

Monday, March 25th, 2013

The House met at 10 o'clock in the morning pursuant to adjournment.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Frank Fagan, CM, ONL, MBA.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to make the following Speech:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

First of all, I bring greetings to all Members of the House of Assembly in one of my earliest acts as Newfoundland and Labrador's new Lieutenant Governor.

May I take a moment to express our collective appreciation to the Honourable John Crosbie and Jane Furneaux Crosbie for their service during the past five years. As their successors in these roles, Patricia and I look forward to our visits to the House of Assembly and our many other responsibilities in the years to come.

The First Session of the Forty-Seventh General Assembly of the Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued, but before releasing you from your duties, I wish to express gratitude for the careful and sympathetic attention you have given to the important matters brought before you by My Ministers.

During this Session, Members passed 56 pieces of legislation along with resolutions respecting the appointments of the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Clerk of the House of Assembly, the Citizens' Representative, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Members' Compensation Review Committee.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The House considered at length and passed two Bills associated with the Muskrat Falls project.

Bill 60 was a new Act respecting the Use And Expropriation Of Land For The Purpose Of The Muskrat Falls Project.

Bill 61 amended *The Electrical Power Control Act, 1994, The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007* to advance implementation of this historic hydro project.

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The House also enabled the implementation of a Labrador industrial rate policy by passing a Bill to amend the *Churchill Falls (Labrador) Corporation Limited (Lease) Act, 1961* and the *Electrical Power Control Act, 1994*.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

A significant piece of legislation amended the *Fatalities Investigations Act*. Firstly, it will establish a Child Death Review Committee to review the facts and circumstances of all deaths within its mandate, and to report its findings to the minister; secondly, it will require the minister to provide a copy of the report of the committee to the Child and Youth Advocate; and, thirdly, it will empower the committee to recommend to the minister that a public inquiry be held where necessary for the protection of the public interest or in the interest of public safety.

My Government brought forward a new *Service Animal Act* to replace the *Blind Persons' Rights Act*, expanding the definition of trained service animals and extending provisions to all persons with disabilities who are dependent on a service animal.

My Government brought forward an amendment to the *Pharmaceutical Services Act* to provide for a new generic drug pricing model. The House also passed a new *Practice of Optometry Act* and a new *Act to Regulate The Practice Of Pharmacy*, along with amendments to the *Psychologists Act, 2005*; the *Hearing Aid Practitioners Act*; the *Health Research Ethics Authority Act*, *The Medical Care Insurance Act, 1999* And *The Mental Health Care And Treatment Act*.

My Government brought forward a new *Personal Services Act* that, among other measures, will restrict access to tanning and other personal services to persons over the age of 19 years; restrict access to tattooing and body piercing to persons over the age of 16 years unless written consent of a parent or guardian is given; require registration of personal services establishments and tanning facilities; ensure clients are provided with information about risks and after-care; and establish sanitation standards.

Amendments were also brought forward to the *Family Violence Protection Act*; the *Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act*; the *Legal Aid Act*; the *Provincial Offences Act*; the *Young Persons Offences Act*; the *Provincial Court Act, 1991*; the *Obsolete Actions Act*; the *Animal Health And Protection Act*; and, in two separate Bills, the *Enduring Powers Of Attorney Act*.

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Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

The *Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act* was amended so coverage can be provided to volunteers engaged in search and rescue activities and auxiliary policing services.

The *Labour Relations Act* was amended to reflect the recommendations of the Voisey's Bay Industrial Inquiry Commission.

The *Aquaculture Act* was amended to safeguard the integrity of this important industry.

The House passed a Bill to amend the *Highway Traffic Act* to include new provisions respecting the seizure, impoundment and disposal of motor vehicles that are dangerous or unfit for use.

The House amended the *Motorized Snow Vehicles And All-Terrain Vehicles Act* to enable peace officer to establish check stations.

The House made changes to the *Works, Services And Transportation Act* regarding the installation, maintenance and removal of signs on, over or adjacent to provincial highways.

To strike the right balance between access to information and the protection of privacy, My Government brought forward *An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act*. This legislation implemented the majority of the legislative recommendations of the Cummings Report, a regular evaluation of the *ATIPP Act* required by law.

To further enhance transparency and accountability, the House also passed a Bill to amend various Acts of the province respecting annual reports. These new provisions require that annual reports be published online, either by the Minister of Health and Community Services or by the regulatory body.

Among the other legislative measures enacted during this Session were two Bills to amend the *Consumer Protection And Business Practices Act* and two Bills to amend the *Public Service Collective Bargaining Act*, as well as Bills to amend the *Public Service Pensions Act, 1991*; the *Pension Benefits Act, 1997*; the *Uniformed Services Pensions Act, 2012*; the *Rail Service Act, 2009*; the *Liquor Control Act*; the *Registration Of Deeds Act, 2009*; the *Schools Act, 1997*; the *Student Financial Assistance Act*; the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act*; the *Appointments To Boards, Councils And Tribunals Amendment Act*; and the *Trust And Loan Corporations Act*.

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The House passed a new *Regional Services Boards Act* that, among other things, will enable the minister to establish wards and empower a board to operate waste management systems. It also passed amendments to the *Municipal Affairs Act*; the *Municipalities Act, 1999 And Urban And Rural Planning Act, 2000*; the *City Of St. John's Act And The City Of St. John's Municipal Taxation Act*; the *Assessment Act, 2006*; and the *Revenue Administration Act*.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:

My Government brought forward an amendment to the *Income Tax Act, 2000*, to add a provision respecting a volunteer firefighters' tax credit, effective January 1, 2011.

The House passed two *Interim Supply Acts* to meet the province's fiscal obligations and a *Supply Act*.

I thank you for the large measure of Supply you have granted. I assure you the appropriations you have granted have been and will be expended by My Ministers with care and efficiency.

It is my pleasure that the First Session of the Forty-Seventh General Assembly now be prorogued and it is prorogued accordingly.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Speaker then said, "It is the wish and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this General Assembly be prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly".

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.