

Monday, May 28th, 2012

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

The Member for Mount Pearl South (Mr. Lane) made a Statement to commend the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and their community partners for the work they are doing to protect children from drug abuse through the DARE programme.

The Member for St. John's North (Mr. Kirby) made a Statement to congratulate Judy Ou who has been given the Peter Mansbridge Positive Change Award by Junior Achievement Canada.

The Member for Bonavista South (Mr. Little) made a Statement to congratulate Tourism Elliston for winning Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador's Tourism Excellence Award for Innovator of the Year.

The Member for Port de Grave (Mr. Littlejohn) made a Statement to recognize Atlantic Grocery Distributors which was honoured for its promotion of environmental products by the Cascades Tissue Group.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to congratulate Best Boy Entertainment Production which recently celebrated its grand opening in Mount Pearl.

The Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) made a Statement to congratulate The Crow's Nest for receiving the designation "National Historic Site".

The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills (Ms. Burke) made a Statement about Government's commitment to post-secondary education.

The Honourable the Minister of Environment and Conservation (Mr. French) made a Statement about the importance Government attaches to the Province's provincial parks and ecological reserves.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Kennedy) gave notice that he would on tomorrow move, pursuant to Standing Order 11, that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, May 29th, 2012.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Ball) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS the labour force of Newfoundland and Labrador has traditionally been one that is disproportionately based on seasonal employment compared with other

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provinces given the large rural population and broad seasonal industries including the fishery, tourism, forestry, roadwork, construction, cultural industries and agriculture. Many of these industries depend upon seasonal labour for their continued existence and success;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced profound and substantial changes to the national Employment Insurance program;

AND WHEREAS these changes will adversely affect more than 50,000 persons in Newfoundland and Labrador who are in receipt of Employment Insurance each year, including more than 7,000 recipients of fishery benefits;

AND WHEREAS the changes, including the requirement for EI recipients to find a job paying at least 80 per cent of pay in a similar occupation within six weeks and the requirement that recipients to be willing to work at a job that is within a one hour commute from their home are aimed at urban populations and ignores the needs and realities of the rural economy;

AND WHEREAS the changes made to the Employment Insurance appeals and review process deny the right for a speedy, meaningful and comprehensive appeal;

AND WHEREAS the changes were conceived, announced and will be implemented without consultations with the population of Canada, without advanced warning to the governments of the provinces or territories, without a proper debate in the Parliament of Canada on the principles or implementation, and without mandate to do so given these changes were never proposed during the most recent federal election;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly condemns the substance and implementation of the changes to the Canadian Employment Insurance program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls upon Government to immediately conduct a detailed research program to examine the long-term effects of these changes on individuals, communities and the Province as a whole with the goals of gathering evidence to use in a campaign against these changes and also for use in determining what Provincial Government programs may be required to mitigate the negative effects of these changes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls upon the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to join forces with the governments of the Maritime provinces in order to better address the issue with one united regional voice;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls upon the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to ensure that this issue be placed on the agenda for discussion at the annual Council of the Federation Summer Meeting, in order to initiate a national debate on the role and value of the Employment Insurance program.”

The Opposition House Leader (Ms. Jones) announced pursuant to Standing Order 63(3) that the Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Humber Valley (Mr. Ball) would be debated on Private Members' Day, Wednesday, May 30th.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. King) answered Question No. 1 placed on the Order Paper of March 21st, 2012 by the Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) regarding fleet separation.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice (Mr. Collins) answered Question No. 13 placed on the Order Paper of April 3rd, 2012 by the Member for Burgeo – La Poile (Mr. Parsons) regarding lockdowns.

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 480 in their request to obtain cellular phone coverage along Route 480.

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.

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.

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 home care model in 2012-13 to cover family caregivers.

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 commit bridge funding in its 2013 Budget to help preserve the RED Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

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enact whistleblower legislation to protect public sector employees in provincial departments and agencies.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Kennedy) moved, pursuant to Standing Order 11 that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and that the House not adjourn at 10 o'clock in the evening.

The Speaker put the question on the motions that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and at 10 o'clock in the evening.

The Speaker declared the motions carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Government Services Committee.

The Speaker put the question on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Government Services Committee and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate presently.

By agreement the proceedings were suspended at 5:30 o'clock for the dinner break.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

Debate continued and concluded on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee.

The Speaker put the question on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Resource Committee.

The Speaker put the question on the motion that the House concur in the Report of the Resource Committee and declared the motion carried.

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