

Wednesday, May 11th, 2011

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

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate the Harry's Harbour/Jackson's Cove Salvation Army Corps on their celebrating 110 years of service and ministry to the people of the area.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Butler) made a Statement to congratulate The Once, winners of the group recording of the year award, Duane Andrews, winner of the jazz recording of the year award and The Idlers, winners of the world recording of the year award at the 2011 East Coast Music Awards.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to acknowledge the establishment of the Portugal Cove – St. Philips Heritage Committee.

The Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to congratulate the members of the Straits Riffers Peewee 'E' division hockey team which won the Minor Hockey Easter provincial championship.

The Honourable the Minister of Health & Community Services (Mr. Kennedy) made a Statement to acknowledge May 9-15 as National Nursing Week.

The Honourable the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Harding) made a Statement about National Brake Check Day which took place on May 4.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture & Recreation (Mr. French) made a Statement to acknowledge Sportsfest.

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 provide additional funding for improvements to Route 510 and connecting branch roads of the Trans-Labrador Highway.

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

“WHEREAS in the 2011 Budget the government introduced a \$3.2 million two-year pilot project focused on the development of child care spaces in family homes throughout Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS this initiative increases from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the start-up grant to become a regulated family child care provider; provides start-up grants of \$7,500 for

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homes that care exclusively for children up to the age of two; and provides for an ongoing stimulus grant to infant care homes of \$200 a month per infant space, in recognition of the higher cost of operation in terms of staff ratios;

AND WHEREAS this approach will help keep rates attainable for parents requiring infant care, the very type of care that, right now, is in the shortest supply;

AND WHEREAS this approach is also of particular benefit for families in rural and under-serviced areas because it is feasible on a small scale;

AND WHEREAS this pilot project has the capacity to support the creation of up to 400 child care spaces over two years;

AND WHEREAS since coming to office in 2003, this government has increased the number of child care spaces by 50 per cent, adding 168 spaces in just the last couple of years, and in addition to the 400 targeted in the new pilot project, the government is planning to continue with the capacity initiative next year to provide for yet another 460 child care spaces;

AND WHEREAS because of the \$3 million the province has invested this year under the child care tax credit to complement the federal child care tax credit, two parents in this province earning minimum wage and raising two children will pay only \$5 a day for child care, less than the \$7 a day that this family would pay in Quebec;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House supports the government's decision to proceed with the two-year pilot project focused on the development of child care spaces in family homes throughout Newfoundland and Labrador."

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

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 12th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.