

Tuesday, March 23rd, 2010

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

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Beverly Swackhamer who was named by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation as Newfoundland's "gutsiest citizen".

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Ron Healey and to recognize Mr. Healey's contribution to sports in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate the athletes from Cartwright who recently won the overall championship at the 2010 Labrador Winter Games.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to congratulate the Frosty Festival organizing committee and the City of Mount Pearl on celebrating the 28th Annual Frosty Festival in February.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Simeon Savory.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture & Recreation (Mr. French) made a Statement to note the success of Newfoundland and Labrador's efforts to be a major presence at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Honourable the Minister of Labrador Affairs (Mr. Hickey) made a Statement respecting the Labrador Winter Games.

By leave, the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Transportation Assistance Program (MTAP) assists residents financially in accessing medical services;

AND WHEREAS the Medical Transportation Assistance Program's current criteria do not sufficiently provide the financial support for its residents who must travel to avail of medical services in our Province;

AND WHEREAS residents of Newfoundland and Labrador have to incur substantial costs in order to access medical facilities in major centres as required;

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AND WHEREAS changes are required to the Medical Transportation Assistance Program in order to lessen the financial burden at a time that is often difficult and stressful for patients and their families;

AND WHEREAS a petition with over 7,300 signatures was presented to Government on December 4, 2008 asking for changes to the Medical Transportation Assistance program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly calls upon Government to make changes to the Medical Transportation Assistance Program (MTAP), namely to

- reimburse gas/mileage for the use of personal vehicles;
- add meal per diems for those staying with family and friends;
- increase overall rates to reflect the true financial burden;
- include coverage for those taking part in clinical trials;
- waive the \$400 deductible faced by those who live on the island portion of the Province; and
- increase the reimbursement of eligible costs.”

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to establish a satellite dialysis unit at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre in the Town of Channel – Port aux Basques.

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

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act, 2000” (Bill No. 3);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Provincial Court Act, 1991” (Bill No. 4);

A Bill, “An Act To Provide Liability Protection On Portions Of Pedestrian Trails” (Bill No. 5).

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

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall) informed the House that he had received a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. The Message was read to the House by the Speaker as follows:

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“18 March, 2010

As Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, I transmit a request to appropriate sums required for the Public Service of the Province for the year ending 31 March 2011, by way of Interim Supply, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 54 and 90 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I recommend this request to the House of Assembly.

Sgd. **John Crosbie**
Lieutenant Governor”.

On motion of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider a Certain Resolution and Bill No. 2 for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Kelly took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Supply.

The Committee of Supply considered a certain Resolution and Bill No. 2 for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee (Mr. Osborne) reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the matters to them referred and had directed him to report that they had made some progress and asked leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee of Supply was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 24th at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.