

Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

The Member for Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune (Ms. Perry) made a Statement to congratulate and pay tribute to Colleen Dollimont for publishing her first book.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Petten) made a Statement to congratulate recipients of and nominees for the 2017 Conception Bay South Athletic Awards.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Letto) made a Statement to congratulate the racers, support teams, organizers and volunteers responsible for making Cain's Quest 2018 a great success.

The Member for St. John's Centre (Ms. Rogers) made a Statement to congratulate the Salvation Army for having broken ground for the construction of their new Centre of Hope on Springdale Street.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Ball) made a Statement to acknowledge and remember the crash of Cougar Flight 491 on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Haggie) made a Statement to acknowledge March as Pharmacist Awareness Month and thank pharmacists for their service to the general public.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to congratulate Team Gushue for having won their second consecutive Tim Horton's Brier Curling Championship.

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 Order in Council 2018-048 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit \$1,173,100 against the Department of Justice and Public Safety's 2018-19 budgetary appropriations, to facilitate the award of a contract to JMJ Holdings Ltd. for renovations of the Argyle Building to accommodate the Supreme Court, Family Division, St. John's.

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 commit to a new state of the art K-12 school for the students of Bay d'Espoir.

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The Honourable the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development (Mr. Kirby) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Petten) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to enact legislation requiring all AEDs in the province to be registered with an on-line registry linked to the 911 system.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Parsons), the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider a Certain Resolution and a Bill for the Granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty (Bill No. 36).

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 adopted a certain Resolution and the Bill consequent thereto and recommended that Bill No. 36 be introduced to give effect to the Resolution.

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

Pursuant to order and on motion the following Resolution was read the first and second time:

“That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the granting to Her Majesty for defraying certain expenses of the public service, for the financial year ending March 31, 2019 the sum of \$2,806,552,200.”

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending March 31, 2019 And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service” (Bill No. 36) was read the first, second and third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 36 be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for his assent.

The House recessed to await the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

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At 4:34 o'clock in the afternoon, the Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland.

The Speaker left the Chair.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor took the Chair.

The Speaker addressed His Honour as follows:

"It is my agreeable duty on behalf of Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, Her Faithful Commons in Newfoundland and Labrador, to present to your Honour a Bill for the Appropriation of Supply granted in the present Session."

Whereupon the Clerk read the following Bill:

A Bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending March 31, 2019 And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service" (Bill No. 36).

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor then said, "In Her Majesty's Name, I thank Her Loyal Subjects, I accept their benevolence and I assent to this Bill".

The Speaker further addressed His Honour as follows:

"May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present Session passed certain Bills, to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's Assent."

Whereupon the Clerk read the following Bills:

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Labour Standards Act" (Bill No. 29);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Workplace Health, Safety And Compensation Act" (Bill No. 30);

A Bill, "An Act To Amend The Order of Newfoundland And Labrador Act" (Bill No. 31);

A Bill, "An Act Respecting The Newfoundland And Labrador Centre For Health Information" (Bill No. 32);

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A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act, 2015” (Bill No. 33);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Legal Aid Act” (Bill No. 34);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Public Inquiries Act, 2006” (Bill No. 35).

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor then said “In Her Majesty’s Name I assent to these Bills”.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to make the following speech:

***Mr. Speaker and Members of the Honourable House of Assembly:***

The Second Session of the Forty-Eighth General Assembly of the Honourable House of Assembly is about to be prorogued.

Before releasing you from your duties, I wish to express gratitude for the care and consideration that you have given to important matters brought to you by our ministers.

During the second session, 27 pieces of legislation were debated and passed in this Honourable House.

In this session, our legislation was focused on advancing better outcomes from residents throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, and on maximizing economic opportunity.

**Maximizing Economic Opportunity**

In some cases this meant bringing forward new legislation to ensure we are prepared for unprecedented new developments, and to maximize the opportunities they bring.

For example, amendments to the *Liquor Corporation Act* were brought forward in this session to grant the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation the necessary authority to ensure there will be a ready and safe supply of cannabis available in our province upon legalization.

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Amendments through Bill 23 specifically enabled the NLC to:

- Buy, import and sell cannabis;
- Control the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis;
- Establish, maintain and operate cannabis stores;
- Issue licences for the possession, sale and delivery of cannabis; and
- Set prices of cannabis, in addition to various administrative measures.

This legislation made it possible to issue a Request for Proposals to identify private retailers interested in selling cannabis.

As a result of this agreement, the province secured a supply of up to 8,000 kg of cannabis and cannabis-related product annually. In addition, Canopy Growth Corporation committed to build a production facility in the province, which is expected to result in the creation of 145 new jobs, and help deliver on commitments in *The Way Forward* to foster private sector job creation, and economic diversification.

With this legislation, and additional legislation to be pursued in the next session of this House of Assembly, Newfoundland and Labrador will be ready to maintain and promote public safety, and maximize the economic benefit when cannabis is legalized.

Another example of legislation that adapts our province to new realities, and positions the province to pursue new economic opportunity, is Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act*.

With the former Agreement on Internal Trade being replaced with the new Canadian Free Trade Agreement, new opportunities were created for businesses through the promise of an increase in the flow of goods and services between provinces.

At the same time, opportunity was created for consumers to enjoy a better selection of products and better prices through increased competition.

