

Monday, November 2nd, 2020

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

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) made a Statement to recognize volunteers in the District, particularly the Legionaires with the Royal Canadian Legions: Clarenville Branch 27, Port Blandford Branch 48, and Eastport Branch 41.

The Member for Bonavista (Mr. Pardy) made a Statement to recognize the volunteerism and dedication of Mr. Harold Duffett of Port Union.

The Member for Placentia – St. Mary's (Ms. Gambin-Walsh) made a Statement to recognize the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Theresa Jarvis of Dildo.

The Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) made a Statement to recognize the Member for Cape St. Francis (Mr. Parsons) on his upcoming retirement.

The Member for Grand Falls – Windsor – Buchans (Mr. Tibbs) made a Statement to recognize the late Gerald Hurley of Badger.

The Honourable the Premier (Mr. Furey) made a Statement to recognize the life and legacy of the late former Justice Robert Wells, Q.C.

The Honourable the Minister of Justice and Public Safety (Mr. Crocker) made a Statement to inform the House the statutory review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is underway and the opportunity for public input.

The Honourable the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities (Mr. Bennett) made a Statement to inform the House of the Safe Restart Agreement and the funding allocations that each municipality in Newfoundland and Labrador will receive.

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) gave notice that he would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act To Amend The Vital Statistics Act, 2009" (Bill No. 53).

The Member for Burin – Grand Bank (Ms. Haley) gave notice that she would on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 is Remembrance Day;

AND WHEREAS Remembrance Day is a day to honour and remember the people who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace;

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AND WHEREAS Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have an illustrious history of service and have suffered great tragedies in the line of duty;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will restrict many annual commemorative ceremonies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House supports veterans in Newfoundland and Labrador and recognizes the sacrifices made by all members of the Canadian Armed Forces;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the House urge the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to work with the Royal Canadian Legion, and other partners, to rehabilitate the Newfoundland National Memorial in time for the Memorial's centennial on July 1, 2024."

The Honourable the Government House Leader (Mr. Crocker) announced, pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), that the Resolution of which the Member for Burin – Grand Bank (Ms. Haley) had given notice would be debated on Private Members' Day, Wednesday, November 4th.

The Honourable the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (Mr. Parsons) provided clarification to a question asked during Oral Questions by the Member for Windsor Lake (Mr. Crosbie) respecting mineral processing in Labrador.

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 develop a course of action to assist small businesses that are unable to avail of current supports or are in need of other supports to ensure they service the current pandemic and continue to contribute to the success of the economy in the long term.

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 reinstate the approved extension to the Robert E. Howlett Highway to improve and ensure the safety of the travelling public to the Southern Avalon.

The Member for Terra Nova (Mr. Parrott) presented a Petition from certain residents of the Province calling upon the House of Assembly to urge Government to repair and maintain the road to the Town of Terra Nova to a standard that is safe for travel by all residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

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A Bill, “An Act To Amend The Condominium Act, 2009, The Co-Operatives Act And The Corporations Act” (Bill No. 51);

A Bill, “An Act Respecting Tourist Accommodations” (Bill No. 52).

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 Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Credit Union Act, 2009” (Bill No. 46) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 46 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Credit Union Act, 2009” (Bill No. 46) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 46 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

On motion of the Honourable the Deputy Government House Leader (Ms. Dempster) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House to consider a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Credit Union Act, 2009” (Bill No. 46).

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.

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 Credit Union Act, 2009” (Bill No. 46) without amendment.

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

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 46 be read the third time on tomorrow.

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Pursuant to order and on motion debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Auditor General Act” (Bill No. 50) and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 50 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Auditor General Act” (Bill No. 50) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill No. 50 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

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 Auditor General Act” (Bill No. 50).

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.

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 Auditor General Act” (Bill No. 50) without amendment.

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

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 50 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion of the Honourable the Minister of Finance (Ms. Coady) the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider a Resolution Respecting the Imposition of Taxes on Vapour Products (Bill No. 48).

The Speaker left the Chair.

Ms. Parsons took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

The Chairperson (Ms. Parsons) suspended the proceedings at 5:06 o'clock for the supper break.

The Chairperson (Ms. Parsons) resumed the Chair at 6:30 o'clock in the evening.

On motion the Committee rose.

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The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairperson of the Committee (Ms. Parsons) 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. 48 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 respecting the imposition of taxes on vapour products.”

Pursuant to order and on motion the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Revenue Administration Act, No. 4” (Bill No. 48) was read the first, second and third time and passed.

On motion it was ordered that Bill No. 48 be printed being entitled as above and that it be submitted to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her assent.

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. Crocker):

“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;

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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:

- (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 Speaker put the question and declared the Resolution carried.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (Mr. Lester) apologized to the House in accordance with the above-noted motion adopted by the House.

It was moved and seconded that when the House rose it would adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 3rd at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion the House then adjourned accordingly.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.