

Tuesday, November 7th, 2017

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

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Trimper) ruled on a point of order raised on November 6th by the Leader of the Third Party. The Speaker ruled that there was no point of order.

The Member for Fogo Island – Cape Freels (Mr. Bragg) made a Statement to thank the towns and committee responsible for running Beothic Arena.

The Member for Conception Bay East – Bell Island (Mr. Brazil) made a Statement to congratulate Colin Abbott on his induction into the Canadian Softball Hall of Fame.

The Member for St. George's – Humber (Mr. Reid) made a Statement to commend Blaine Hussey, Louis MacDonald, Dave Hobbs and Scott Madore the entrepreneurs behind the innovative company "Growing for Life".

The Member for Virginia Waters – Pleasantville (Mr. Bernard Davis) made a Statement to thank Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56, for their work in support of veterans asking families and friends.

The Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Paul Davis) made a Statement to congratulate Heather Healey who has been chosen the 2017 Female Athlete of the Year for the Town of Paradise and Provincial 2017 Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment (Mr. Joyce) made a Statement to highlight the work of municipal councils, councillors and community administrators and volunteers.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to congratulate Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for embracing Carrot Rewards and taking steps to become healthier.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Haggie) made a Statement to congratulate Dr. David Allison upon his receiving the Public Service Award of Excellence and thank him for his contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador as he prepares for retirement.

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

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- (a) Lower Churchill Project Purchase Orders and Contracts by Period (January – June, 2016);
- (b) Lower Churchill Project Purchase Orders and Contracts by Period (July – December, 2016);
- (c) Lower Churchill Project Purchase Orders and Contracts by Period (January – June, 2017);
- (d) Lower Churchill Project Commitment Statistics by Period (June 2008 – June 2017);
- (e) Nalcor Energy Procurement Activity Report (January – June 2016);
- (f) Nalcor Energy Procurement Activity Report (July – December 2016);
- (g) Nalcor Energy Procurement Activity Report (January – June 2017).

The Honourable the Speaker (Mr. Trimper) tabled the Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards entitled *The Holloway Report*.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board (Mr. Osborne) tabled pursuant to paragraph 26(5)(a) of the **Financial Administration Act**, the following pre-commitments:

- (a) Order in Council 2017-317 which authorized the Department of Health and Community Services to pre-commit funds in the amount of \$3,720,000 against its budgetary appropriation in 2018-19 to facilitate the contract extension with Bell Canada for the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program real-time claim adjudication system;
- (b) Order in Council 2017-321 which authorized the Department of Fisheries and Land Resources to pre-commit up to \$944,800 in 2018-19; and up to \$78,800 in 2019-20, against its budget appropriations to facilitate the extension of lease agreements with Slate Properties Inc., for an 18-month term;
- (c) Order in Council 2017-326 which authorized the Department of Health and Community Services to pre-commit the expenditure of funds to facilitate a 30-year contract term, beginning in fiscal year 2019-20, with Corner Brook Care Partnership, in accordance with the contract payment schedule on file with the Clerk of the Executive Council, for a long term care facility in Corner Brook.

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

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“WHEREAS in accordance with section 39 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Commissioner for Legislative Standards has recommended to this Honourable House that the Member for Terra Nova be reprimanded for violating Principles 2 and 11 of the Members’ Code of Conduct;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly concurs with the findings and recommendations of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards and asks that the Member for Terra Nova stand in his place in this House and apologize to this Assembly for his failure and violation as cited by the report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards”.

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 undertake an immediate, complete and thorough assessment of the supports in place for DHH children.

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 not to impose a provincial sales tax on books.

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 reinstate the adult dental programme.

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 reinstate funding to the Province’s Youth Organizations immediately.

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 reverse its decision to cancel the new school planned for the Witless Bay/Mobile school system and construct the proposed school.

The Honourable the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (Mr. Kirby) raised a point of order. The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Bills were read the third time and passed:

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Securities Act” (Bill No. 15);

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A Bill, “An Act To Amend the Labour Relations Act” (Bill No. 16);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Prepaid Funeral Services Act” (Bill No. 18).

On motion it was ordered that the said Bills be printed being entitled as above and that they be submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for his assent.

Pursuant to notice and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Vital Statistics Act, 2009” (Bill No. 20) was introduced and read the first time and on motion it was ordered that the said Bill be read the second time on tomorrow.

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 Labour Relations Act No. 2” (Bill No. 17).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Warr 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 (Mr. Warr) 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 Labour Relations Act No. 2” (Bill No. 17) without amendment.

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

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 17 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** section 4 of the Seniors’ Advocate Act provides that on resolution of the House of Assembly, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall appoint a Seniors’ Advocate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dr. Suzanne Brake be appointed as the Seniors’ Advocate”.

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The Speaker put the question on the Resolution.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Andrew Parsons, Ms. Coady, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Haggie, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Crocker, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Warr, Mr. Bernard Davis, Ms. Gambin-Walsh, Mr. Edmunds, Ms. Dempster, Mr. Letto, Mr. Browne, Mr. Bragg, Ms. Cathy Bennett, Mr. Finn, Mr. Reid, Ms. Parsley, Mr. King, Mr. Dean, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Brazil, Ms. Perry, Mr. Kevin Parsons, Mr. Petten, Ms. Michael, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Lane.

Against: none

The Speaker declared the motion carried.

The Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Michael) requested leave to amend the Resolution of which she had given notice. Leave was granted.

The amended Resolution reads as follows:

“WHEREAS the Province's serious financial situation has caused Government to predict a decline in program expenses of 0.85% per annum or \$376 million over the next 6 years, which could result in tens of millions of dollars cut from health care each year;

AND WHEREAS people are worried their health care system won't be there for them when they need it;

AND WHEREAS this level of cost reduction should not proceed without a comprehensive health sector review, and a plan that will avoid arbitrary, harmful cuts in services;

AND WHEREAS the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) has called for an independent, expert review of the Province's health care facilities and services based on wide consultation in the health sector;

AND WHEREAS the NLMA says the review should be tasked with telling Government how to reconfigure the health care system to be smarter, less costly, high quality and focused on patient care and prevention;

AND WHEREAS the people of the Province expect the House of Assembly to work together on this issue;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Government undertake an independent, external review of health care, to be conducted by an eminent expert recognized in the field of health care delivery, with the goal of maintaining quality health care into the future.”

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 8th at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.