;

**AND WHEREAS** Newfoundland and Labrador has not yet reached national benchmarks for wait times to the priority areas of cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements, and sight restoration;

**AND WHEREAS** chronic disease management, emergency health, cancer care and patient safety are integral elements of our health care system;

**AND WHEREAS** home care must be acknowledged as a part of the health care system;

**AND WHEREAS** we await whistleblower legislation;

**AND WHEREAS** our health care delivery system was first subjected to regionalization in 1998 and further changes to these regions in 2004;

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**AND WHEREAS** no external evaluation of the Integrated Health Regions has ever occurred;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly call upon the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to conduct an independent external review of the Integrated Health Regions that would be examined by review panel;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly direct the panel to recommend strategies for improvements to the Province's health care system in the following areas: sharing models of success, administration, communications, accountability, further enhancing patient care, community participation and responding to local needs;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have an opportunity to submit their views to the review”.

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

“**WHEREAS** the Constitution of Canada provides for fair and equitable treatment of all citizens;

**AND WHEREAS** Revenue Canada is charged with the responsibility of collecting income tax in a fair and equitable manner;

**AND WHEREAS** many Newfoundland and Labrador fishermen participated in the Atlantic Groundfish Licence Retirement Program;

**AND WHEREAS** participants in the 1999 licence retirement program paid a disproportionate and unfair share of income tax on their licence retirement payout as compared to those participants in the 1996 and 2002 Atlantic Groundfish Retirement Program;

**AND WHEREAS** this inequity has cost fisher people who participated in the 1999 buy back program undue financial hardship;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House of Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to immediately require Revenue Canada to review and correct the unfair financial income tax burden placed on Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that participated in the 1999 Atlantic Groundfish Retirement Program.”

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The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Mr. O'Brien) tabled the answer to a question for which notice was given respecting the cost of petroleum products in Labrador.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition from 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.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

A Bill,            "An Act To Amend The Legal Aid Act" (Bill No. 29);

A Bill,            "An Act To Amend The Partnership Act" (Bill No. 30);

A Bill,            "An Act To Amend The Provincial Court Act, 1991" (Bill No. 31).

On motion it was ordered that the above-noted Bills be read a second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued on the Budget motion (being a non-confidence motion) and on motion the debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend the Health And Post-Secondary Education Tax Act" (Bill No. 27) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 27 be now read a second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Health And Post-Secondary Education Tax Act" (Bill No. 27) was read a second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 27 be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend the Income Tax Act, 2000" (Bill No. 26) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 26 be now read a second time.

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Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, 2000” (Bill No. 26) was read a second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 26 be referred to a Committee of the Whole House presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Retail Sales Tax Act And The Tax Agreement Act” (Bill No. 28) and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 o’clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

**William MacKenzie,**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.