

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

The House met at 10 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called Orders of the Day.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on Second Reading of a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill 10).

Pursuant to order and on motion, the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The House Of Assembly Accountability, Integrity And Administration Act” (Bill 10) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 10 be referred to a Committee of the Whole on tomorrow.

Pursuant to notice and the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) moved:

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 but shall continue to sit for the conduct of government business and, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall adjourn the House at midnight.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the motion standing in the name of the Government House Leader (S. Crocker):

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 8 and the Parliamentary Calendar previously established for 2021, the Parliamentary Calendar for 2021 shall be revised as follows:

THAT this House will adjourn on April 22, 2021 and resume sitting on May 31, 2021;

THAT this House will sit from May 31, 2021 until June 30, 2021 and that no constituency week shall be taken during that sitting time;

THAT this House shall resume sitting on October 18, 2021;

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THAT a constituency week shall be taken the week of November 8, 2021;

AND THAT this House shall adjourn on November 18, 2021.

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 Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007” (Bill 9) and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 9 be now read the second time.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007” (Bill 9) was read the second time and on motion it was ordered that Bill 9 be referred to a Committee of the Whole now.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007” (Bill 9).

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (B. Warr) took the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (B. Warr) reported that the Committee of the Whole had considered the matters to them referred and had passed a Bill entitled “An Act To Amend The Energy Corporation Act And The Hydro Corporation Act, 2007” (Bill 9) without amendment.

On motion it was ordered that the report of the Committee be received and adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 9 be read the third time on tomorrow.

It was moved and seconded that the House recess at 11:49 a.m.

The Speaker put the question, declared the motion carried and the House recessed accordingly.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

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ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing Mike Tobin of Stephenville for his community contributions.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) recognizing the passing of former MHA Neil Windsor of Mount Pearl.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the passing of Hayward Dobbin of King's Cove.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing the efforts of the New Horizons Random 50+ Club of Hillview.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) recognizing former MHA Kevin Parsons.

With leave, the Member for Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair (L. Dempster) recognizing the passing of Keith Rumbolt of Lodge Bay.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) recognized the mining sector in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Members for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (S. Crocker) recognized Eva Crocker, 2020 BMO Winterset Award winner.

The Members for Bonavista (C. Pardy) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

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The Minister of Responsible for Women and Gender Equality (P. Parsons) recognizing the women and gender diverse candidates of the 2021 Provincial General Election.

The Members for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing and Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

The Minister of Finance, President of Treasury Board and Deputy Premier (S. Coady), pursuant to Section 28 of the Financial Administration Act, tabled:

Order-in-Council 2021-016 relating to the special warrant that provided interim funding for the period from April 1 to May 31, 2021 while the House of Assembly was dissolved.

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley), pursuant to Section 10 of the Architects Act, 2008, tabled:

2019-20 Activity Report and Audited Financial Statements for the Architects Licensing Board of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Speaker, pursuant to Section 35 of the House of Assembly Act, tabled:

2020 Annual Report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards.

The Speaker, pursuant to Section 10 of the Elections Act, 1991, tabled:

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Part I of Adaptations for the 51st General Election.

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Notices of Motion

The Minister Responsible for Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs (L. Dempster) gave notice that they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting The Renaming Of Red Indian Lake” (Bill 12).

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

There were no answers to question for which notice was given.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding the current land transfer process. The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) replied to the petition.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding electricity rates in Northern Labrador.

PRIVATE MEMBER’S RESOLUTION

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten):

WHEREAS it is imperative that the Province’s election legislation, policies and procedures be reformed properly so Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are never again denied their fundamental right to vote and deprived of the clear information they require to exercise their right;

AND WHEREAS the most responsible way to determine which changes must be made is to first get a thorough, independent and unbiased analysis of what went wrong;

AND WHEREAS it is not appropriate for the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to conduct this review because an investigation of the 2021 election will place under

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scrutiny the work of the CEO himself and his compliance with the Elections Act, 1991, which requires the CEO “to exercise general direction and supervision over the administrative conduct of elections and to enforce on the part of election officers fairness, impartiality and compliance with this Act”;

AND WHEREAS it is appropriate during such an investigation that the Chief Electoral Officer who oversaw the election be suspended;

AND WHEREAS s.5.3 of the Elections Act, 1991, titled “Removal or suspension,” states: “The Lieutenant-Governor in Council, on resolution of the House of Assembly passed by a majority vote of the members of the House of Assembly actually voting, may suspend or remove the Chief Electoral Officer from office because of an incapacity to act or for misconduct, cause or neglect of duty.”;

AND WHEREAS the House of Assembly on December 4, 2019 voted unanimously to establish a Select Committee on Democratic Reform, which serves as a model of appropriate forum to collaborate on various election reform options before any amendments are brought to the House of Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a respected independent individual be appointed to review the conduct of the 2021 general election to determine what went wrong and to report the findings of this investigation to the House within 30 days;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Bruce Chaulk be suspended as the Chief Electoral Officer during this investigation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Select Committee of the House of Assembly on Democratic Reform be struck to collaborate in developing recommendations to reform the Province’s election legislation, policies and procedures in light of the findings of the independent review.

The Speaker put the question.

The House divided.

AYES	NAYS
D. Brazil	A. Furey
B. Petten	S. Crocker
T. Wakeham	T. Osborne

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J. Wall	J. Haggie
L. O'Driscoll	S. Coady
C. Tibbs	L. Dempster
L. Evans	G. Byrne
H. Conway Ottenheimer	D. Bragg
L. Parrott	E. Loveless
C. Pardy	B. Davis
P. Dinn	B. Warr
P. Forsey	P. Parsons
J. Dwyer	A. Parsons
J. Dinn	J. Hogan
J. Brown	S. Stoodley
E. Joyce	S. Reid
P. Lane	K. L. Howell
	P. Pike
	L. Stoyles
	S. Gambin-Walsh
	P. Trimper

The Speaker declared the resolution defeated.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(3), the Speaker adjourned the House to Thursday, April 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.