

Wednesday, April 29th, 2009

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

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate the drama troupe of Amalgamated Academy on winning the best play award in the Junior Division of the 2008-09 Western Regional Drama Festival.

The Member for St. John's East (Mr. Buckingham) made a Statement to congratulate the Association for New Canadians on sponsoring their first Diversity Workshop.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to congratulate the award winners and nominees of the Stephen Awards on their contributions to the community.

The Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to pay tribute to Mayor Anthony Healey of St. Joseph's, Mayor Eugene Manning of St. Bride's and Councillor Allan Nash of Point Lance for their contribution to their communities.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement respecting the launching of a new campaign by Government respecting violence prevention.

The Honourable the Minister of Labrador Affairs (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement respecting the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement respecting Government's micro-lending projects.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald), in compliance with the *Public Tender Act*, tabled the Report of the Public Tender Exceptions for the months of November and December, 2008 and January, February and March, 2009.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) pursuant to section 49 (2) of the **Financial Administration Act** tabled the list of Temporary Loans raised under section 48 of the Act since the last report to the House tabled on March 11, 2008.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) pursuant to subsection 55(3) of the **Financial Administration Act** reported that there had been no guaranteed loans paid by the Province since the last annual report made on March 11, 2008.

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The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) reported pursuant to subsection 55(2) of the **Financial Administration Act** that there had been no guaranteed debt of any Crown corporation or agency assumed by the Province since the last annual report made on March 11, 2008.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) tabled pursuant to section 5 of the *Local Authority Guarantee Act, 2005* the list of guarantees provided to local governments between March 8, 2008 and March 31, 2009.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy), in accordance with section 26(5) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled copies of the following Orders in Council relating to the following funding pre-commitments:

- (a) Order in Council 2009-056 which authorized the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources to pre-commit \$6,894,000 against its 2009-10 budgetary appropriations, \$7,759,913 against its 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgetary appropriations and \$5,114,875 against its 2012-13 budgetary allocations in order to enter into Growing Forward: A Federal – Provincial – Territorial Framework Agreement On Agriculture, Agri-Food and Agri-Based Products Policy;
- (b) Order in Council 2009-140 which authorized the Department of Business to pre-commit \$998,000 against its 2009-10 budgetary allocation to cover project approvals under the Oil and Gas Manufacturing and Export Development Fund that extend over two fiscal years;
- (c) Order in Council 2009-141 which authorized the Department of Finance to pre-commit funds up to a maximum of \$43,792 annually against its budgetary appropriations for each of the fiscal years 2010-11 to 2013-14 to facilitate the award of a contract to HRCO Inc. (Morneau Sobeco) to provide actuarial and pension benefit consulting services;
- (d) Order in Council 2009-142 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funding of \$427,859 in 2010-11, \$452,729 in 2011-12, \$477,599 in 2012-13, \$502,469 in 2013-14 and \$388,786 in each of the years 2014-15 to 2018-19 to facilitate the award of a contract to AMEC Earth and Environmental: A Division of AMEC Americas Limited for the provision of the Road Weather Information System;

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- (e) Order in Council 2009-143 which authorized the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to pre-commit funding of \$1,500,000 against its budgetary appropriations for 2010-11 for an equity contribution to the 'Republic of Doyle' television series.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. King) tabled the answer to a question of which notice had been given on April 27 respecting the removal of asbestos from school buildings.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons):

“WHEREAS it has been revealed in a court of law through a Statement of Facts agreed to by both the defense and the prosecution in the case of R.v. Edward Byrne that improperly received public funds were used to finance political campaigns of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS these improperly received funds were not recorded as received or spent as per the provisions of the *Elections Act* and associated regulations;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Electoral Officer of the Province, through his actions and inactions, has been shown to be compromised and biased in his ability and willingness to investigate potential misconduct on the part of members of the governing party;

AND WHEREAS it is in the public interest to determine the precise nature and extent of this channeling of improperly received public funds into campaigns of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador in order to ensure public confidence in our political system and our Government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly calls for an independent, third-party investigation to determine the extent and nature of transfers of public funds into partisan political operations and campaigns of the Progressive Conservative Party of Newfoundland and Labrador”.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the Resolution: Mr. Kelvin Parsons, Mr. Butler, Ms. Michael.

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Against: Ms. Burke, Ms. Dunderdale, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Skinner, Ms. Whalen, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Tom Marshall, Mr. Tom Osborne, Mr. Collins, Mr. Ridgley, Dr. King, Ms. Pottle, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Oram, Mr. Kent, Mr. Dinn, Ms. Elizabeth Marshall, Mr. Baker, Ms. Perry, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Pollard, Ms. Sheila Osborne, Mr. Peach, Mr. Verge, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Harding, Mr. French, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Loder, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Cornect, Mr. Kelly.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

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

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.