

Tuesday, May 13th, 2008

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

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Mariner Resource Opportunities Network Inc. (MRON) and their partners for sponsoring "Youth Works 2008".

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Peach) made a Statement to recognize the Arnold's Cove Lion's Club on their 40th anniversary.

The Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to pay tribute to the volunteer fire brigade of Long Harbour – Mount Arlington Heights.

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Buchans (Ms. Sullivan) made a Statement to congratulate the participants in the 43rd annual Central Newfoundland Kiwanis Music Festival and extend thanks to the sponsoring Kiwanis Club.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Wiseman) made a Statement to pay tribute to nurses throughout the Province during National Nursing Week.

The Honourable the Minister of Environment and Conservation (Ms. Johnson) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Shane Mahoney who is the recipient of The 2008 International Conservationist of the Year Award presented by the Safari Club International Foundation.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Helen Parsons Shepherd.

The Member for Placentia and St. Mary's (Mr. Collins) tabled the Report of the Privileges and Elections Committee Respecting A Code Of Conduct For Members Of The House Of Assembly.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Rideout) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS under subsection 35(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* the Speaker referred to the Standing Committee of the House of Assembly on Privileges and Elections the responsibility for developing and proposing to this House of Assembly a Code of Conduct to assist members in the discharge of their obligations to the House of Assembly, constituents and the public at large,

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AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee of the House of Assembly on Privileges and Elections has met, considered and reached an agreement on a Code of Conduct to apply to all members of the House of Assembly,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly for the purposes of section 35 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* and for the benefit of the electorate of Newfoundland and Labrador, adopt the following Code of Conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Commitments:

Members of this House of Assembly recognize that we are responsible to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and will responsibly execute our official duties in order to promote the human, environmental and economic welfare of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Members of this House of Assembly respect the law and the institution of the Legislature and acknowledge our need to maintain the public trust placed in us by performing our duties with accessibility, accountability, courtesy, honesty and integrity.

Principles:

1. Members shall inform themselves of and shall conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions and spirit of the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly, *the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules, the Elections Act, 1991, the House of Assembly Act* and this Code of Conduct and shall ensure that their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or the House of Assembly into disrepute.
2. It is a fundamental objective of their holding public office that Members serve their fellow citizens with integrity in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the people of the province.
3. Members reject political corruption and refuse to participate in unethical political practices which tend to undermine the democratic traditions of our province and its institutions.
4. Members will act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny. Neither the law nor this code is designed to be exhaustive

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and there will be occasions on which Members will find it necessary to adopt more stringent norms of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.

5. Members will not engage in personal conduct that exploits for private reasons their positions or authorities or that would tend to bring discredit to their offices.
6. Members will carry out their official duties and arrange their private financial affairs in a manner that protects the public interest and enhances public confidence and trust in government and in high standards of ethical conduct in public office.
7. Members will base their conduct on a consideration of the public interest. They are individually responsible for preventing conflicts of interest and will endeavor to prevent them from arising. Members will take all reasonable steps to resolve any such conflict quickly and in a manner which is in the best interests of the public.
8. In performing their official duties, Members will apply public resources prudently and only for the purposes for which they are intended.
9. Members will not use official information which is not in the public domain, or information obtained in confidence in the course of their official duties, for personal gain or the personal gain of others.
10. Relationships between Members and government employees should be professional and based upon mutual respect and should have regard to the duty of those employees to remain politically impartial when carrying out their duties.
11. Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.
12. This Code of Conduct has a continuing effect except as amended or rescinded by Resolution of the House of Assembly.”

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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 reconsider the route being proposed for the Torbay Bypass Road.

The Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) presented a Petition on behalf of certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to undertake measures to provide for a province-wide 911 service and put in place a public safety education campaign designed to help the general public, travellers and tourists be safer and better prepared.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 32) was read a first time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 32 be read a second time on tomorrow.

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

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14th at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.