

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

INTRASESSIONAL PROCEEDING

At 9:30 a.m., the Honourable the Speaker (D. Bennett) and the Clerk of the House of Assembly appeared before the Honourable Judy M. Foote, P.C., O.N.L., Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, at Government House.

The Speaker addressed Her Honour as follows:

“May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present Session passed several bills, to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour’s assent.”

Whereupon the Clerk read the following bills:

- A bill, “An Act for Granting to His Majesty Certain Sums of Money for Defraying Certain Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending March 31, 2024 and for Other Purposes Relating to the Public Service” (Bill 21); and
- A bill, “An Act for Granting to His Majesty Certain Sums of Money for Defraying Certain Additional Expenses of the Public Service for the Financial Year Ending March 31, 2023 and for other Purposes Relating to the Public Service” (Bill 25).

The Lieutenant Governor then said, “In His Majesty’s Name, I assent to these bills.”

Sandra Barnes

Clerk of the House of Assembly

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved:

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 63, this House shall not proceed with Private Members' Day on Wednesday, March 22 but shall instead meet at 2 p.m. on that day for routine proceedings and the conduct of Government business;

AND THAT, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall then adjourn the House at midnight.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced on second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Management of Information Act and the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act" (Bill 22).

During the debate the Member for Conception Bay East - Bell Island (D. Brazil) moved the following amendment:

THAT the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting: "the bill be not now read a second time but that it be read a second time this day three months hence."

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate commenced on the amendment.

On motion, debate was adjourned for further debate presently.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(1)(b), the sitting recessed at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Rita-Anne Voisey, winner of the 2023 Pride in the Profession award.

The Member for St. George's - Humber (S. Reid) recognizing the late Terry Downey of Stephenville Crossing.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing Steve and Gene Ploughman, Jeff Bray and Charles Harris for their heroics in response to a helicopter crash near Thorburn Lake.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing Calvin Smith for their contributions to the community.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing Maddox Glover of Conception Bay South for their achievements during the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs (L. Dempster) recognizing the success of the 2023 Labrador Winter Games.

The Members for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) responded to the statement.

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) recognizing the successes of the mining industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

Pursuant to paragraph 5(7)(a) of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the Minister of Education (J. Haggie) tabled:

Private Training Corporation Activity Plan January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

Pursuant to paragraph 5(7)(a) of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (B. Davis) tabled:

WorkplaceNL 2023-25 Strategic Plan.

Pursuant to paragraph 5(7)(a) of the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) tabled:

Oil & Gas Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador Strategic Plan 2023-25; and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Strategic Plan 2023-2025.

Notices of Motion

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following motion:

THAT in accordance with Standing Order 65, the Public Accounts Committee comprise the following members:

Member for Harbour Main
Member for Placentia - St. Mary's
Member for Baie Verte - Green Bay

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Member for Exploits
Member for Labrador West
Member for Mount Pearl North
Member for St. George's - Humber

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Commissioner for Legislative Standards issued a report further to an inquiry under subsection 42(2) of the House of Assembly Act entitled "The Tibbs Report" on September 14, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker of the House of Assembly tabled "The Tibbs Report" in this House on October 12, 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House concur in the report of the Commissioner for Legislative Standards entitled "The Tibbs Report."

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 Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding the review of regulations pertaining to fishing licensing.

The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (D. Bragg) replied to the petition.

Due to a disturbance, the Speaker ordered the galleries cleared for the remainder of the day and recessed the House at 2:59.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 3:14.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) regarding upgrades to Routes 350, 351A and 352.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (E. Loveless) replied to the petition.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding reforming the justice system to better serve survivors of sexual assault.

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.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate continued on the amendment to "An Act to Amend the Management of Information Act and the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act" (Bill 22).

Debate concluded on the amendment.

The Speaker put the question on the amendment.

The House divided.

Ayes	Nays
D. Brazil	J. Hogan
B. Petten	L. Dempster
H. Conway Ottenheimer	J. Haggie
P. Dinn	G. Byrne
T. Wakeham	B. Davis
J. Dwyer	T. Osborne
P. Forsey	S. Coady
L. O'Driscoll	P. Parsons
C. Pardy	E. Loveless
J. Wall	K. Howell

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

J. Dinn	A. Parsons
J. Brown	S. Stoodley
L. Evans	D. Bragg
E. Joyce	J. Abbott
P. Lane	B. Warr
	P. Trimper
	P. Pike
	S. Reid
	L. Stoyles

The Speaker declared the amendment defeated.

Debate resumed on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Management of Information Act and the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act” (Bill 22).

During the debate the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) moved the following amendment (being a reasoned amendment):

WHEREAS a reasonable period of time has not been provided to review and consult on this bill, and further consultations are urgently required on this bill prior to its passage to ensure the changes it would cause will not improperly deny accountability, transparency and access to information to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and those who serve them, and will not compromise the work of the statutory offices of the House of Assembly that safeguard the rights of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, including the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Office of the Auditor General, the Office of the Citizens’ Representative, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, the Office of the Seniors’ Advocate and others;

THEREFORE the motion be amended by deleting all the words after the word “That” and substituting: “the bill be not now read a second time but that its subject matter be disposed and returned to the House at a future date following public consultations.”

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the amendment in order.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

On motion, the House recessed at 5:09 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 6:01 p.m.

Debate commenced on the amendment.

On motion, debate was adjourned for further debate on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 23 at 2 p.m.

Sandra Barnes

Clerk of the House of Assembly