

Thursday, November 2, 2023

INTRASESSIONAL PROCEEDING

At 9:00 a.m., the Honourable the Speaker (D. Bennett) and the acting 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 a bill, 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 bill:

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 No. 2” (Bill 56)

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

Kim Hawley George, KC
Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)

Thursday, November 2, 2023

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing Brenda Wootton of Grand Falls-Windsor for their contributions as constituency assistant.

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) recognizing Michelle Payne of Curling, recipient of the Corner Brook Board of Trade Community Investment award.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing Nyphma Byrne for their creation of a 21-day treatment program at the Labrador Correction Centre.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) recognizing Maci Battcock of Happy Valley-Goose Bay for their achievements in competitive dancing.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) recognizing Gerard Penney of Holyrood for their 45 years of service as a volunteer fire fighter.

The Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (E. Loveless), with leave, recognizing Doug Wells of Harbour Breton for their years of community service.

The Member for Waterford Valley (Tom Osborne), with leave, recognizing Kearney O'Keefe for obtaining their level V umpire designation.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Deputy Premier (S. Coady) recognizing lives lost in Gallipoli during the First World War.

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

Thursday, November 2, 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

The Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) tabled correspondence dated May 16, 2023 to the Chief Executive Officer of NL Health Services regarding hiring for virtual care workers.

Notices of Motion

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS targeted relief solutions are needed that lift people from crisis, keep their homes warm, ensure their families are fed and healthy; and

WHEREAS many people in Newfoundland and Labrador are struggling to survive soaring food costs, skyrocketing housing costs, gas prices through the roof, and a carbon tax on top of all their other taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS we have seniors sharing medication, or cutting their pills in half, because they can't afford the cost of the medicines they need. Many seniors are living below the poverty line, too poor to stay healthy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Hon. House urge the government to:

- order a complete review of all taxes and fees, cutting or adjusting those that are hurting people;
- lead the charge to end the carbon tax for good;

Thursday, November 2, 2023

- eliminate the sugar tax;
- continue the provincial gas tax relief;
- order a complete review of the Income Support Program and an evaluation of all programs and services intended to support vulnerable populations to ensure they deliver;
- index the seniors benefit programs to inflation; and
- deliver a new poverty reduction strategy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Deputy Opposition House Leader (L. Parrott) announced the resolution introduced by the Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) will be the one presented on Wednesday, November 15.

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

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 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.

Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1), the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the House not adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given

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

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Petitions

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) regarding amendments to the *Limitations Act* to remove limitation periods for civil child abuse claims.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding the province's seal population.
The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (E. Loveless) replied to the petition.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding upgrades to the Witless Bay Line.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding amendments to the *Limitations Act* to remove limitation periods for civil child abuse claims.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) regarding the need to enact legislation banning the use of temporary replacement workers during a strike or lockout.

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 60).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act" (Bill 60) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 60 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 House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act" (Bill 60).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

Thursday, November 2, 2023

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 House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act” (Bill 60).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 60 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate continued and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act Respecting Towns and Local Service Districts” (Bill 54).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act Respecting Towns and Local Service Districts” (Bill 54) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 54 be referred to a Committee of the Whole on tomorrow.

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

WHEREAS subsection 16(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act* requires that an independent committee, called a Members’ Compensation Review Committee, be appointed at least once during each General Assembly; and

WHEREAS in accordance with subsection 16(2) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Speaker has consulted with the Government House Leader, the Opposition House Leader and the Third Party on the appointment to the said committee; and

WHEREAS the Government House Leader, Opposition House Leader and Third Party have agreed with the introduction of this resolution; and

Thursday, November 2, 2023

WHEREAS under subsection 16(4) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, a Members' Compensation Review Committee appointed under this resolution must report to the Speaker on its recommendations within 120 days of its appointment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- (1) That Heather Jacobs, KC, is appointed to the Members' Compensation Review Committee, with the appointment to be effective on December 1, 2023;
- (2) That in accordance with section 16 of the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act, the Members' Compensation Review Committee shall inquire into and prepare a report respecting the salaries, allowances, severance and pensions to be paid to the Members of the House of Assembly; and
- (3) That in particular, the Committee shall:
 - (a) recommend the annual salary for Members of the House of Assembly;
 - (b) review and make recommendations regarding additional salary provisions for positions identified in subsection 12(1) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*;
 - (c) recommend a formula or means for making annual salary adjustments for salary amounts referenced in clauses (a) and (b) above;
 - (d) review and make any recommendations regarding the current severance pay policy for Members of the House of Assembly;
 - (e) review the current provisions for Members' pensions and provide any recommendations for adjustments;

AND THAT, as part of its inquiries, the committee may consult with appropriate persons who can assist the committee with respect to its required duties and shall consult with current Members of the House of Assembly and the House of Assembly Service regarding any issues identified in the current regime as well as any administrative, legislative or other impacts of proposed recommendations;

AND THAT the House of Assembly shall conclude any contractual arrangements required to carry out the intent of this resolution;

Thursday, November 2, 2023

AND THAT the Members' Compensation Review Committee deliver its report to the Speaker on or before April 1, 2024.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15, at 10 a.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC
Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)