

Monday, April 6th, 2009

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

By leave the Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Wiseman) made a Statement to congratulate the Clarenville Caribous on winning the 2009 Herder Memorial Cup.

The Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to pay tribute to Corporal Jonathan Williams who was presented with a "Mentioned In Dispatches" bravery award in a ceremony in Quebec in December, 2008.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to congratulate Brad Forward on winning the 2009 National Driving Championship at Fraser Downs in British Columbia.

By leave the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Melvin Lambe of Marystown.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) made a Statement respecting the Family Violence Intervention Court pilot project in St. John's.

The Member for The Isles of Notre Dame (Mr. Dalley) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS all Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly support a humane and environmentally sustainable seal harvest, and are committed to its further sustainable development;

AND WHEREAS the Newfoundland and Labrador sealing industry provides direct employment for over 6,000 people, and has a significant economic, social, and cultural value for many coastal communities in Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the European Union is considering a proposal to ban the trade in seal products based on perceived moral arguments which are in clear violation of the WTO agreements;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada to advance international trade and economic interests by maintaining market access for Canadian goods and services;

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AND WHEREAS the USA Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted in 1972 to address conservation concerns over marine mammals, including seals and has been used to ban the trade in Canadian seal products;

AND WHEREAS the proposed EU exemption for seal harvesting by Inuit for cultural and ceremonial purposes only, offers no economic benefit to the Inuit of Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian seal harvest is an environmentally sustainable industry with the Government of Canada setting sealing quota limits that ensure health and abundance of seals based on science and on internationally-recognized conservation principles;

AND WHEREAS research on the modern sealing industry by international veterinary experts concluded that seals are harvested in a humane manner;

AND WHEREAS the commercial harvesting of seals is an important component of ecosystem health and diversity;

AND WHEREAS implementation of trade bans on seal products will have serious consequences for the commercial viability of the seal harvest, and on the livelihood of those who make their living through a legitimate harvest of a renewable marine resource;

AND WHEREAS global leaders, including the EU, at the G-20 Summit in November 2008, spoke against protectionism and agreed to a Declaration calling on countries not to impose any new trade barriers in light of the current global economic crisis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly support the Newfoundland and Labrador sealing industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government of Canada to call upon the European Union to respect the G-20 Declaration not to impose any new trade barriers during these times of global economic instability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government of Canada to initiate negotiations with the Government of the United States of America calling for an amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to permit trade in seal products from seal populations that are environmentally sustainable and managed according to international standards for conservation and animal welfare;

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly urge the Government of Canada to call upon the European Union not to proceed with its proposal to ban seal imports, as such a trade restriction would be contrary to international trade rules and would do nothing to encourage either sustainable use or humane sealing practices”.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Budget Speech (being a non-confidence motion).

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

Debate continued on the motion “That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government” 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, April 7th at 1:30 o’clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.