

Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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

The Member for The Isles of Notre Dame (Mr. Dalley) made a Statement to congratulate the Twillingate Lions Club on their successful telethon and their continued support of the community.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate the Junior Canadian Rangers, Mary's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson Patrols, on their success at the National Junior Canadian Rangers marksman competition in Yellowknife recently.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Edmund Weir, originally of Little Bay Islands, on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to recognize the Knights of Columbus, Fr. John B. Kent Council, for their commitment and years of service to the City of Mount Pearl and its residents.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) made a Statement about the three-well exploratory drilling programme led by Nalcor Energy – Oil and Gas at Parson's Pond.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ms. Whalen) made a Statement about the 5<sup>th</sup> Fire and Emergency Services Training School in Grand Falls – Windsor from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Dunderdale) tabled information on the funds expended for Abitibi-related work from the Department of Natural Resources budget in 2009-10.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael):

**“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”;

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**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;

**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.”

During the debate the Member for Humber East (Mr. Marshall) moved, seconded by the Member for Trinity North (Mr. Wiseman) that the Private Members’ Resolution be amended

- (1) by deleting the second recital clause;
- (2) by adding an eighth recital clause which reads

“**AND WHEREAS** VLT use is but one form of gambling that may be associated with gambling addiction”

- (3) by deleting in the first resolution clause the words “increase funding” and substituting the words “continue enhancing programming”;

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(4) by deleting in the second resolution clause the words and punctuation which read “for an accelerated reduction leading ultimately to the elimination of VLTs” and substituting “for gambling addictions”; and

(5) by adding a third resolution clause which reads

**“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly acknowledge the Government’s significant initiatives since 2005 to promote responsible gambling, including a five-year VLT reduction strategy and a social marketing campaign focused on problem gambling, and the subsequent reduction in the prevalence rates for moderate-risk and problem gambling”.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:24 o’clock in the afternoon to permit the Opposition to review the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:33 o’clock in the afternoon and heard submissions on the admissibility of the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) suspended proceedings at 3:36 o’clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment and the submissions thereon.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) resumed the Chair at 3:41 o’clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

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

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

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 o’clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

**William MacKenzie,**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.