

Wednesday, March 28th, 2012

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

By leave, the Honourable the Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services (Ms. Johnson) made a Statement to recognize the RCSCC 295 Baccalieu Cadet Corps in Old Perlican for receiving the Sea Cadet Corps of the Year Award in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crummell) made a Statement to congratulate the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities Newfoundland and Labrador on the opening of their new location on Hamlyn Road.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) made a Statement to pay tribute to the Youth Innu Cultural Walkers of Natuashish and Sheshatshiu.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to congratulate the Bishop's Falls Fire Department for their 50 years of service to the Town of Bishop's Falls and the Exploits Valley.

The Member for Humber West (Mr. Granter) made a Statement to congratulate the organizers of the 2012 March Hare Festival.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor – Green Bay South (Mr. Hunter) made a Statement to congratulate Miss Emily Bland for her many accomplishments including her being chosen as Miss Teen Newfoundland and Labrador for 2012.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. Jim McDonald and the staff of the Office of Employee Equity for Persons with Disabilities, recipients of the Local Government Award for Independent Living.

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to inform the House about proposed amendments to the Designated Mobility Impaired Parking Regulations which will enhance the accessibility of "blue zone" parking spaces.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Wiseman), in compliance with Sections 8 and 10 of the *Public Tender Act*, tabled the Report of the *Public Tender Act* Exceptions for the period May 2011 to February 2012 inclusive.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to conduct a Needs Assessment to identify the needs of all levels of long-

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term care in Labrador and to re-open the Paddon Seniors' Nursing Home located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to provide all levels of health care.

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 470 in their request to obtain cellular phone coverage along Route 470.

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 St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to partner with the private sector to extend cell phone coverage through Gros Morne National Park and the enclave communities.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Collins):

“WHEREAS the current Government, in its 2011 policy blue book, promised to deliver wait times strategies for emergency departments and hip and knee joint replacement surgeries;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Community Services fulfilled these election commitments by announcing strategies to reduce wait times in both of these vital areas of our health care system;

AND WHEREAS we have made significant progress in improving wait times for the benchmark areas outlined in the 2004 Accord;

AND WHEREAS eighty-three percent of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians received access to care in the five priority areas within their respective benchmarks according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information annual report on wait times, the second highest of all the provinces;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has directed resources to other areas outside the 2004 Accord where access has been a challenge, such as emergency departments and diagnostic imaging;

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AND WHEREAS the current Government has invested over \$140 million over the past eight years to improve wait times throughout the Province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Honourable House supports the significant actions this Government has taken and is continuing to take to enhance access and reduce wait times throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.”

During the debate Mr. Collins tabled a document relating to wait times.

During the debate on the Resolution the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Ball) moved, seconded by the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons), the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the following be added after the third recital

WHEREAS significant wait times still exist for individuals to receive access to mental health treatment, addiction counseling and treatment, physiotherapy services, home care and special authorization approvals and

that the word “significant” be deleted from the resolution clause.”

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 3:38 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

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

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

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, March 29th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

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On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.