

Wednesday, December 9th, 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 Avalon North Wolverines Search & Rescue, Bay Roberts on their 25th anniversary.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Ridgley) made a Statement to congratulate the Friends of Pippy Park on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate Michael Rolfe, Ashley Rideout and Cynthia Robinson who were awarded the Baie Verte – Springdale Electoral District Scholarships.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to congratulate Paul Brothers of Bishop's Falls who was one of five finalists in The Score Television Network/Gillette "Canada's Next Sportscaster Challenge" contest.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement respecting the Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development.

The Honourable the Minister of Labrador Affairs (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement respecting the status of the Labrador Transportation Grooming Subsidy.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation & Works (Mr. Hedderson) answered a question for which notice had been given respecting the layoff of the crew of the MV Gallipoli.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance & President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall) answered a question for which notice had been given respecting income tax levied on fishermen on the Northern Peninsula.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to re-evaluate their approach to gravel pit campers and work out a long-term solution to problems with the practice.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), in accordance with section 28(3)(b) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled Order in Council 2009-267 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to establish Subdivision 4.3.03 Government-Operated Aircraft (Capital) Appropriations to provide for capital investment in Government's aircraft fleet.

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By leave the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), in accordance with section 26(4) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled copies of the Order in Council relating to the following funding pre-commitments for the year 2009-2010:

1. Order in Council 2009-177 which authorized the Department of Business to pre-commit up to \$500,000 against its 2010-11 budgetary allocation in order to facilitate approval of projects under the Aerospace and Development Fund that span two fiscal years;
2. Order in Council 2009-183 which authorized the Department of Natural Resources to pre-commit funds to a maximum of \$70,000 against its appropriations in each of 2010-11 and 2011-12 to facilitate the award of a contract for the chemical analysis of Voisey's Bay nickel concentrates;
3. Order in Council 2009-185 which authorized the Department of Innovation, Trade & Rural Development, under its Ocean Technology Sector Strategy, to pre-commit up to \$2,990,000 against its 2010-11 budgetary appropriations and \$2,590,000 against its 2011-12 appropriations in order to facilitate project approvals under its Ocean Technology Development Fund;
4. Order in Council 2009-197 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funding of \$1,997,176 in each of 2010-11 and 2011-12 and \$416,078 in 2012-13 budgetary appropriations, respectively, to facilitate the award of Government's Local and Long Distance Telephone Contract;
5. Order in Council 2009-219 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit funding of \$10,780,937 against its appropriations in 2010-11 and \$6,394,875 in 2011-12 to facilitate the award of a contract for the building of a College of the North Atlantic Campus in Labrador West;
6. Order in Council 2009-220 which authorized the Department of Natural Resources to pre-commit funding of up to \$1,500,000 against its budgetary appropriations for 2010-11 and \$500,000 against its budgetary appropriations for 2011-12 in order to facilitate the advancing of loans to Holson Forest Products through the Forest Industry Diversification Fund;
7. Order in Council 2009-249 which authorized the Department of Municipal Affairs to pre-commit \$682,700 in 2010-11 and \$341,500 in 2011-12 against its budgetary appropriations for the purpose of compensating

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Municipalities/Towns for the loss of grants in lieu of revenues through the closure of the Grand Falls-Windsor Mill;

8. Order in Council 2009-250 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit funding in the amounts of \$90,000 against its 2010-11 budgetary appropriations and \$60,000 against its 2011-12 budgetary appropriations in order to facilitate the awarding of a contract to develop and publish student and teacher resources for a Grade 2 religious education program;
9. Order in Council 2009-254 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$7,101,000 against 2010-11 budgetary appropriations to facilitate the awarding of a tender for the construction of the Baie Verte School;
10. Order in Council 2009-262 which authorized the Department of Health and Community Services to pre-commit funding of \$7,870,000 against 2010-11 budgetary appropriations and \$3,860,000 against 2011-12 budgetary appropriations to facilitate the awarding of a contract for the construction of additional parking at the Health Sciences Centre;
11. Order in Council 2009-266 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$4,892,100 against 2010-11 budgetary appropriations, in place of the \$2,268,000 previously approved by MC2009-0230, to facilitate the awarding of a tender for the construction of a new K-12 school in Port Hope Simpson;
12. Order in Council 2009-269 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funding of \$54,989,100 against its 2010-11 budgetary appropriations and \$38,596,200 against its 2011-12 budgetary appropriations for the acquisition of four (4) waterbombers from Bombardier Inc.;
13. Order in Council 2009-272 which authorized the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to pre-commit up to \$50,000 (USD) against each of its 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgetary appropriations to provide for exhibition booth services at the International Boston Seafood Show;
14. Order in Council 2009-275 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funding against its budgetary appropriations for Marine Operations – Administration as follows (i) \$150,000 for 2010-11; (ii) \$250,000 for 2011-12; and (iii) \$150,000 for

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2012-13 to facilitate the management and supply of uniforms for marine vessel personnel;

15. Order in Council 2009-278 which authorized the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$2.5 million against its budgetary appropriations in 2010-11 and \$2.0 million against its budgetary appropriations in 2011-12 to provide for an amendment to the payment distribution schedule and terms of the cash flow requirement for the Shorefast Foundation Tourism Infrastructure Project;
16. Order in Council 2009-311 which authorized the Department of Municipal Affairs to pre-commit a further \$3,300 in 2010-11 and \$1,650 in 2011-12 against its budgetary appropriations for the purpose of compensating the Town of Buchans for the loss of grants in lieu of revenue formerly received from American Smelting and Refining Company and Abitibi Consolidated bringing the total amount of funds being pre-committed for the purpose of this initiative to \$686,000 in 2010-11 and \$343,150 in 2011-12;
17. Order in Council 2009-314 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funding in the amount of \$12,603,000 against 2010-11 budgetary appropriations to facilitate the awarding of a tender for the paving of the Trans Labrador Highway;
18. Order in Council 2009-322 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit \$1,441,000 against its 2010-11 budgetary appropriations to fund the project costs associated with the Contribution Agreement;
19. Order in Council 2009-325 which authorized the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to pre-commit up to \$500,000 against its 2010-11 budgetary appropriations to facilitate the awarding of a contract to Target Marketing & Communications Inc. and ZedIT Solutions Incorporated to implement internet marketing and website services.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding):

“WHEREAS rural and regional economic development has consistently been among our Government’s highest priorities since 2003;

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AND WHEREAS our Government since 2003 has consistently demonstrated its commitment to rural Newfoundland and Labrador by implementing a wide range of strategic policies promoting infrastructure, natural resource development, value-added production, diversification, education, innovation, investment, entrepreneurial initiative, business success, family growth, youth retention and attraction, and a reliable social support network;

AND WHEREAS in addition to ensuring our rural communities benefit from these initiatives, the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development has established funds dedicated exclusively to rural development totaling \$25 million a year, and 80 percent of the Department's total funding in all of its programs benefits rural Newfoundland and Labrador communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly affirms its support for the determination of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to continue promoting the growth, prosperity and sustainability of our rural and regional economies.”

During the debate on the Resolution the Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Dean) moved, seconded by the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones), the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended by deleting the last paragraph and substituting the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly affirms its support for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to promote and invest in the growth, prosperity, and sustainability of our rural and regional communities;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly call upon Government to place more focus on the fishery, agriculture, forestry and tourism industries, the lifeblood of many rural communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.”

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:32 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:46 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

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Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution and on the Resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment lost.

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, December 10th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.