

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011

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

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to congratulate the performers at this year's Kiwanis Music festival in Grand Falls, especially the St. Ignatius Youth Choir which won the Stanley Memorial Rose Bowl.

The Member for Humber West (Mr. Granter) made a Statement to congratulate and extend best wishes to the organizers of the Canadian National Student Leadership Conference 2011.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to congratulate Kristen Cooze of Kippens for being selected to the 2011 Team Canada Women's Ball Hockey Team which will compete in the World Women's Ball Hockey Championship to take place in June in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Trade & Rural Development (Ms. Sullivan) made a Statement about the creation of economic clusters and the facilitation by Government of the creation of a medical lab assistant and an e-health training programme at the College of the North Atlantic and the opening of the Memorial University genetic research office.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) made a Statement about the 14th Annual Provincial Skills Canada Skilled Trades and Technology Competitions.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Hickey):

“WHEREAS on November 18, 2010, Nalcor Energy entered into a Term Sheet with Emera Inc. setting out a plan for the Muskrat Falls phase of the development of the Lower Churchill's hydro-electrical potential and associated transmission infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador has asked the Federal Government for a loan guarantee to support this project, stating that it is financially, economically and environmentally sound and nationally significant, and the benefits of a federal loan guarantee will accrue to electricity rate-payers;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the National Assembly in Quebec on April 6, 2011 voted unanimously for a resolution that, when translated, states: “that the National Assembly reiterates its opposition to federal financial participation in the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project, considering Quebec has assumed on its own, and through the assertion of its own powers, the total cost of its hydroelectric facilities”;

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AND WHEREAS the Conservative Party of Canada led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stated on page 42 of its 2011 election platform, Here For Canada, released April 8, 2011:

“Stephen Harper’s Government will continue supporting clean energy initiatives, to protect our environment and improve the quality of the air we breathe.

We will support economically viable clean energy projects that will assist regions and provinces in the replacement of fossil fuel with renewable fuel sources. The criteria for our support of a project will be whether it:

- has national or regional significance;
- has economic and financial merit; and
- will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, we will support the Lower Churchill hydro-electric project, through a loan guarantee or equivalent financial support. The project would strengthen the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador’s connection to the continental grid – and it would be a major regional environmental initiative.

It is estimated the project would reduce carbon emissions by 4.5 million tonnes annually – the equivalent of removing 3.2 million cars from the road every year.

In addition to the criteria noted above, our support for any clean energy project will be based on the principles of respect and equitable treatment for all regions of the country.”

AND WHEREAS Liberal Party of Canada Leader Michael Ignatieff stated in a radio interview in St. John’s on April 4, 2011:

“I think it’s an important national project for all of Canada. One of the great developments in the national eyes of the whole country is that Newfoundland and Labrador is set to become a green energy superpower, and I think it’s appropriate for a federal government to work with Newfoundland and Labrador and put that loan guarantee in place so the cost of borrowing the money is lower and so that the ratepayers’ energy costs are lower.”

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that, in disagreement with the National Assembly of Quebec, this Honourable House affirms its support for federal financial participation in the Lower Churchill hydro-electric project defined in the Term Sheet

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between Nalcor and Emera, and commends the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada for pledging federal support for this project through the provision of a loan guarantee or equivalent financial support.”

During the debate, the Member for Cartwright – L’Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) moved, seconded by the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons), the following amendment:

“That the Resolution be amended by deleting the resolution clause and substituting the following:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that, in disagreement with the National Assembly of Quebec, this Honourable House affirms its support for federal participation in a Lower Churchill hydro-electric project that meets the test of financial viability through guaranteed power sales to outside markets at wholesale prices no lower than the prices available to industrial and residential users within the province, and be it further resolved that this Honourable House commends any federal party leader who follows through on a pledge to provide federal assistance through a loan guarantee or equivalent support for such a project.”

The Speaker (Mr. Osborne) suspended the proceedings at 3:23 o’clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Osborne) resumed the Chair at 3:42 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 defeated.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour: Ms. Dunderdale, Ms. Burke, Mr. Skinner, Mr. Hedderson, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Jackman, Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Denine, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Tom Osborne, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Ridgley, Ms. Johnson, Mr. French, Mr. King, Mr. O’Brien, Mr. Hickey, Mr. Harding, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Granter, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Baker, Mr. Loder, Mr. Davis, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Ms. Sheila Osborne, Mr.

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Peach, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Verge, Mr. Young, Mr. Kent, Mr. Cornect, Mr. Forsey, Ms. Perry, Mr. Buckingham, Mr. Sandy Collins, Mr. Brazil.

Against: Ms. Jones, Mr. Kelvin Parsons.

The Speaker declared the Resolution carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, April 14th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.