

Monday, November 1, 2021

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) recognizing Scott Hillyer and other volunteers for their efforts in the Community Supper Program in the district.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing Con Finlay on receiving an honorary award for serving 50 years as a volunteer firefighter.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the efforts of the Lethbridge committee in memorializing the 1896 marine tragedy involving the schooner *Maggie*.

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing Brett Samson and his fundraising efforts for Brett's Stand for Diabetes.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) recognizing the recipients of the 10th Annual Bright Business Awards.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (E. Loveless) respecting two electric vehicles being used by public service employees.

The Members for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

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Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

There were no documents tabled.

Notices of Motion

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS the 2016 Census showed that St. John's has the highest level of income inequality in all of Atlantic Canada, with the top one percent taking home nine times more than the bottom 30%, and seven times more than the bottom 50%;

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 federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland has called for a new New Deal in light of the vast transformations occurring in our economy due to automation and information technology, which see the bulk of the productivity gains going to the wealthiest while real wages stagnate and an insufficient number of jobs are created to replace those lost to automation;

AND WHEREAS former Governor of the Bank of Canada Mark Carney echoed Minister Freeland's comments in 2018, explaining how technology has decimated the share of income going to workers, increased poverty, and underemployment, with the effect of hollowing out the middle class and replacing their work with more lower-skilled jobs and the vast majority of productivity gains going to the wealthiest as a result;

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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 evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund found that when low- and middle-income families receive extra money every year, they bought more education, clothing, recreation, and electronic purchases for their children, while giving more money to the high-income families did not result in increased investment in their children;

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;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has calculated that poverty costs this province a total of \$959 million dollars, in preventable health problems, crime, lost productivity, foregone public revenue, and intergenerational costs;

AND WHEREAS a poll conducted by The Gandalf Group on behalf of The Maple Leaf Centre For Action On Food Security (June 28-30, 2021) indicated that significant support exists among Atlantic Canadians and among all demographics for a basic minimum income floor that would provide a safety net for all Canadians.

AND WHEREAS a 2017 study by the Roosevelt Institute showed that even a \$1,000 payment to all adults once a year would expand the American economy by 12.56% over the baseline after eight years and permanently raise the level of national economic output;

AND WHEREAS this House voted last year to set up a committee to study a pilot project on basic income and create a timeline for its implementation;

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, additional poverty

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reduction initiatives, cost-benefit analysis, potential models for such a program, and a timeline for implementation;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Select committee engage Federal Members of Parliament from Newfoundland and Labrador to participate.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Third Party House Leader (J. Brown), announced the resolution introduced by the Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) will be the one presented on Wednesday, November 3.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

There were no answers to questions for which notice had been given.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) regarding the mandatory use of helmets in side-by-sides.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) regarding establishment of a fertility treatment clinic within the province.

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) regarding replacement the Bay St. George long-term care home.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding ambulance services in the Trepassey to Cape Broyle area.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

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Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (S. Crocker) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

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 Schools Act, 1997" (Bill 34).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Schools Act, 1997" (Bill 34) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 34 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 Schools Act, 1997" (Bill 34).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (B. Warr) reported the Committee of the Whole had considered the matters to them referred and had directed them to report the Committee had recommended, without amendment, a bill entitled:

"An Act to Amend the Schools Act, 1997" (Bill 34).

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the report be received and adopted.

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 34 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a bill entitled "An Act Respecting Off-Road Vehicles" (Bill 22).

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Chair of Committees (P. Trimper) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

During the debate, the Member for Mount Scio (S. Stoodley) moved an amendment to clause 12.

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The Chair recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Chair reconvened the committee and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate commenced and concluded on the amendment.

The Chair put the question and declared the amendment carried.

Debate resumed on Bill 22 as amended.

During the debate, the Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) moved an amendment to clause 20.

The Chair recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Chair reconvened the committee and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate commenced and concluded on the amendment.

The Chair put the question and declared the amendment defeated.

Debate resumed on Bill 22 as amended.

During the debate, the Member for Mount Scio (S. Stoodley) moved an amendment to clause 22.

The Chair recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Chair reconvened the committee and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate commenced and concluded on the amendment.

The Chair put the question and declared the amendment carried.

Debate resumed and concluded on Bill 22 as amended.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

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The Chair (P. Trimper) reported the Committee of the Whole had considered the matters to them referred and had directed them to report the Committee had recommended, with amendment, a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting Off-Road Vehicles” (Bill 22).

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the report be received and adopted.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the amendments were read the first and second time.

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 22 be read the third time on tomorrow.

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

WHEREAS Covid-19 has been identified as a communicable disease which presents a significant risk to public health;

WHEREAS the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, the Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have strongly recommended that all eligible persons be fully vaccinated against COVID-19;

WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will require mandatory vaccinations for public service employees in core provincial government departments, as well as agencies, boards and commissions in an effort to ensure continued safety in the workplace, as well as to ensure additional health protection for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House requires all Members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of **December 17, 2021** unless the Member obtains an exemption;

AND THAT a Member is fully vaccinated where

- a) that person has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine as approved by Health Canada, or one dose where the vaccine is a one-dose vaccine approved by Health Canada; **and**
- b) two weeks have passed since the person’s second dose of COVID-19 vaccine or, where the person has received a one-dose vaccine, two weeks have passed since that dose;

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AND THAT where a Member requests an exemption to this requirement, the exemption must be for medically supported reasons, and that Member shall provide medical documentation to the Speaker outlining the medical reasons for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 provided by an appropriate health care provider, in line with guidance from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the details of operationalizing this order shall rest with the Speaker of the House.

The Speaker put the question and declared the resolution carried.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.