

Wednesday, April 4th, 2012

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

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) made a Statement to pay tribute to Mrs. Lucy Ann Rowe who is 101 years old.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to commend Donna Giles for her commitment to Autism Awareness in the Deer Lake area.

The Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to recognize CURRA, the Community-University Research Alliance, based in Norris Point.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to congratulate Donovan Taplin, a Level 3 pupil of St. Michael's High School, who has been offered the 2011 National Loran Award.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to congratulate the Clarenville Caribous, winners of the 2012 Herder Championship.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to recognize the Port au Port Economic Development Association for their community work over a period of almost 50 years.

The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills (Ms. Burke) made a Statement to congratulate the Newfoundland and Labrador Wheelchair Curling Team which represented Newfoundland and Labrador at the 2012 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championship in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. King) made a Statement to inform the House about the continued success of the Fisheries Technology and New Opportunities Programme.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall), on behalf of the Honourable the Minister of Justice (Mr. Collins), gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Bills:

A Bill, "An Act To Ensure Access For Service Animals Used By Persons With Disabilities" (Bill No. 17);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Legal Aid Act" (Bill No. 18).

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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.

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 support residents of White Bay North in their request to obtain adequate cellular phone coverage in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 enact legislation banning the use of Temporary Replacement Workers during a strike or lock out.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett):

“WHEREAS the fishery is the lifeline of hundreds of communities in our Province, with both the harvesting and processing contributing significantly to personal incomes and regional economies;

AND WHEREAS the shipping out of unprocessed seafood negatively impacts our people, communities and Province;

AND WHEREAS provincial legislation is already in place to restrict the exporting of our unprocessed fish products;

AND WHEREAS there is a growing concern that the community unit will become even less of a beneficiary of one of our most important renewable resources;

AND WHEREAS the Government is already on record as stating that our people and our communities must be the primary beneficiaries of our fish resources;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that other countries are benefiting greatly from our unprocessed raw seafood products;

AND WHEREAS there are warnings that our Province is running out of time to diversify its economy before the oil revenues run out and we will be left with insufficient money to pay the bills;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly encourages the Provincial Government to immediately recommit to the principles of disallowing the shipping out of unprocessed resources in order to protect regional and provincial economies;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly encourages the Provincial Government to work with the Federal Government to adopt a policy that if a company is unable to process its quota allocation, then they be obligated by law to offer it to other processing companies at cost and a reasonable profit margin (as determined by industry norm);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House of Assembly encourages the Provincial Government to adopt a policy that in cases where it is absolutely necessary to ship out unprocessed fish – to ensure the survival of the industry in the long-term – it must be shipped out within a definite time frame and the company exporting unprocessed seafood has to, first, reapply for the export license annually; and, secondly, it must pay a fee to the Province, as is done in many other industries, so that our people and our communities continue to benefit from this natural resource.”

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. King) moved the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended:

(1) by replacing the third recital clause with the words

“AND WHEREAS this Government already applies the most progressive minimum processing legislation in the country to ensure our people are the primary beneficiaries of our fish resources;

(2) by deleting the second, fourth, sixth and seventh recital clauses;

(3) by deleting in the second resolution clause the words

a policy that if a company is unable to process its quota allocation, then it must be obligated by law to offer it to other processing companies at cost and a reasonable profit margin as determined by the industry

and substituting in their place the words

a policy that will ensure all adjacent fish resources – not only quotas held by processing companies – are harvested for the benefit of this Province,

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and companies owning enterprise allocations should provide the Provincial Government with a plan disclosing their intended best use of these public resources so that our people and our communities continue to benefit; and

- (4) by deleting in the third resolution clause all the words after 'necessary' and substituting in their place the words

to provide exemptions from the Province's minimum processing requirement, they be provided for a defined time period and subject to periodic review".

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:27 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker 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 on 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, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. French, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Verge, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Granter, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Davis, Mr. Sandy Collins, Mr. Brazil, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Little, Mr. Hunter, 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. Bennett.

Against: Ms. Michael, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Rogers.

The Speaker declared the Resolution as amended carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 24th 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.