

Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

On Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning the Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Wiseman) and the Clerk of the House of Assembly attended upon the Honourable John C. Crosbie PC, OC, ONL, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador at Government House.

The Speaker addressed His Honour as follows:

"It is my agreeable duty on behalf of Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, Her Faithful Commons in Newfoundland and Labrador, to present to Your Honour a Bill for the appropriation of Interim Supply granted in the present Session."

Whereupon the Clerk read the following Bill:

A Bill            "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending March 31, 2013 And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service" (Bill No. 2).

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then said, "In Her Majesty's Name, I thank Her Loyal Subjects, I accept their benevolence, and I assent to this Bill".

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

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

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to congratulate Botwood Collegiate's senior robotics team, which captured first place at the Provincial Skills Canada competition, and team coaches Mr. Brian Antle and Mr. Brian Ball.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) made a Statement to recognize the volunteers of the Meadows 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to recognize inductees into the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame: Pat O'Keefe Jr., the late Nellie Devereaux, the late Janet Maher, Don Kelly and Gary Martin and to thank the Mount Pearl Sport Alliance for their commitment to sport in the community.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Kirby) made a Statement to congratulate Norman and Phoebe Clarke who celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Member for Mount Pearl South (Mr. Lane) made a Statement to congratulate Roger Ruttgaizer, Tom McGrath and Bob Hillier who were inducted into the Mount Pearl Soccer Hall of Fame as Builders and Raeleen (Dunne) Baggs who was inducted in the Player category.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Littlejohn) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Eric Dawe and Mr. Wilbur Sparkes who were honoured at the Bay Roberts annual Christmas and Volunteer Dinner.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Business and Rural Development (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement about women-led businesses in the Province.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs (Mr. McGrath) made a Statement to provide the House with an update on the Northern Strategic Plan for Labrador.

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 St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to

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partner with the private sector and offer High Speed internet service in Bellburns, Portland Creek, St. Pauls or Sally's Cove.

The Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Mitchelmore) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to order full removal and environmental clean-up of the former fish plant in the Town of Englee.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to implement a new homecare model in 2012-13 to cover family caregivers.

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 to lobby the Federal Government for the establishment of a permanent search and rescue capability at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. John's East (Mr. Murphy):

**“WHEREAS** small businesses are the backbone of this Province's economy;

**AND WHEREAS** about 2,000 small businesses operate in the Province today, employing over 40 percent of all paid workers;

**AND WHEREAS** small business revenues and profits stay in the communities where they are generated;

**AND WHEREAS** the present level of taxation can be a barrier to anyone starting a small business today;

**AND WHEREAS** small businesses in the Province need as much support as possible;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly urge Government to immediately help stimulate the economy in a manner that helps every part of the Province by reducing the Province's small business tax by 25 percent, dropping it from 4 percent to three percent.”

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During the debate, the Honourable the Minister of Finance (Mr. Marshall) moved, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Business and Rural Development (Mr. Hutchings), the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended

(1) by deleting the fourth recital clause:

(2) by adding a new recital clause that reads: ‘**WHEREAS** the Government has already made decisions to reduce business taxes and to invest in measures to grow businesses small and large throughout Newfoundland and Labrador; and

(3) by deleting the resolution clause and replacing it with the following words so that it reads ‘**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly calls on the Government to consider reducing the small business tax rate by 25 per cent, dropping it from 4 per cent to 3 per cent, or by a greater amount, provided that the Province is in fiscal surplus or makes budgetary provisions to replace the foregone revenues or to reduce expenditures accordingly, as a fiscally prudent’.”

The Speaker (Mr. Verge) suspended the proceedings at 3:26 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:36 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

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

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Burke, Mr. King, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. French, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Verge, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Granter, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Davis, Mr. Nick McGrath, Mr. Sandy Collins, Mr. Brazil, 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.

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Against: Mr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Michael, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Rogers.

The Speaker declared the Resolution carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

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