

Wednesday, May 11th, 2016

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

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to congratulate the 2016 graduates of St. Michael's High School and wish their teacher Mr. Wilkinson good health.

The Member for Placentia West – Bellevue (Mr. Browne) made a Statement to congratulate the Town of Arnold's Cove and the organizers of the commemoration of the Resettlement of the Placentia Bay Islands which took place fifty years ago.

The Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize Mahiba Khan for her academic achievements.

The Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to recognize the members of the Paradise Adventure 50+ Group.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to recognize World Pulmonary Hypertension Day which took place on May 5th.

The Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Finn) made a Statement to congratulate Jesse Renouf who was awarded the Rose Bowl at the Rotary Music Festival in Stephenville.

*The Commemoration of the First World War and the Battle of Beaumont Hamel
Honor 100*

The Member for Humber – Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) read the following names:

Moore, Albert	Morgan, William	Moulton, Herbert
Moore, Eric	Morris, Edward A.	Moulton, John
Moore, James E.	Morris, Frank	Moyes, Allan
Moore, John	Morris, Harold	Mudford, Bennett
Moore, Thomas	Morris, James R.	Mugford, George
Mooses, Albert	Morris, Kenneth	Mugford, Jacob
Mooses, John	Morris, Robert	Mugford, Luke
Mooses, Samuel J.	Morris, Walter	Mugford, Nathan
Moran, Hugh J.	Morris, William	Mullings, Gordon
Morey, Walter W.	Morrissey, John Thomas	Mullins, Harry
Morgan, Frederick	Morton, Joseph	Murphy, Edward Joseph
Morgan, John Thomas	Mosher, George	Murphy, Joachim
Morgan, Robert Stanley	Moss, Daniel J.	
Morgan, William	Moulton, Albert Edgar	

The House observed a minute of silence.

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The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Coady) made a Statement to report to the House on the successful Offshore Technology Conference held last week in Houston.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Mr. Crocker) made a Statement to inform the House that he would attend Seal Day on the Hill to meet with key industry players and demonstrate the Government's support for the sealing industry.

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Dempster) presented the Report of the Social Services Committee.

The Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to ensure that the Deficit Reduction Levy is eliminated and any replacement measure is based on progressive taxation principles and that an independent review of the provincial tax system begins immediately.

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to direct Eastern Health to reverse its decision and to ensure that the population-based breast screening program is accessible to women aged 40-49.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Labrador West (Mr. Letto):

“WHEREAS Wabush Mines pensioners have experienced a reduction in pension benefits of 25 percent for the non-unionized pension plan members and 21 percent for the unionized pension plan members;

AND WHEREAS those reductions have happened because of Cliffs Natural Resources entering bankruptcy protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) and given relief in contributions to the Pension Plans resulting in a significant unfunded liability in the plans;

AND WHEREAS many pension plans across Canada are experiencing significant unfunded liabilities and could meet the same fate as the Wabush pension plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador supports the efforts of Federal Members of Parliament, led by the MP for

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Labrador, in seeking amendments to the CCAA to ensure pensioners are given priority on the secured creditors' list during the bankruptcy protection process.”

During the debate the Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) moved, seconded by the Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings), the following amendment:

“That the Resolution clause be amended by adding after the word “process” the words “and urge the Parliament to give these changes retroactive effect so the pensioners of Wabush Mines may benefit from this action”.

The Speaker (Mr. Lane) suspended the proceedings at 3:26 o'clock in the afternoon to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Mr. Lane) resumed the Chair at 3:37 o'clock in the afternoon and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued and concluded on the amendment to the Resolution and the Resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment and declared the amendment carried.

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

The Speaker then adjourned the House until Thursday at 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 9.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.