

Wednesday, March 20th, 2013

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

The Member for Mount Pearl South (Mr. Lane) made a Statement to recognize the Mount Pearl Association for the Arts for their contribution to the community.

The Member for Kilbride (Mr. Dinn) made a Statement to commend Mr. Leonard Ruby upon his induction into the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Andrea Flowers for being recognized as Inuit Woman of the Year.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to congratulate Frazer Stuckless and Superior Glove Works, which was recognized as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies.

The Member for Baie Verte – Springdale (Mr. Pollard) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mary Rebecca Saunders.

The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Cornect) made a Statement to recognize the Town of Cape St. George which has established curbside collection of compost and recyclables.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works and Minister Responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to provide the House with an update on the impact that investments by Government are having on the waiting lists for housing assistance through the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation.

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Mr. McGrath) made a Statement to recognize March 26 as Check Registration Day.

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 reverse the decision to cut funding to EAS agencies in the Province.

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 impose a moratorium on slickwater fracking until they develop regulations and ensure that each project undergoes a conclusive environmental assessment.

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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 work with the Newfoundland Federation of Indians and the Government of Canada to provide a fair and equal review of all applications for registration as members of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation Band.

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.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Mitchelmore):

“WHEREAS Newfoundland and Labrador has more than 160 communities affected by Boil Water Advisories (BWAs);

AND WHEREAS more than 150 communities are currently dealing with potentially harmful levels of trihalomethanes (THMs), a possible human carcinogen;

AND WHEREAS covering the cost of supplying basic services like safe drinking water is challenging for most municipalities due to limited resources from taxpayers and the Provincial Government;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are forced to make unreasonable choices such as turning off their chlorination systems because they do not have the revenue to maintain trained staff to properly run their drinking water systems;

AND WHEREAS reduced confidence in public drinking water can lead to people choosing alternative water supplies like untreated ponds and roadside springs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge Government to address the issue of safe drinking water in the Province by developing a new Newfoundland and Labrador Safe Drinking Water Strategy that will include, but not be limited to:

A comprehensive, ongoing public education program in plain language to inform the public about:

The risks of using roadside springs and ponds, and the need for regular testing of private wells;

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The distinctions between safety and aesthetics of drinking water, and how to reduce exposure to THMs;

Detailed information to accompany each BWA, including reasons for the Advisory, safe uses of water and proper boiling procedures.

A review of capital and operating grants to enable communities to obtain the trained staff and equipment to build, operate and maintain drinking water facilities;

Research and development of water treatment systems appropriate to the Newfoundland and Labrador environment.”

During the debate the Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) moved the following amendment to the Resolution:

“That the Resolution be amended by replacing the words “address the issue of safe drinking water in the Province by developing a new Newfoundland and Labrador Safe Drinking Water Strategy that will include, but not be limited to” with the words “consider the following measures as part of Newfoundland and Labrador’s safe drinking water strategy”.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 3:29 o’clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:39 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 to the Resolution and declared the amendment to the Resolution carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution, as amended, and declared the Resolution, as amended, carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, March 21st at 1:30 o’clock in the afternoon.

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On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.