

Wednesday, June 9th, 2010

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

The Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to congratulate the 774 RCACS St. Anthony Cadet Corp. on the occasion of their Annual Ceremonial Review.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Loder) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Scott Wight of Gillams who was recently awarded the Memorial University Alumni Entrance Scholarship.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate Springdale Foodland for being the recipient of the Foodland Store of the Year Award and Community Service Award.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement to congratulate Justin Miller of the Goulds on his outstanding performance at the Canadian Powerlifting Union Championships.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement about the North American roadcheck blitz.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Dean):

“WHEREAS there is a crisis in the fishing industry of our Province;

AND WHEREAS Government's focused strategy to address these escalating problems has been to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with only two key players in the industry;

AND WHEREAS it has been nearly a year with no significant and practical progress on this MOU and there are concerns about its ultimate effectiveness;

AND WHEREAS the process does not include a community voice or the Federal Government;

AND WHEREAS the Province failed to allocate any funding to launch strategies of the MOU process;

AND WHEREAS restructuring is occurring now, including fish plants closing and license transfers occurring, affecting peoples' livelihoods and the economic viability of rural communities;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly encourages the Provincial Government to launch an interim program and action plan that would assist fish plant workers and communities affected, which would include an Early Retirement Package, a Workers Adjustment Program and a Community Investment Initiative to assist in this transitional process.”

During the debate the Member for Burin – Placentia West (Mr. Jackman) moved, seconded by the Member for The Isles of Notre Dame (Mr. Dalley), the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended by

- (1) deleting in the first recital clause the words “is a crisis” and substituting therefor the words “are challenges”;
- (2) deleting in the second recital clause the word “only” and substituting therefor the word “the”;
- (3) deleting the third recital clause;
- (4) deleting in the fourth recital clause the words “does not” and substituting therefor the word “will” and deleting the word “or” and substituting therefor the word “and”;
- (5) deleting in the fifth recital clause the words “failed to allocate any funding to launch strategies of” and substituting therefor the words “invested \$800,000 to launch”;
- (6) deleting the sixth recital clause; and
- (7) striking out the resolution clause and substituting the following therefor:

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly encourages the Provincial Government to continue its ongoing programs and action plans for worker adjustment and community development to assist fish harvesters and plant workers through the transitional process in communities affected by fishing industry challenges;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House encourages the Provincial Government – upon completion of the important collaborative work of the government, the Fish, Food and Allied Workers and the Association of Seafood Producers under the MOU – to work with the federal government to implement measures to ensure the economic sustainability of the Province’s fishing industry.”

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The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) suspended the proceedings at 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Fitzgerald) resumed the Chair at 3:30 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 of the Resolution as amended and declared the Resolution carried.

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

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.