

Wednesday, March 24th, 2010

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

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate the U20 Female Hockey team and the under 15 Female Hockey team from Springdale, gold medal winners in Provincial Championships and to thank the Springdale District Minor Hockey Association for their commitment to the growth of female hockey in the area.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate the athletes from Charlottetown and Pinsent's Arm on sharing the "Most Spirited Team" award at the Labrador Winter Games and to congratulate games record breakers Stephanie Sooley, Brad Rumbolt and Rick Kennedy.

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Bertram Burry of Boyd's Cove for the contribution he has made to the ship-building heritage of the Province in building a replica of the two Masted Schooner "The Margaret Rose".

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to recognize Eric Reid and Arthur Reid for their 35 years of service in the volunteer Fire Department in Reidville.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Williams) made a Statement to recognize Chief Joseph Browne of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary who will be retiring shortly.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade & Rural Development (Mr. Skinner) made a Statement to inform the House of the launch of the Provincial Government's web-based directory of manufacturers from across the province.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour & Employment (Ms. Sullivan) made a Statement to recognize Multiculturalism Week.

By leave the Resolution clause of the Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) was amended by the deletion of the word "make" and the substitution therefor of the word "consider making".

Pursuant to the amended notice debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones):

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

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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;

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 consider making 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.”

Debate commenced and concluded on the Resolution.

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, March 25th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.