

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012

The House met at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to congratulate the Valmont Academy Vikings, winners of the Provincial SSNL 2A Female Ball Hockey Championships.

The Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) made a Statement to congratulate Christina Smith who won the Arts in Education award from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Russell) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Alton Best.

The Member for Lewisporte (Mr. Verge) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Kathleen Dwyer.

The Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to congratulate Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Branch 73 on their 60th anniversary in Deer Lake.

The Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to congratulate Fred and Doris Pittman on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Ms. Sullivan) made a Statement to recognize the 90th Anniversary of St. Clare's Mercy Hospital.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (Mr. Dalley) made a Statement to inform the House about the opening of the Provincial Historic Sites for the 2012 Season and to inform the House about the services available at the Beothuck Interpretation Centre in Boyd's Cove.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) tabled the Report of the Resource Committee.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the current Government, in its 2007 Blueprint, committed to enhance and support foster parents, and followed through in 2009/10 with increased rates to foster parents;

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012

AND WHEREAS Government committed in its 2012 Speech from the Throne to fundamental changes to our foster care system, providing greater support for foster parents, in recognition of the vital role they play;

AND WHEREAS Government worked with the Foster Families Association, and undertook a survey of every foster family, as well as a thorough review of the needs of children and youth coming into care to develop a comprehensive strategy;

AND WHEREAS Government announced the implementation of a new long term continuum of care strategy with a budget of \$4.1 million in 2012/13 increasing to \$14.3 million next year, to enhance the care options for children and youth in need of out of home placement;

AND WHEREAS the primary focus of these enhancements is a four-level care system which is linked to the skill level required to support the needs of children and youth, and has accompanying monetary increases for foster parents which recognize their professionalism;

AND WHEREAS the components of this strategy provide enhanced supports to foster parents, including increases in funding, additional training and block funding to streamline administrative processes, ensuring children and youth are the sole focus;

AND WHEREAS this comprehensive strategy also includes increasing financial support to kinship homes, and eliminating the need for the current alternate living arrangements by implementing a quality framework for staffed residential facilities for children and youth who need this level of support;

AND WHEREAS through these efforts the Government is working to ensure children and youth in need of out-of-home placement receive the best options available and the highest quality of service from their social workers and foster parents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House praise foster parents of Newfoundland and Labrador, and commend the initiative the Provincial Government is taking to provide greater supports for foster parents in this Province, in recognition of the vital role they play in caring for the children and youth most at risk.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Kennedy) announced pursuant to Standing Order 63(3) that the Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) would be debated on Private Members' Day, Wednesday, May 23rd.

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. King) answered an oral question about sea urchin which he had taken under advisement on May 16th, 2012.

The Honourable the Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. McGrath) gave an answer and tabled information relating to Question No. 7 placed on the Order Paper of March 27th, 2012 by the Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) respecting closure of the Sub-Centre for Search and Rescue Services in St. John's.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. King) gave an answer and tabled information relating to Question No. 16 placed on the Order Paper of April 4th, 2012 by the Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) respecting the establishing of a fisheries loan board in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) presented a Petition from certain residents of Cox's Cove and McIvers calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to support their request for cellular phone coverage.

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 re-invest in rural broadband initiatives in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 and offer High-Speed internet service to the community of Bird Cove.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Ms. Rogers) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to enact whistleblower legislation to protect public sector employees in provincial departments and agencies.

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 establish a public inquiry into search and rescue in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for St. John's East (Mr. Murphy) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to install weather cameras on the Burin Peninsula Highway.

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012

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.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Highway Traffic Act" (Bill No. 19);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Works, Services and Transportation Act" (Bill No. 20);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Rail Service Act, 2009" (Bill No. 21);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Aquaculture Act" (Bill No. 22).

On motion it was ordered that the above-noted Bills be read the second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued on the Budget motion and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 23rd at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

William MacKenzie,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.