

Thursday, November 24th, 2016

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

The Speaker ruled on a point of order raised by the Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) on November 23rd. The Speaker ruled that there was no point of order.

The Member for Virginia Waters - Pleasantville (Mr. Bernard Davis) made a Statement to congratulate the St. John's Regional Fire Department High-Angle Rescue Team Platoon A, which recently won the Rotary Club Firefighters of the Year Award.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (Mr. Paul Davis) made a Statement to congratulate NL Power and the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation and cancer care teams throughout the Province for installing Bells of Hope in chemotherapy clinics in all the Province's cancer care sites.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to congratulate The Monsignor Finn Knights of Columbus Council 5904 on their 50th anniversary.

The Member for St. George's - Humber (Mr. Reid) made a Statement to congratulate Frank Bonnell and Dave Rex, recipients of the Lion's Club President's Leadership Development Recognition Award.

The Member for Bonavista (Mr. King) made a Statement to congratulate Mrs. Emma Hookey who has celebrated her 107th birthday.

The Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Finn) made a Statement to congratulate Jillian Forsey on her outstanding athleticism and academic achievement.

The Honourable the Speaker drew the attention of the House to carved wooded murals in the foyer which had been moved to Murray's Pond Fishing Country Club when the House of Assembly was relocated to the Confederation Building. The Speaker thanked the President and members of the Club for the donation.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Ms. Bennett) made a Statement to inform the House that the Dominion Bond Rating Service has confirmed the Province's credit rating at A (low).

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods (Mr. Crocker) made a Statement to congratulate the winners of the Daphne Taylor Milk Quality Awards of Excellence and Merit.

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The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Parsons) tabled the Report of the Standing Orders Committee.

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

THAT the following Standing Orders of the House of Assembly are amended to come into force on the date of their approval:

1. Standing Orders 12 to 14 are deleted and the following substituted:

Quorum

12.(1) The presence of at least 10 Members, including the Speaker, constitutes a quorum for a meeting of the House for the exercise of its powers.

(2) Any Member may direct the Speaker's attention to the fact that there is not a quorum present.

(3) If at any time a question of a quorum arises, the Speaker, upon determining that there is no quorum, shall sound the division bells for 5 minutes and if following this a count of the Members shows that there is no quorum, the Speaker shall adjourn the House until the next sitting day.

(4) While the Members in the House are being counted the doors remain open and Members can come into the House during the whole time occupied by the counting.

(5) While in Committee of the Whole, if a question of a quorum arises, the Chair shall count the members present and if 10 Members, including the Chair, are not counted, the Chair shall rise the Committee and report the lack of a quorum to the Speaker who shall then follow SOs 12(3) and (4).

(6) Whenever the Speaker adjourns the House for the lack of a quorum, the time of the adjournment, and the names of the Members who were present shall be inserted in that day's Journal.

2. Standing Order 15 is deleted and the following is substituted:

Lieutenant-Governor arrives

15. When the Sergeant-at-Arms announces that the Honourable Lieutenant-Governor is at the door or announces a messenger from the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker shall take the Chair whether or not there is a quorum present.

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3. Standing Orders 22 and 23 are deleted and the following are substituted:

Withdrawal of Strangers

22. If a Member takes notice that one or more strangers are present on the floor of the Assembly Chamber, the Speaker, or the Chairperson (as the case may be), shall, if he or she considers it proper and without permitting any debate or amendment, order that strangers withdraw.

Conduct of Strangers and visitors

23. Any stranger or visitor admitted into any part of the House or galleries, who misconducts himself or herself, or who does not withdraw when directed to do so while the House or any Committee of the Whole House is sitting, shall be taken into custody by the Sergeant-at-Arms and no person so taken into custody shall be discharged without a special order of the House.

4. Note 1, headed “**Parliamentary Calendar**” of the Appendix to the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly is deleted.

