

Thursday, March 30th, 2017

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

The Member for Cartwright – L'Anse au Clair (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to commend the Knifty Knitters of Mary's Harbour for their contribution to their community.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Edmunds) made a Statement to recognize the success of the Winter Sports Meet in Postville.

The Member for Stephenville – Port au Port (Mr. Finn) made a Statement to congratulate the Bay St. George Sick Children's Foundation on their successful telethon.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Holloway) made a Statement to recognize Caitlin Hoskins who was chosen as the Children's Wish Foundation Ambassador for 2017.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to pay tribute to the late Mr. Bill Rompkey.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (Ms. Bennett) made a Statement to inform the House about her trip to New York to carry out investor relations work and to attend the 61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women as a member of the Canadian delegation.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Gambin Walsh) made a Statement to congratulate Justin Dodge, Floressa Harris, Sandra Smith and Crystal Young for their success at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (Mr. Crocker) tabled the 2017-2019 Activity Plan for Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Mr. Trimper) tabled the following documents:

- (a) the 2017-19 Business Plan for the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation;
- (b) the 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Architects Licensing Board of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- (c) the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan for Workplace NL.

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The Honourable the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour (Mr. Byrne) tabled the Private Training Corporation Activity Plan for 2017-2019.

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Osborne), in compliance with Sections 8 and 10 of the *Public Tender Act*, tabled the Report of *Public Tender Act* Exceptions for November and December, 2016.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Parsons) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Remove Anomalies And Errors In The Statute Law" (Bill No. 5).

The Honourable the Minister of Service NL (Mr. Trimper) tabled, in response to a question asked by the Member for St. John's Centre (Ms. Rogers), a copy of a directive issued to the Come by Chance Oil Refinery in addition to details on inspections carried out between 2014 and 2017.

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 allow additional specialists trained and certified with ADOS to make the Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis.

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 not impose a provincial sales tax on books.

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 introduce a suite of initiatives to enhance inclusion in the education system.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (Mr. Parsons) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to make representation to the Federal Government to encourage them to change the policy regulations relating to useful length to ensure safety of fish harvesters.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued on the Address in Reply and on motion debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act Respecting An Independent Court Of Appeal In The Province" (Bill No. 3) was introduced and read the first time and on motion it was ordered the said Bill be read the second time on tomorrow.

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Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 2) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 2 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 2) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 2 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Parsons) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 2).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Ms. Dempster took the Chair of Committee of the Whole House.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (Ms. Dempster) reported that the Committee of the Whole House had considered the matters to them referred and had directed him to report that they had passed a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend the House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill No. 2) without amendment.

On motion the report of the Committee was received and adopted.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 2 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Parsons):

“**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;

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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:

“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:

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“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.

(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 Speaker put the question on the motion and declared the motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, April 3rd at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.