These benefits could only be realized if provincial legislation was amended to acknowledge and enforce the new Federal-Provincial Agreement.

With the passing of Bill 11, necessary changes to legislative language, penalty provisions, and dispute resolution mechanisms, are now reflected in provincial law.

This, in turn, allows the business community and provincial consumers to maximize the benefits they can pursue through freer interprovincial trade.

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Legislation passed in this session also gave special recognition to the important role artists play in contributing to the cultural, social, and the economic well-being of the province.

Bill 22, *An Act Respecting the Status of Artists in the Province*, encourages everyone, with government departments and agencies leading by example, to pay artists fairly and equitably based on existing industry pay scales for their genre.

This legislation was developed through consultation with representatives from the various art sectors including: visual arts, craft, music, literary and publishing, dance, theatre and film. In addition, 256 professional artists provided their perspective through an online survey.

The legislation is reflective of a broader overall approach by the Provincial Government to engage those who are active players in our economy, take responsive actions to address their needs, and deliver on commitments set out in *The Way Forward* to give Newfoundland and Labrador a stronger economic foundation.

While some legislation has supported the pursuit of new economic opportunity, other legislation restored income to residents by delivering on the promise to remove temporary taxes – taxes that were made necessary by some of the most challenging fiscal circumstances ever faced in the history of the province.

With the passing of the amendment to the *Revenue Administration Act*, the temporary gas tax was reduced by 75 per cent as of December 1, 2017, fulfilling the government's promise that temporary measures would truly be temporary, and removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **Advancing Better Outcomes**

The Provincial Government also delivered on its promise to advance legislation that enhances the quality of life in our province, and respects and protects the rights of individuals.

Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, which removed the requirement to include a statement from a designated professional with an application for a change of sex designation for a person who has reached the age of 16 years, making it possible for individuals who identify as non-binary to apply for a gender-neutral birth certificate. This important amendment promotes an inclusive society that respects self-expression.

The Provincial Government also strengthened road safety in our province with significant amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act*.

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Bill 13 resulted in increases to fines for a number of offences under the *Highway Traffic Act*, with an aim of increasing compliance and enhancing public safety.

- The offences include infractions such as:
- driving without a valid licence;
- failing to provide proof of insurance;
- illegal vehicle modifications; and
- driving without clearing snow from a windshield.

Bill 27 also amended the *Highway Traffic Act* by putting in place provisions to reduce excessive speeding, stunting and street racing by adding licence suspensions and vehicle impoundments as new penalties.

The safety of first responders has been enhanced by requiring drivers to reduce their speed by 30 kilometres per hour below the speed limit, and move to an adjacent lane when approaching law enforcement or other emergency vehicles stopped at roadside.

Additionally, a substantial addition to the *Highway Traffic Act* through this Bill is the inclusion of a new offence for driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons causing bodily harm or death.

New and unprecedented measures were also put in place through legislation advanced this session, which will enhance oversight that directly affects the safety and well-being of the public.

Bill 24, the *Serious Incident Response Team Act*, established for the first time in our province, a team that will investigate all matters involving death, serious injury, sexual offence, and domestic violence as well as other matters of significant public interest that involve police.

In preparing this legislation, the Provincial Government consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, RNC Association and RNC Public Complaints Commission, all of which were supportive of independent police oversight.

With this legislation, society benefits from an increased level of transparency in the administration of justice, and increased trust in our justice system.

Bill 25, the *Prescription Monitoring Act*, addressed the inappropriate dispensing of at-risk drugs, such as opioids and supported the creation of a Prescription Monitoring Program in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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The program, and its supporting legislation, was developed in consultation with the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Committee, which was comprised of people from regulatory bodies, law enforcement, community organizations, and government departments.

Working with stakeholders, the Provincial Government advanced this new legislation which enhances and complements the provincial Opioid Action Plan, as well as Towards Recovery: A Vision for a Renewed Mental Health and Addictions System for Newfoundland and Labrador. In doing so, the Provincial Government is delivering on the commitments stated in The Way Forward to enhance services and outcomes for residents throughout the province.

Better outcomes for injured workers will also be achieved with the passing of Bill 30, an *Act to Amend the Workplace Health and Safety Compensation Commission Act*.

This legislation will enhance benefits available to injured workers and their families by increasing the income replacement rate for injured workers in Newfoundland and Labrador, or their dependents, from 80 to 85 per cent.

The increased income replacement rate will help improve benefits to injured workers and dependent spouses, without increasing the average assessment rate charged to employers.

Most importantly, it will help reduce the financial, emotional and physical impacts workplace incidents are having on injured workers, their families and their communities.

### **Summary**

In summary, the legislative initiatives advanced in this session have advanced the Provincial Government's vision of a strong, diversified province that offers a high standard of living for its residents.

I thank you for the large measure of Supply you have granted. I assure you the appropriations you have granted have been and will be expended by our Ministers with care and efficiency.

It is my pleasure that the Second Session of the Forty-Eighth General Assembly of the Honourable House of Assembly now be prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly.

Thank you very much.



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His Honour the Lieutenant Governor left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Speaker then said, "It is the wish and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this General Assembly be prorogued, and it is prorogued accordingly".

**Sandra Barnes,**  
Clerk of the House of Assembly.