

Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010

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

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Loder) made a Statement to recognize the Summerside Lions Club on their 25th anniversary.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to recognize the launch of a new Foundation called “Averee’s Purpose” to raise awareness of Batten’s Disease.

The Member for Topsail (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize Ms. Stockley who was named Youth Volunteer of the Year and all nominees for the award who were honoured at the Conception Bay South Awards Ceremony.

The Honourable the Minister of Environment & Conservation (Ms. Johnson) made a Statement to provide an update on Government’s remediation efforts in Buchans.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to move forward with the construction of a Gambo by-pass road for the Bonavista North area.

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to construct and operate a waiting room/restroom facility at the Town of Rose Blanche-Harbour Le Cou such that all users of the provincial ferry service may be able to utilize such waiting area/washroom facilities.

The Member for Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling on the House of Assembly to urge Government to pave the road between Red Bay and Goose Bay.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons):

“WHEREAS the House of Assembly is the cornerstone of responsible government in Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the smooth and proper function of the House of Assembly is essential to good government, effective legislative process and an open democratic society;

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AND WHEREAS there is a clear, present and pressing need for reform in the Standing Orders and other rules and conventions which govern the operations of the House of Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly instruct the Standing Orders Committee to recommend changes to the Standing Orders and other conventions governing Oral Questions and the legislative process, and to consider, among other things:

1. Methods of elevating the decorum of all members to strengthen the dignity and authority of the House,
2. Examining the convention that the Minister questioned need not respond,
3. Dedicating one question period per week exclusively for questions to the Premier,
4. Establishing guidelines for the advance release of Ministerial Statements and the full text of Bills to ensure that members have sufficient time to examine and analyze their content,
5. Strengthening the operations of Standing and Special Legislative Committees to allow analysis of Bills with public hearings if required,
6. Prohibiting substantive amendments to Private Member's Motions, and
7. Streamlining the introduction and consideration of Private Members' Bills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Orders Committee reports its findings to the House, with proposed changes to the Standing Orders and other conventions, within six months of the adoption of this order;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be made public immediately by posting it to the House of Assembly website on the day that it is received.”

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Ms. Jones, Mr. Kelvin Parsons, Mr. Butler, Mr. Dean.

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Against: Ms. Burke, Ms. Dunderdale, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Jackman, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Ridgley, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Pottle, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Denine, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Davis, Mr. Baker, Ms. Perry, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Peach, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Verge, Mr. Young, Mr. Harding, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Loder, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Cornect, Mr. Sandy Collins.

The Speaker declared the Resolution lost.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, June 24th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.