

Wednesday, May 14th, 2008

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

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to congratulate the graduating class of Hampden Academy.

The Member for Burgeo – LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) made a Statement to congratulate the theatre group of St. James Regional High School in Port aux Basques on their excellent performance at the 32nd annual theatre arts festival.

The Member for Topsail (Ms. Marshall) made a Statement to congratulate all the award winners and nominees who were honoured at the Town of Paradise Annual Municipal Awards Banquet.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement to recognize the volunteers of the Town of Petty Harbour – Maddox Cove who were honoured at the Maddox Cove and Petty Harbour Volunteer Appreciation Night.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Melita Paul who is the recipient of the Regional Volunteer Award presented by the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to recognize the work of the local municipalities in Port de Grave throughout the Province.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Rideout) made a Statement to inform the House that the Fisheries Technology and New Opportunities Programme is achieving great success across the Province.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice (Mr. Kennedy) made a Statement to recognize May 15, 2008 as International Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Denine) made a Statement to inform the House about the Annual Municipal Symposium of Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador and to recognize May 15th as Municipal Awareness Day.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael):

“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 Speaker put the question on the motion and declared the motion defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 15th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.