

Wednesday, March 29th, 2017

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

By leave the Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Finn) presented the Report of the Select Committee struck to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

Debate commenced on the following motion “that the Report of the Select Committee to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be adopted” and on motion the debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

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

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 2);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Intergovernmental Affairs Act” (Bill No. 4).

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

The Member for Lewisporte – Twillingate (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to recognize Prime Berth Fishery & Heritage Center.

The Member for Fogo Island – Cape Freels (Mr. Bragg) made a Statement to recognize volunteers at the 37th annual firemen’s ball and awards night in Centreville-Wareham-Trinity and Indian Bay.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to inform the House about Legionnaire appreciation day which took place on Bell Island recently.

The Member for Placentia West – Bellevue (Mr. Browne) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Paul Bolt.

The Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Bernard Davis) made a Statement to congratulate St. Paul’s Junior High School pupils on their achievements at the Junior High Provincial Math League competition, the Who Wants to Save a Life game and the Atlantic Diving competition.

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The Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Paul Davis) made a Statement to congratulate pupils from Holy Spirit High School who were presented with the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award in December 2016.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Coady) made a Statement to inform the House about the optimism regarding mining prospects in Newfoundland and Labrador which was in evidence at the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's Mining Convention and Trade Show.

The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour (Mr. Byrne) made a Statement to celebrate the launch of The Way Forward on Immigration Action Plan.

The Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources (Ms. Coady) tabled the following:

- (a) the 2016 Nalcor Business and Financial Report;
- (b) the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Consolidated Financial Statements for the financial year ended December 31, 2016.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Ms. Bennett) tabled the following:

- (a) the 2017-2019 Activity Plan for the Government Money Purchase Pension Plan Committee;
- (b) the 2017-2018 Activity Plan for the Pension Investment Committee.

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**, the following pre-commitments:

- (a) Order in Council 2017-101 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funds in the amount of \$17.9 million against its 2017-18 budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the award of tenders for the following roads projects included in the Five-Year Provincial Roads Plan; 107-16HP, 040-16PHC, 108-16PHP, 106-16PSR, 120-16PHP, 113-16PHP, 049-16PHC, 118-16PHC, 119-16PHC and 105-16PSR;
- (b) Order in Council 2017-104 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit funds up to \$600,000 against its 2017-18 budgetary appropriations to award a contract to Torys LLP for the

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provision of legal advisory services for the Corner Brook Long-Term Care Project;

- (c) Order in Council 2017-106 which authorized the Department of Health and Community Services to pre-commit funds in the amount of \$3,720,000 against its 2017-18 budgetary appropriation, to facilitate a one-year contract extension of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program real-time claim adjudication system with Bell Canada.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (Mr. Crocker) tabled the following:

- (a) the 2017-2019 Activity Plan for the Appeal Board of the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board;
- (b) the 2017-2019 Activity Plan for the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board;
- (c) the Fish Processing Licensing Board Activity Plan for 2017-2019.

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

“WHEREAS on the 7th day of December, 2016, the Management Commission of the House of Assembly approved Recommendation 27 of the 2016 Management Commission Review Committee respecting a taxable allowance in lieu of mileage in Corner Brook and the capital region;

AND WHEREAS on the 15th day of March, 2017, the Management Commission approved an amendment to the *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules* needed to implement the said taxable allowance in lieu of mileage;

AND WHEREAS on the 7th day of December, 2016, the Management Commission of the House of Assembly approved Recommendation 21 of the 2016 Management Commission Review Committee respecting a lump sum taxable allowance for accommodations;

AND WHEREAS on the 15th day of March, 2017, the Management Commission approved an amendment to the *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules* needed to implement the said taxable allowance respecting accommodations;

AND WHEREAS subsection 20(7) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* states:

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“A change shall not be made to the level of amounts of allowances and resources provided to members except in accordance with a rule and, notwithstanding section 64 , that rule shall not be effective unless first laid before the House of Assembly and a resolution adopting it has been passed.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honorable House of Assembly adopt amendments to the *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules* approved by the Management Commission of the House of Assembly on March 15, 2017 as follows:

Section 38 of the *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules* is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following:

“(2.1) Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(a), a member who represents the district of Corner Brook or a district in the capital region may elect to receive the sum of \$200 per month for an entire fiscal year in lieu of receiving the cost of transportation referred to in that paragraph provided that

- (a) the election must be made before April 1 of the fiscal year to which the election applies; and
- (b) the \$200 per month shall be a taxable benefit to the member.”

AND

“The *Members’ Resources and Allowances Rules* are amended by adding immediately after section 40, the following:

“ Taxable Accommodation Allowance: Capital Region

40.1(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs 31(1)(b), 32(2)(b), 33(b), 35(b), 36(2)(b) and 37(b), not fewer than 30 days before the commencement of a fiscal year, a member entitled to accommodation costs in the capital region may elect to receive a lump sum amount for temporary or private accommodation in the capital region in lieu of receiving the accommodation costs referred to in those paragraphs.

(2) An election made by a member under subsection (1) is

- (a) for the fiscal year immediately following that election; and
- (b) a taxable benefit of that member.

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(3) A lump sum received under this section shall be an amount that is calculated by multiplying the number of sitting days for the fiscal year as stated in the parliamentary calendar by the average daily cost of all member accommodation under the paragraphs referred to in subsection (1) for the previous fiscal year.

(4) If a member who has elected to receive a lump sum amount under this section leaves office before the end of the fiscal year to which the lump sum applies, the balance of the amount of that sum shall be repaid to the House of Assembly on a pro rata basis.””

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 take the necessary action to ensure that supervisory staff and equipment remain at the Trepassey Depot so staff are able to monitor road conditions, dispatch crews and equipment as needed.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil):

“BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to convene a public summit in 2017 to discuss the challenges of inclusive education and constructive solutions with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association, the Faculty of Education of Memorial University, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils, specialist educators, classroom/subject teachers, instructional resource teachers, student assistants, guidance counsellors, educational psychologists, program specialists for student support services, school administrators, parents, students, advocacy groups for persons with disabilities, other special interest groups, experts on inclusive education practices, legislators representing all parties in the House of Assembly and members of the general public.”

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Paul Davis, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Kent, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Petten, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Lane.

Against: Mr. Andrew Parsons, Ms. Coady, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Trimper, Mr. Warr, Ms. Dempster, Mr. Browne, Ms. Gambin-Walsh, Mr. Mitchelmore, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Letto, Mr. Bernard Davis, Mr. Derek Bennett, Mr.

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Holloway, Ms. Parsley, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Finn, Mr. Reid, Mr. Dean, Mr. King.

The Speaker declared the Resolution defeated.

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.