

Wednesday, October 28th, 2020

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

On motion of the Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider a Resolution Relating to the Raising of Loans by the Province (Bill No. 47).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Brown took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

On motion the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee (Mr. Brown) reported that the Committee of Ways and Means had considered the matters to them referred and had adopted a certain Resolution and the Bill consequent thereto and recommended that Bill No. 47 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 bring in a measure to authorize the raising from time to time by way of loan on the credit of the province, in addition to the sum of money already voted, a sum of money not exceeding \$1,000,000,000.”

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Loan Act, 2020” (Bill No. 47) was read the first, second and third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 47 be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her assent.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b) the sitting was suspended at 12:10 p.m. The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Member for Bonavista (Mr. Pardy) made a Statement to recognize the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers of the Relay For Life in Bonavista which raised over \$54,000.00 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

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The Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Ryan Carey of Bishop's Falls, this year's recipient of the MacGillivray Law scholarship awarded to a post-secondary student whose story of perseverance inspires them.

The Member for Harbour Grace – Port de Grave (Ms. Parsons) made a Statement to recognize Ms. Catherine Williams Kleinwort of Spaniard's Bay for her volunteerism.

The Member for Burin – Grand Bank (Ms. Haley) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Gord Dunphy, who was named as an Honorary Life Member by the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association in recognition of more than 50 years of commitment and dedication to soccer in the Province.

The Member for Humber – Bay of Islands (Mr. Joyce) made a Statement to recognize Mr. Philip Beales of Curling for his accomplishments in the Special Olympics Canada Games.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs (Ms. Dempster) made a Statement to recognize Labrador North Chamber of Commerce in showcasing the economic potential of Labrador.

The Honourable the Minister Responsible for Public Procurement Agency (Mr. Bragg) made a Statement to recognize the launch of a new e-procurement system that will allow users to submit, view and manage bid submissions online with the Public Procurement Agency.

The Honourable the Minister of Education (Mr. Osborne) made a Statement to recognize funding of \$25,000 for Quidi Vidi/Rennie's River Development Foundation for the delivery of educational programs at The Fluvarium.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance (Ms. Coady) tabled pursuant to paragraph 26(5)(a) of the **Financial Administration Act**, the following pre-commitments:

- (a) Order in Council 2020-236 which authorized the Office of the Chief Information Officer to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$1,364,000 in each fiscal year from 2021-22 to 2023-24, inclusive, to facilitate the award of a three-year agreement with Microsoft Corporation for the provisioning of server and enterprise application software products;
- (b) Order in Council 2020-237 which authorized the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$25,608 in each of fiscal years 2021-22 through 2024-25, inclusive, and \$17,072 in fiscal year 2025-26 to facilitate the award of a

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contract to Pitney Bowes of Canada Ltd. for the lease of a mail inserter machine at St. John's.

The Honourable the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. Bragg) provided additional information respecting a question posed by the Member for Exploits (Mr. Forsey) during Oral Questions regarding roadway projects in the Member's District.

The Honourable the Minister of Health and Community Services (Mr. Haggie) provided additional information respecting a question posed by the Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) during Oral Questions regarding a potential conflict of interest of the Premier (Mr. Furey) continuing to practice in the medical profession.

The Honourable the Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (Ms. Stoodley) provided additional information respecting a question posed by the Member for Ferryland (Mr. O'Driscoll) regarding qualifications required for the position of Highway Enforcement Officer.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following motion:

“WHEREAS the Commissioner for Legislative Standards found in the Lester Report of September 24, 2020 that MHA for Mount Pearl North violated Principles 5 and 6 of the Code of Conduct in the manner described in the Report;

AND WHEREAS the Commissioner made certain recommendations to this House in his report as he is authorized to do under section 39 of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*;

AND WHEREAS the administration of the House's affairs and the discipline of Members is a part of the collective parliamentary privilege of this House;

AND WHEREAS in practice and precedent this House has amended the penalty recommended by the Commissioner where the House has determined that it appropriate to do so;

AND WHEREAS the Commissioner has found that MHA for Mount Pearl North has violated two principles of the Code of Conduct warranting a more severe penalty than the penalty recommended by the Commissioner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House of Assembly concurs in the Lester Report and further requires that the Member for Mount Pearl North:

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- (a) Stand in his place and unequivocally apologize to this Assembly;
- (b) Submit an unequivocal apology to this Assembly, in writing;
- (c) Submit an unequivocal apology to Assistant Deputy Minister Keith Deering, Director, Agricultural Production and Research Division Dave Jennings, and Conservation Officer Scott Martin, in writing;
- (d) meet with the Commissioner for Legislative Standards and, before January 1, 2021, establish a blind trust; and
- (e) provide to the Speaker written confirmation from the Commissioner for Legislative Standards that the Member has established the required blind trust satisfactory within the time frame required by paragraph (d).”

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Buchans (Mr. Tibbs) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to commit to a comprehensive review of the timber rights in Central Newfoundland and develop a plan so people can have accessibility to their forests.

The Honourable Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods (Mr. Loveless) replied to the Petition.

Pursuant to notice and on motion debate commenced and concluded on the following Resolution standing in the name of the Member for Labrador West (Mr. Brown):

“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;

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

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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.”

During the debate the Honourable the Minister of Immigration, Skills and Labour (Mr. Byrne) moved the following amendment:

“To be inserted after the ‘Be it further resolved that’ clause:

Be it further resolved that the Select Committee engage Federal Members of Parliament from Newfoundland and Labrador to participate.”

The Speaker (Ms. Parsons) suspended the proceedings at 3:29 o’clock to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Ms. Parsons) resumed the Chair at 3:43 o’clock and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate continued on the amendment and the Resolution itself.

During the debate the Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Dinn) moved, seconded by the Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester), the following amendment:

“That the Private Member’s Resolution before the House be amended by adding immediately after the words and comma “interaction with existing income support,” the words and comma “additional poverty reduction initiatives,”.

The Speaker (Ms. Parsons) suspended the proceedings at 3:53 o’clock to consider the amendment.

The Speaker (Ms. Parsons) resumed the Chair at 4:05 o’clock and ruled the amendment in order.

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Debate continued on the amendment and the Resolution itself.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment moved by the Honourable the Minister of Immigration, Skills and Labour (Mr. Byrne) and declared the motion carried.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment moved by the Member for Topsail – Paradise (Mr. Dinn) and declared the motion carried.

The Speaker put the question on the Resolution as amended.

The House divided.

There appeared in favour of the motion: Mr. Crocker, Mr. Haggie, Ms. Dempster, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Davis, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Coady, Mr. Loveless, Ms. Stoodley, Mr. Andrew Parsons, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Warr, Ms. Pam Parsons, Mr. Trimper, Mr. Mitchelmore, Ms. Gambin-Walsh, Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Brazil, Mr. Forsey, Mr. Wakeham, Mr. Lester, Ms. Evans, Mr. Petten, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Pardy, Mr. Paul Dinn, Ms. Conway Ottenheimer, Mr. Tibbs, Mr. O'Driscoll, Ms. Coffin, Mr. James Dinn, Mr. Brown, Mr. Joyce.

Against: None

The Speaker 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.