

Tuesday, May 25th, 2010

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

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Harding) made a Statement to congratulate the Lester Pearson Memorial High School Astros Male Volleyball squad which won the 2010 Senior High Volleyball banner.

The Member for Bellevue (Mr. Peach) made a Statement to recognize Dildo Island for its designation as a "Place of Provincial Significance".

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to congratulate the Kilbride to Ferryland Family Resource Coalition on its 10th anniversary.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Loder) made a Statement to recognize Anita Wheeler of the Town of Meadows.

The Honourable the Minister of Health & Community Services (Mr. Kennedy) made a Statement to recognize Vision Health Month.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries & Aquaculture (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement about the Cold Harvest 2010 annual meetings, conference and trade show.

By leave the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS despite Government's Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) action plan there are still more than 2,000 machines located in bars and restaurants around the Province;

AND WHEREAS Atlantic Lottery Corporation has itself admitted that VLT access is "too wide";

AND WHEREAS according to the Gambling Prevalence Study there are close to 3,000 problem gamblers and close to 7,000 moderate risk gamblers and most of these nearly 10,000 gamblers are VLT players;

AND WHEREAS the 2007 Newfoundland and Labrador Student Drug Survey found that 12 percent of Grade 12 students played VLTs, a rate twice as high as in the other Atlantic provinces, and that 7% of all junior and senior high school students played VLTs, also the highest rate in Atlantic Canada;

AND WHEREAS most of us know of someone who has lost their paycheques, life savings, jobs, or even their families, due to VLT addiction;

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AND WHEREAS VLT addiction is a burden on Government and society in terms of health care costs, lost productivity, and the need to support broken individuals and families;

AND WHEREAS Government is receiving \$75 million in VLT revenue every year, which comes from a very small number of addicted VLT players who are losing their savings to VLT machines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to increase funding to help problem gamblers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to establish a new plan for an accelerated reduction leading ultimately to elimination of VLTs.”

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee.

The Speaker put the question on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee.

The Speaker declared the motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 26th at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.