

Wednesday, March 27th, 2013

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

By leave, the Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. French) made a Statement to recognize Ms. Mary Holloway who has been named the Conception Bay South 2013 Citizen of the Year in recognition of her commitment to her community.

The Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) made a Statement to recognize the success of the Virginia Park Elementary School Launch into Literacy Programme.

The Member for The Straits – White Bay North (Mr. Mitchelmore) made a Statement to recognize the success of the Eagle River Credit Union.

The Member for St. John's East (Mr. Murphy) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Walter Lawlor, a recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The Member for St. John's South (Mr. Osborne) made a Statement to recognize the Eric St./McKay St. Community Centre for their recognition to their community.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Jones) made a Statement to congratulate Ms. Hayley Flynn who has received the Rumbolt Inspiration and Education Award for perseverance in the face of adversity.

The Honourable the Minister of Innovation, Business and Rural Development (Mr. Hutchings) made a Statement to inform the House about Government's \$6.3 million investment in rural broadband.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Acting) (Ms. Shea) made a Statement about the Inuit Women's Gathering.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Wiseman) tabled, in accordance with Section 10 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, proposed amendments to the Members' Resources and Allowances Rules.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Kennedy) in accordance with section 26(4) of the **Financial Administration Act**, tabled Order in Council 2013-061 which authorized the Department of Education to pre-commit funding against its budgetary appropriations in the amount of \$7,919,404 in 2013-14 and \$2,639,800 for 2014-15 to facilitate the award of a contract to Marco Services Ltd. for the Corner Brook Junior High School Redevelopment Project.

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The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. King) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

“WHEREAS subsection 20(7) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* provides that a change to the level of amounts of allowances and resources provided to members not be made except in accordance with a rule that has been first laid before the House of Assembly and adopted by resolution of this House;

AND WHEREAS amendments to the Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules which, in part, would change the level of amounts of allowances and resources, have been laid before this House by the Speaker;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House of Assembly adopt the amendments to the Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules as tabled by the Speaker of this House on March 27, 2013.”

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 each project undergoes a conclusive environmental assessment.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett):

“WHEREAS the offshore of the west coast of the island of Newfoundland is recognized as a region containing potentially billions of barrels of oil;

AND WHEREAS the petroleum exploration sector needs the certainty and confidence of a stable regulatory regime;

AND WHEREAS hydraulic fracturing could be an accepted and effective method of petroleum discovery and exploration and is compatible with the protection of the natural environment and community water sources when executed within the context of a robust comprehensive regulatory framework;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly call upon the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, in consultation with industry and

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communities, to develop and implement a regulatory framework under which hydraulic fracturing could proceed safely while protecting the natural environment and associated necessary local water resources.”

During the debate on the Resolution the Member for St. John’s East (Mr. Murphy) moved, seconded by the Member for Signal Hill – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) the following amendment:

“That the Resolution be amended by replacing the comma with a semicolon in the third recital;

by adding the following as the fourth recital:

“**WHEREAS** it is incumbent upon the Provincial Government to ensure that our natural environment is protected from harmful industrial processes”;

by adding the following as the fifth recital:

“**WHEREAS** citizens of the Province are calling for a moratorium on slickwater fracking until Government develops comprehensive regulation while also ensuring that each proposed project undergoes a conclusive environmental assessment to determine whether it is safe for the environment, the integrity of water supplies and human health”;

by replacing the words in the resolution clause “safely while protecting” with “if conclusive environmental assessments ensure the protection of”.

The Speaker suspended the proceedings at 4:11 o’clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 4:26 o’clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment was not in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the Resolution.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Ball, Ms. Jones, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Joyce, Ms. Michael, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Osborne.

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Against: Mr. King, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Davis, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Jackman, Mr. Hedderson, Mr. Verge, Mr. Littlejohn, Mr. Granter, Mr. Cornect, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Felix Collins, Mr. Sandy Collins, Mr. Kent, Mr. Lane, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Dinn, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Little, Mr. Cross, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Peach, Mr. Crummell, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Russell.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution and declared the Resolution defeated.

The Speaker then adjourned the House without question put pursuant to Standing Order 9.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.