

Wednesday, March 8th, 2017

The House met at 10:00 o'clock in the morning pursuant to adjournment.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Ms. Bennett) informed the House that she had received a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. The Message was read to the House by the Speaker as follows:

“7 March, 2017

As Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, I transmit a request to appropriate sums required for the Public Service of the Province for the year ending 31 March 2018, by way of Interim Supply, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 54 and 90 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I recommend this request to the House of Assembly.

Sgd. **Frank F. Fagan**
Lieutenant Governor”.

On motion of the Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Ms. Bennett), the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider a Certain Resolution and Bill No. 71 for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Warr took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Supply.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee (Mr. Warr) reported that the Committee of Supply had considered the matters to them referred and had directed him to report that they had made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion the report of the Committee of Supply was received and adopted and on motion it was ordered that the Committee have leave to sit again on tomorrow.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 12:05 p.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Frederick Clarence Spencer.

The Member for Placentia West – Bellevue (Mr. Browne) made a Statement to congratulate Syenna Murphy and Isabella Smith for winning the poster contest associated with the “This Little Light Project”.

The Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to congratulate Mr. William Mahoney and Mr. Vince Withers on their investiture into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) made a Statement to recognize the Mount Pearl Sports Alliance on a successful Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Dean) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Harry Harnum.

The Member for Bonavista (Mr. King) made a Statement to pay tribute to Susie Duffett for her contribution to her community as a volunteer.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Ms. Bennett) made a Statement to recognize March 8th as International Women’s Day.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (Mr. Mitchelmore) made a Statement to welcome athletes, fans, organizers and volunteers to St. John’s for the 2017 Tim Hortons Brier curling championship.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Ms. Bennett) tabled pursuant to paragraph 26(5)(a) of the **Financial Administration Act**, Order in Council 2017-085 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funds up to \$25,000 against 2017-18 budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the award of a contract to RFP Solutions for fairness advisory services on the Corner Brook Long Term Care Project.

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 use All Party Town Hall Events to enable people to express their concerns to all parties.

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The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Kent) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to cancel the book tax immediately.

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 increase mental health services and programs in our Province's K-12 school system.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for St. John's Centre (Ms. Rogers):

“WHEREAS the Federal Government has introduced pay equity legislation in the public sector;

AND WHEREAS pay equity has been proven to not be universally achieved by collective bargaining alone;

AND WHEREAS lack of pay equity disproportionately affects women and women in Newfoundland and Labrador earn on average 66% of the wages of their male counterparts;

AND WHEREAS Government needs to give leadership on this issue of fairness to women;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge Government to start the process to enact pay equity legislation in the Province.”

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