

Monday, October 26th, 2020

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

The Speaker advised the House of a citation error made in his commentary on a point of privilege on September 14, 2020.

The Member for Lake Melville (Mr. Trimper) made a Statement to recognize the Happy Valley-Goose Bay SPCA on their 20th anniversary of service.

The Member for Ferryland (Mr. O'Driscoll) made a Statement to offer condolences on the passing of Tom Best of Petty Harbour.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester) made a Statement to recognize Lori and Kayla Best and their company Karma's Kreation on adapting their business to make masks during the pandemic.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Brown) made a Statement to recognize Labrador West Community Gardens.

The Member for St. John's East – Quidi Vidi (Ms. Coffin) made a Statement to recognize the community centre, The Lantern.

The Honourable the Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (Mr. Warr) made a Statement to recognize Foster Families Month.

The Honourable the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (Ms. Stoodley) made a Statement to advise of work of the Department to address vehicle noise infractions.

The Member for Labrador West (Mr. Brown) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

“WHEREAS income inequality in Canada – and in this Province in particular – has been on the rise in recent decades;

AND WHEREAS Canadians from all parties and all walks of life, including CEOs, Senators, doctors, community support workers, and economists, are now championing some form of basic income program;

AND WHEREAS the federal government is already pioneering in the provision of income support to those who most need it through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit;

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AND WHEREAS the current income support system amounts to a poverty trap and still leaves many to fall through the cracks;

AND WHEREAS Canadian data from basic income pilot projects has shown that such programs increase public health, foster improvements in nutrition, improve mental health and well-being, lower the immense public costs associated with poverty, encourage entrepreneurship, and allow people to pursue education and training;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House consider truly ending poverty in this Province by establishing an All-Party Select Committee on Basic Income, with a mandate to review and make recommendations on: eligibility and minimum income amounts, interaction with existing income supports, cost-benefit analysis, potential models for such a program, and a timeline for implementation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House ensure this Select Committee has the resources it needs to conduct its work.”

The Third Party House Leader (Mr. Dinn) announced, pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), that the Resolution of which the Member for Labrador West (Mr. Brown) had given notice would be debated on Private Members’ Day, Wednesday, October 28th.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to designate 75% of NL Housing family units as non-smoking.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation (Mr. Warr) replied to the Petition.

The Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Dinn) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to eliminate the 1.6 km policy for all Elementary Schools in the Province and in Junior and Senior High Schools where safety is a primary concern.

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

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Other Post-Employment Benefits Eligibility Modification Act” (Bill No. 49);

A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Auditor General Act” (Bill No. 50).

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

Pursuant to notice and on motion the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) moved that the House not adjourn at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate continued and concluded on the motion to concur in the Report of the Social Services Committee.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Parsons) suspended the proceedings at 5:15 o'clock for the supper break.

The Speaker (Mr. Reid) resumed the Chair at 6:16 o'clock in the evening.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the motion to concur in the Report of the Resource Committee.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act, No. 2" (Bill No. 44) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 44 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act, No. 2" (Bill No. 44) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 44 be referred to a Committee of the Whole presently.

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act, No. 2" (Bill No. 44).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

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The Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (Ms. Parsons) reported that the Committee of the Whole House had considered the matters to them referred and had directed her to report that they had passed a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act, No. 2" (Bill No. 44) without amendment.

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

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 44 be read the third time on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 27th at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.