AND FURTHER THAT the following changes to the Standing Orders be implemented for the sittings of this House of Assembly for the 2017 calendar year and that the replaced provisions of the Standing Orders be held in suspension for that same period as follows:

5. (1) Standing Orders 8 to 11 are deleted and the following are substituted:

Annual Calendar

8.(1) Unless otherwise ordered, the House of Assembly shall meet each year

(a) for the Winter-Spring sitting, commencing not later than the first Monday in March and concluding not later than the first Thursday in June; and

(b) for the Fall sitting, commencing not later than the first Monday in November and concluding not later than the first Thursday in December.

(2) The House shall not meet on the days which are paid Government Holidays.

(3) During the sittings held under Standing Order 8(1), there shall be

(a) one constituency week for every three sitting weeks unless varied by the calendar provided by the Clerk under Standing Order 8(5); and

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(b) a break commencing after the end of the sitting day on Maundy Thursday until the third Monday following that date.

(4) In a calendar year in which there is a general election, the Government may indicate to the Speaker that the commencement of a sitting will be postponed or varied or that there will not be a sitting and the Speaker shall inform Members.

(5) On or before January 31 of each calendar year, the Clerk, following consultations with the Government House Leader shall distribute to all Members a calendar indicating the intended sitting days for the next calendar year.

(6) On or before January 31 immediately after the commencement of this Standing Order, the Clerk shall also prepare and distribute in accordance with Standing Order 8(5) a calendar for the sitting days of the current calendar year.

(7) If the Government advises the Speaker that the public interest requires the House to meet at any time because of emergency or extraordinary circumstances, a reason for the recall must be provided and the Speaker shall

(a) advise Members that the House is to meet at the specified time; and

(b) advise Members of the reason for the recall.

(8) The Winter-Spring or Fall sittings of the House referred to in Standing Order 8(1) may be shortened or extended by the passing of a motion with notice made by the Government House Leader which motion shall be decided without debate or amendment.

Daily Sittings

9(1). The time for the meeting of the House is

(a) 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays inclusive;

(b) 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.

(2) At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the Speaker shall adjourn the House.

(3) At 5 p.m. on Wednesday the Speaker shall adjourn the House.

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(4) When the House adjourns on Thursday, it stands adjourned, unless otherwise ordered, until the following Monday.

Business to stand over

10. All business not disposed of at the termination of a sitting day shall stand over until the next sitting day when it will be taken up at the stage where its progress was interrupted.

Extended sittings

11. (1) The Government House Leader may move that the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons but notice of this motion must be given at a previous day's sitting and once put by the Chair is not debatable.

(2) Notwithstanding Standing Order 11(1), at midnight on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, unless the Closure Rule (SO 47) is in operation, the Speaker shall adjourn the House.

(2) Standing Order 24(3) is deleted and the following is substituted:

24(3) On Wednesday except when otherwise ordered by the House, after motion, of which due notice shall have been given, the following shall be the order of business:

(a) from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Motions of which notices have been given by the Government and Government Orders;

(b) from 2 to 5 p.m., following the ordinary daily routine of business

(i) Motions of which notices have been given by Private Members;

(ii) Motions of which notices have been given by the Government;

(iii) Member's Orders;

(iv) Government Orders.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Gambin-Walsh) clarified the answer given during Oral Questions to a question regarding the number of children in care.

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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 keep libraries open and work on a long term plan to strengthen the library system.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to reconsider the decision to close the office of Advanced Education and Skills in Bonavista.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (Mr. Kevin Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge the Federal Government not to implement a cost or fees for those participating in the recreational ground fishery in 2017.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. Hutchings) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to reconsider the decision on the changes made to busing times, routes and schedules and implement a system that better reflects the needs of pupils and their parents.

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 keep libraries open and work on a long term plan to strengthen the library system.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Procurement By Public Bodies" (Bill No. 46) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 46 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting Procurement By Public Bodies" (Bill No. 46) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 46 be referred to a Committee of the Whole tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the following Bills were introduced and read the first time:

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Vital Statistics Act, 2009 No. 2"
(Bill No. 50);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Emergency 911 Act, The Emergency Services Act And The Fire Protection Services Act" (Bill No. 51).

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On motion it was ordered that the above-noted Bills be read the second time on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, November 28th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.