

Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement about the Grand Opening of the Regional Arts Centre in Ferryland.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Kelly) made a Statement to congratulate the 2011 graduating class of Hampden Academy.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Andrew Ledwell who has been named 2010 Mount Pearl Citizen of the Year.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Ms. Burke) made a Statement about the visit of Robert Munsch to the Town of Rigolet in Labrador.

The Honourable the Minister of Human Resources, Labour & Employment (Mr. King) made a Statement about a collection of video testimonials given by immigrants residing in eastern and central Newfoundland.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to reduce the age at which breast screening may begin to 40 and allow women to self refer through Newfoundland and Labrador's screening programs.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) gave notice that she would on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

**“WHEREAS** tobacco addiction is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** the prevalence of people smoking in Newfoundland and Labrador is roughly 21% and this percentage has not significantly decreased since 2005;

**AND WHEREAS** Newfoundland and Labrador has one of the highest rates of smoking in any of the Canadian provinces;

**AND WHEREAS** smoking costs the healthcare system in Newfoundland and Labrador between \$300 and \$400 million annually;

**AND WHEREAS** smoking is among the most important of chronic disease risk factors for common chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, lung disease and cancer which drive health system costs and outcomes;

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**AND WHEREAS** chronic disease is the leading cause of death in Newfoundland and Labrador diseases of the circulatory system, cancer and respiratory disease account for approximately 75 percent of all deaths in the Province;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canadian Journal of Cardiology states that tobacco addiction is the most significant of the modifiable cardiovascular risk factors, and its prevention and treatment should be the highest priority;

**AND WHEREAS** international studies show that strategies to help smokers quit, including the use of stop smoking medications are extremely cost effective and double or triple the chances of a smoker quitting;

**AND WHEREAS** smoking cessation aids are considered more cost effective than many other classes of preventative medications (eg. those used to reduce hypertension and cholesterol) currently funded by the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Drug Program;

**AND WHEREAS** the editorial board of the Canadian Medical Association Journal is now calling directly on governments to fund smoking cessation treatments;

**AND WHEREAS** the Lung Association of Canada has called for universally accessible smoking cessation supports for all smokers living in Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada has recommended that governments improve access to programs and aids that help people become smoke-free, including pharmaceutical products and that aids should be covered under public and private health care plans;

**AND WHEREAS** the funds required to provide full smoking cessation therapy coverage would be generated by an increase in tobacco taxes of just over 10 cents per pack or by lowering generic prices which offers millions of dollars in budget savings for this province;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health issued a comprehensive technology assessment report on pharmacological smoking cessation therapies and found that:

- Medications are effective in helping the general population to quit smoking
- Cost is a barrier to accessing smoking cessation medication where a coverage plan does not exist
- Full coverage of pharmacotherapy may increase the uptake of cessation therapies and have an impact on use and success rates

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House of Assembly calls upon this government to consider funding smoking cessation therapies immediately.”

Pursuant to order and on motion the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House on Supply.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Kelly took the Chair of the Committee of the Whole on Supply.

The Committee of the Whole on Supply continued their consideration of and passed without amendment the Estimates of the **Legislature, Executive Council and Consolidated Fund Services**.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee of Supply (Mr. Kelly) reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the matters to them referred and had directed him to report that they had passed without amendment the Heads of Expenditure of the **Legislature, Executive Council and Consolidated Fund Services** and ask leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee of the Whole House on Supply was received and adopted.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

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