

Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012

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 Helen Tulk Elementary School in Bishop's Falls recipient of a grant of \$57,000 which will enable the school to order books and technology from Indigo Books.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Collins) made a Statement to applaud the Canadian Cancer Society on the success of its Relay for Life held in Gambo recently.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to congratulate the Towns of Stephenville and Port au Port East which are about to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their incorporation as municipalities.

The Member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) made a Statement to recognize and congratulate Wayne Brown of Badger's Quay for his contribution as a volunteer.

The Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crummell) made a Statement to congratulate Colin Thomas who has been awarded the 2012 Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Scholarship.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to commend Bishop's College for hosting the Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Science and Technology Fair.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works (Mr. Hedderson) made a Statement to inform the House that the Provincial Government had awarded the final two tenders for the completion of Phase 1 of the Highway from Labrador West to Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. O'Brien) made a Statement to inform the House about the continued progress being made in implementing the Provincial Waste Management Strategy.

The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills (Ms. Burke) gave an answer and tabled information relating to Question No. 4 placed on the Order Paper of March 21st, 2012 by the Member for Burgeo - LaPoile (Mr. Parsons) respecting the Business Transformation Project.

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Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent):

“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;

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.”

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During the debate, the Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) moved, seconded by the Member for Burgeo – LaPoile (Mr. Parsons), the following amendment:

“That the Resolution be amended by adding a new Resolution clause to the end stating:

‘BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House encourage Government to take the necessary steps and allocate resources for youth at risk who may be difficult placements where no foster homes are available or for young people who are emancipated, are provided with more care and closer supervision so that recent tragedies do not reoccur.’.”

The Speaker (Mr. Verge) suspended the proceedings at 3:25 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Verge) resumed the Chair at 3:35 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.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Ms. Dunderdale, Ms. Burke, Mr. King, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. French, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Kent, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Granter, Ms. Johnson, 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, Mr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Rogers.

The Speaker (Mr. Verge) declared the Resolution carried *nemine contradicente*.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, May 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.