

Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

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

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Russell) made a Statement to congratulate Team Sheshatshiu which placed second in the Penote Ben Michel Hockey Tournament.

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) made a Statement to recognize recently-retired RCMP Officer Harold Nippard of Embree for his 38 years of service to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Evelyn Rose.

The Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to commend the work and dedication of the St. Barbe Development Association and the Central Development Association.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to commend Ms. Chelsea Harris for winning one of four Director's Awards for an Exemplary Work Term and a research studentship from the Atlantic endMS Regional Research and Training Centre.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Marshall) made a Statement to inform the House of the status of the Parental Benefits Programme.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. Jackman) made a Statement to congratulate students and staff at Bishops College who have received an Inclusive Education Award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living and Mr. Bill Chaisson, principal of St. George's Elementary in Corner Brook whom the Association honoured for his commitment to inclusion in his school.

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 proclaim the new *Animal Protection Act*.

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 implement a new homecare model in 2012-13 to cover family caregivers.

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

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conduct a review of school bus transportation policies and school restructuring to ensure safe and quality education for all school children in the Province.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons):

**“WHEREAS** the House of Assembly is the cornerstone of responsible government in Newfoundland and Labrador;

**AND WHEREAS** the effective and proper functioning of the House of Assembly is essential to good government, effective legislative process and an open and democratic society;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this House of Assembly calls upon Government to provide for a fixed House of Assembly sitting schedule by introducing amendments to the *House of Assembly Act* as follows:

“Section 3 of the *House of Assembly Act* is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following:

(3) In 2012 and every following year, except years in which there is a general election under subsection (2), there shall be a sitting of the House of Assembly

- (a) commencing on the second Monday in March and adjourning on the Wednesday before Easter Sunday; and
- (b) commencing on the third Monday after Easter Sunday and adjourning on the Thursday before the Victoria Day holiday; and
- (c) commencing on the third Monday in October and adjourning not later than one week before Christmas Day.

(4) In years in which there is a general election under subsection (2), there shall be a sitting of the House of Assembly

- (a) commencing on the second Monday in March and adjourning on the Wednesday before Easter Sunday; and
- (b) commencing on the third Monday after Easter Sunday and adjourning on the Thursday before the Victoria Day holiday; and

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(c) commencing no later than 30 days after the general election day and adjourning not later than one week before Christmas Day.

(5) Nothing in subsection (3) prohibits the House of Assembly from sitting at times other than those referred to in that subsection.

(6) Where the Lieutenant-Governor in Council intends to adjourn the House of Assembly earlier than the sitting dates referred to in subsection (3) or to cancel a sitting referred to in subsection (3), the Government House Leader shall

(a) table a report in the House of Assembly stating the reasons for the early adjournment or cancellation; and

(b) on the first day of the next sitting of the House of Assembly, give notice of a motion to debate the report referred to in paragraph (a) and this motion shall have precedence over all other substantive motions on the Order Paper.”

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Michael, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore.

Against: Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Burke, Mr. King, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. French, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Verge, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Granter, 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.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.