

Wednesday, March 7th, 2012

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

The Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crummell) made a Statement to congratulate Colin Thomas and his Memorial University Curling Team which won the silver medal at the 2012 Karuizawa Invitational in Japan in January.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to congratulate six young persons from his district who were recently awarded medals at the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Presentation Ceremony.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) made a Statement to congratulate the Table Tennis Team from Amos Comenius Memorial School in Hopedale for winning gold at the Regional Championships.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. David Hamlyn, principal of Leo Burke Academy, in Bishop's Falls for receiving an Outstanding Principal Award.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Green Bay South (Mr. Hunter) made a Statement to congratulate Bill Nippard and his family who spent their Christmas holidays in the Dominican Republic as Volunteers through the Live Differences Hero Holidays programme.

The Member for Humber West (Mr. Granter) made a Statement to congratulate the Corner Brook Winter Carnival organizers on the success of this year's event.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kennedy) made a Statement to inform the House about Newfoundland and Labrador's representation at the Prospectors' and Developers' Association of Canada's International mineral convention and trade show in Toronto.

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize March as Fraud Prevention Awareness Month in Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout Canada.

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 do a full investigation into the Burton Winters Tragedy and search and rescue in Labrador and lobby the Federal Government to establish permanent search and rescue capability at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

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The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Kirby) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to conduct a review of school bus transportation policies and school restructuring to ensure safe and quality education for all school children in the Province.

The Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to support the users of Route 480 in their request to obtain cellular phone coverage along Route 480.

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 allow women aged 40-49 to be eligible for breast cancer screening and to allow all women to self-refer through Newfoundland and Labrador's screening programme.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds):

“WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador is a vast land mass with a long coastline and huge areas of open ocean. Labrador alone has approximately 300,000 square kilometers with a coastline of almost 8,000 km and many isolated communities, while the island portion has nearly 10,000 km of coastline and a surface area of over 110,000 square kilometers;

AND WHEREAS the lifestyle of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for work and for recreation is connected to the land and the sea;

AND WHEREAS we have seen many tragedies and many lives lost due to distress at sea and on land, most recently the death of 14-year old Burton Winters of Makkovik Labrador;

AND WHEREAS search and rescue assets were not adequately deployed during the search for Burton Winters;

AND WHEREAS ground search and rescue is a Provincial responsibility and was the first point of contact in the Burton Winters Tragedy;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced the closure of the Maritime Search and Rescue Sub-Centre located in St. John's thus impairing efficient and timely coordination of search and rescue services within the Province;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House calls upon the Provincial Government to consider conducting a full investigation into the Burton Winters Tragedy, examining the actions of both federal and provincial agencies and their coordination and communications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls upon the Provincial Government to evaluate the search and rescue infrastructure within and available to the Province in a case of emergency in order to determine if there is sufficient and stable service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls upon the Provincial Government, and our federal representatives in the House of Commons and Senate, to consider establishing a permanent search and rescue capability at 5 Wing Goose Bay;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls on this House of Assembly to establish an all-party committee of this House to make representations to the Government of Canada to rescind the closure of Maritime Search and Rescue Sub-Centre located in St. John's, Newfoundland."

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. O'Brien) moved that the resolution be amended as follows:

"(1) by deleting the fourth and fifth recital clauses;

(2) by deleting the first and second resolution clauses and in their place substituting "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House, in light of the Burton Winters tragedy calls upon the Federal Government to work with the Provincial Government in implementing any recommendations of a review of search and rescue operational and deployment protocols that will strengthen the provision of services to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador;"

(3) by deleting in the third resolution clause the words between "this House" and "to" and substituting therefor "calls upon the Federal Government" so that the clause reads "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this House calls upon the Federal Government to consider establishing a permanent search and rescue capability at 5 Wing Goose Bay;" and

(4) by deleting in the fourth resolution clause the words between "on" and "located" and substituting therefor "the Government of Canada to rescind the closure of the Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre" so that the clause reads "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this House calls on the Government of Canada to rescind the closure of the Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre located in St. John's, NL."

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The Speaker (Mr. Verge) suspended the proceedings at 3:28 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Verge) resumed the Chair at 3:43 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 to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution, as amended.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Ms. Dunderdale, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Burke, Mr. King, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Verge, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Granter, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Davis, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Sandy Collins, Mr. Brazil, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Little, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Osborne, Ms. Perry, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Cornect, Mr. Littlejohn, Mr. Crummell, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Cross, Mr. Peach, Mr. Lane, Mr. Russell, Mr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Rogers.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution carried *nemine contradicente*.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, March 8th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.