

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

The House met at 10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 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, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to consider a resolution and a related bill entitled “An Act to Authorize the Raising of Money by Way of Loan by the Province” (Bill 37) relating to the raising of loans by the province.

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Speaker (B. Warr) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (B. Warr) reported the Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means had considered the matters to them referred, reported they had made progress and asked leave to sit again.

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

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the Committee have leave to sit again.

On motion, the House recessed at 11:19 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for St George's - Humber (S. Reid) recognizing the 2023 Codroy Valley Folk Festival, being held July 29 and 30.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing the members of the 2023 graduating class of St. Joseph All-Grade School.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing the late Gus Etchegary.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) recognizing the Vera Perlin Society's 28th annual Walk Around Mundy Pond fundraiser, being held on June 3.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing the members of the musical group Salt Beef Junkies.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (J. Abbott) recognizing supports for persons with disability.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

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The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) recognizing May as Motorcycle Awareness Month and the week of May 16 as Canada Road Safety Week.

The Members for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

During Oral Questions, Members spontaneously sang “The Ode to Newfoundland” and “The Ode to Labrador.” The Speaker advised that during the singing of the anthems the time allocated for oral questions had been paused.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

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

Order in Council 2023-106 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$184,245.91 in each of fiscal years 2024-25 through 2027-28, and \$15,353.83 in fiscal year 2028-29, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement of 6,269 square feet of office space in Grand Falls-Windsor with Martek Morgan Finch Incorporate (Frank in the Box Limited);

Order in Council 2023-107 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$149,400 in each of fiscal years 2024-25 through 2027-28, and \$112,050 in fiscal year 2028-29, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement for 5,988 square feet of office space in Lewisporte with JPM Realty Inc;

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Order in Council 2023-108 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$299,732.40 in each of fiscal years 2024-25 through 2027-28 and \$325,096.96 in each of fiscal year 2028-29 through 2032-33, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement for 6,728 square feet of space in Happy Valley-Goose Bay with Woodward's Limited; and

Order in Council 2023-109 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit against its budgetary appropriations \$99,760 in each of fiscal years 2024-45 through 2027-28, and \$74,820 in 2028-29, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement for 4,640 square feet of office space in Bay Roberts with Spruce Ridge Property Holdings Limited.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (D. Bragg) provided additional information in response to a question that had previously arisen in Oral Questions.

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (J. Abbott) gave an answer and tabled related information to questions 1 and 2 placed on the Order Paper of May 8, 2023 pursuant to Standing Order 51(1) by the Member for Conception Bay East - Bell Island (D. Brazil) respecting income thresholds for social programs in Newfoundland and Labrador as compared to other provinces.

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) regarding a reduction of moose licence quotas to previous levels.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding repairs to Route 230A.

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The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding the doctor shortage in the province and the Trepassey area.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding enactment of legislation to allow senior couples to remain together at the highest level of care.

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (J. Abbott) responded to the petition.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding the reinstatement of marine services between the island portion of the province and Labrador.

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 Lands Act" (Bill 40).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Lands Act" (Bill 40) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 40 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 Lands Act" (Bill 40).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

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, without amendment, a bill entitled:

"An Act to Amend the Lands Act" (Bill 40).

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

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On motion, it was ordered that Bill 40 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act” (Bill 41).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act” (Bill 41) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 41 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 Occupational Health and Safety Act” (Bill 41).

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 Occupational Health and Safety Act” (Bill 41).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 41 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means to resume consideration of a resolution and a related bill entitled “An Act to Authorize the Raising of Money by Way of Loan by the Province” (Bill 37) relating to the raising of loans by the province.

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Chair of Committees (P. Trimper) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means.

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On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (P. Trimper) reported the Committee of the Whole on Ways and Means had considered the matters to them referred, reported they had made progress and asked leave to sit again.

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

The Speaker put the question and it was ordered the Committee have leave to sit again.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Sandra Barnes

Clerk of the House of Assembly