

Monday, May 26<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 Provincial Gymnastics Team for their outstanding performance at the Atlantic Gymnastics Championship.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to inform the House that Robert Slaney, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Scholastic Player of the Year, was one of the finalists in the competition for the Marcel Robert Trophy.

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Buchans (Ms. Sullivan) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Darlene Sullivan and the staff and pupils of Woodland Primary School in Grand Falls – Windsor which has received a grant in the amount of \$122,000 from the *Indigo Love of Reading Foundation*.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to congratulate Derrick Lovell, a level III pupil at Main River Academy in Pollard's Point, who has been awarded the TD scholarship, the National Millennium Excellence Award and a National Loran Award.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement to inform the House about the Government's commitment to student summer employment.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) during Oral Questions tabled the list of names of the Members of the Conflict of Interest Committee appointed pursuant to MC 2008-0269.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), in accordance with sub-section 26(4) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled a pre-commitment with respect to Order in Council 2008-0276 authorizing the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit funds of \$100,000 against its budgetary appropriations in each of 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 to facilitate the award of a contract to OGMA Consulting for the purchase of a procurement software solution.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Burke) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move pursuant to Standing Order 11 that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

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The Member for St. John's East (Mr. Buckingham) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

**“WHEREAS** Members of the House of Assembly are provided with one paper copy of documents tabled in the House;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Transparency and Accountability Act* has greatly increased the number of documents that require tabling and distribution;

**AND WHEREAS** these circumstances have necessitated an increased amount of paper to meet these requirements;

**AND WHEREAS** the Legislative Library is the only location where a complete set of tabled documents for each session can be viewed;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government has committed to sound recycling/reduction strategies;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly investigate, in a timely manner procedures which will reduce the use of paper for tabled documents to a minimum.”

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.

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

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act” (Bill No. 35);

A Bill, “An Act To Enable The Issuance Of Water Rights To The Energy Corporation Of Newfoundland And Labrador For The Lower Churchill River” (Bill No. 36).

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

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on 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

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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,

**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.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Provide For The Protection Of Personal Health Information” (Bill No. 7) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 7 be now read a second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Provide For The Protection Of Personal Health Information” (Bill No. 7) was read a second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 7 be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 32) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 32 be now read a second time.

Pursuant to order 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 second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 32 be referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Provincial Court Act, 1991” (Bill No. 31) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 31 be adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 27<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.