

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

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

The Member for St. John's West (Ms. Osborne) made a Statement to congratulate Kyle Howlett who has won the Senior Jubilee Scholarship.

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Green Bay South (Mr. Hunter) made a Statement to recognize Lois and Leander Hewlett who have dedicated over 35 years to the Red Cross.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Gladys Bailey on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement to inform the House of measures taken by Government to mitigate the loss of employment in the Central Region following the decision by Abitibi Bowater to cease its local operations.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) made a Statement respecting Government's investments in measures which contribute to increasing the number of women in skilled trades training.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector (Mr. Denine) made a Statement to acknowledge April 19 – 25 as National Volunteer Week.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment (Ms. Sullivan) tabled pursuant to s. 30 of the *Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act* the Report of the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Review Division's 2008 Annual Report.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Student Financial Assistance Act" (Bill No. 9).

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Marshall) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Bills:

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Judicature Act" (Bill No. 18);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Legal Aid Act" (Bill No. 15);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Children's Law Act" (Bill No. 13).

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Wiseman) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Bills:

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Tobacco Control Act” (Bill No. 17);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Pharmacy Act” (Bill No. 12).

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Mr. O'Brien) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Bills:

A Bill, “An Act Respecting Credit Unions” (Bill No. 11);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Highway Traffic Act” (Bill No. 10);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Income Tax Savings Plans Act” (Bill No. 19).

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ms. Whalen) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The City Of St. John’s Act” (Bill No. 14).

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957” (Bill No. 16).

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for The Isles of Notre Dame (Mr. Dalley):

“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;

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

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;

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

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009

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;

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”.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution carried *nemine contradicente*.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) moved that the House adjourn *sine die*.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.