

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

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. 24);

A Bill,            "An Act To Amend The Social Workers Act" (Bill No. 25).

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

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Cannabis Control Act" (Bill No. 19) was read the third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that the said Bill be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her assent.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Medical Care And Hospital Insurance Act" (Bill No. 20) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 20 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Medical Care And Hospital Insurance Act" (Bill No. 20) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 20 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Medical Care And Hospital Insurance Act" (Bill No. 20).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Bennett 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. Bennett) 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 Medical Care And Hospital Insurance Act" (Bill No. 20) without amendment.

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

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 20 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 11:50 a.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker ruled that the point of order raised by the Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Trimper) on March 3, 2020 was in order. The Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) withdrew his remarks.

The Member for Mount Scio (Ms. Stoodley) made a Statement to recognize Enactus Memorial on their innovative, life-saving venture HeartStarter.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) made a Statement to recognize and thank the Regional Action Committee on Housing (REACH) in the District of Terra Nova for their contribution to their community.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester) made a Statement to congratulate all those responsible for the success of this year's Frosty Festival.

The Member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Petten) made a Statement to recognize Anabel and William Fagan who started a trend in taking it upon themselves to shovel out fire hydrants in the community after Snowmageddon 2020.

The Honourable the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation (Mr. Davis) made a Statement to inform the House about TechTour 2020 and the innovation technology being developed in the Province.

The Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment (Mr. Bragg) made a Statement to remind the public that the provincial ban on retail plastic shopping bags will come into force on July 1, 2020.

The Honourable the Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources (Mr. Byrne) made a Statement to provide details of a Bi-Lateral Boreal Caribou Conservation Agreement recently between the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Government of Canada.

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:

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- (a) Order in Council 2019-286 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit \$77,598.13 in fiscal year 2020-21; \$84,652.50 per annum in fiscal years 2021-22 through 2024-25 and \$7,054.38 in fiscal year 2025-26, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations for the purpose of awarding a contract for leased office space in St. John's to FDJM Holdings for a term of 60 months;
- (b) Order in Council 2019-287 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit \$34,077 in 2020-21, \$204,463 per annum in fiscal years 2021-22 through 2029-30, and \$170,386 in fiscal year 2030-31, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations for the purpose of awarding a contract for leased office space in Happy Valley-Goose Bay to Goose Real Estate Limited for a term of 120 months;
- (c) Order in Council 2019-291 which authorized the Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour to pre-commit up to \$2,100,000 in fiscal year 2020-21 and up to \$1,575,000 in fiscal year 2021-22, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations to facilitate an agreement to provide free Metrobus passes to Income Support recipients living in the St. John's Metro area, including St. John's, Mount Pearl, and Paradise, on a pilot basis, commencing April 1, 2020 until December 31, 2021;
- (d) Order in Council 2019-294 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Works to pre-commit \$1,353,737.40 per annum in fiscal years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 and \$1,015,303.05 in fiscal year 2024-25, excluding HST, against its budgetary appropriations for the purpose of awarding a 60-month contract to Wajax Equipment for the acquisition of lease-to-own vehicles and associated equipment;
- (e) Order in Council 2020-012 which authorized the Department of Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation to pre-commit up to \$1,200,000 against its 2020-2021 budgetary appropriations in order to commit and book advertising media space for April 2020 to October 2020.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Ms. Coady) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion:

**“BE IT RESOLVED** that the Select Committee on Democratic Reform to be established further to a Private Member's Resolution passed in this House on December 4, 2019 will comprise of the following Members:

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The Member for Carbonear - Trinity Bay de Verde  
 The Member for Mount Scio  
 The Member for Windsor Lake  
 The Member for Topsail - Paradise  
 The Member for St. John's East - Quidi Vidi  
 The Member for St John's Centre  
 The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands

**AND BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the committee shall establish its priorities within the scope of authority set for it in the resolution adopted by the House on December 4, 2019;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Select Committee on Democratic Reform may, in the completion of its work, travel from time to time within the Province;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Select Committee on Democratic Reform report its progress to this Honourable House before the end of the Winter-Spring Sitting of this House, 2021; and

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the resolution of any further matters relating to the mandate or operations of said committee be brought to this House for approval.”

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. O’Driscoll) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to upgrade the Witless Bay Line to improve the flow of traffic to and from the TransCanada Highway.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Works (Mr. Crocker) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to adhere to their application approval guidelines and have the Crown Land application for the Cremaillere Bay – Great Northern Port Project approved immediately.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Mount Scio (Ms. Stoodley):

**“WHEREAS** The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada believes that The *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) falls short in protecting Canadians from the privacy risks posed by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) systems;

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**AND WHEREAS** an artificial intelligence system is defined as: “a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations or decisions influencing real or virtual environments. AI systems are designed to operate with varying levels of autonomy”;

**AND WHEREAS** Newfoundland and Labrador residents are protected in the public sector through the provincial *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP)* and in the private sector by the federal PIPEDA;

**AND WHEREAS** provinces including British Columbia and Alberta have their own privacy legislation (Personal Information Protection Act) in lieu of PIPEDA, that safeguards privacy and protection of personal information held by private companies and organizations;

**AND WHEREAS** other countries such as the UK have comprehensive legislation that protects residents’ privacy and personal information from advances in artificial intelligence systems in both private and public sector organizations;

**AND WHEREAS** within the current regulatory framework, advances in artificial intelligence systems may result in inadequate privacy protections;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House supports The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada in expanding PIPEDA to include artificial intelligence systems;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this House urges the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to investigate expanding Provincial privacy legislation to include protections for the use of individuals’ personal information by public and private sector organizations, particularly as it relates to artificial intelligence systems.”

The Speaker put the question 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.