

Thursday, November 16, 2023

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) recognizing Lorna Warford of Irishtown-Summerside, recipient of a Seniors of Distinction award.

The Member for Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) recognizing 2023 Special Olympics Canada Athletes of the Year: Samantha Walsh and Michael Budden of Stephenville.

The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) recognizing the success of the Rigolet Northern Lights Academy Eagles badminton team.

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) recognizing Skate Newfoundland and Labrador CanSkate Athlete Award recipient Noah Hickey of Random Island

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) recognizing community champions from Octagon Pond Elementary: Liam McGrath, Abby Taylor and Evelyn Murphy.

The Member for Windsor Lake (J. Hogan), with leave, recognizing student leaders, teachers and administrators from Roncalli Elementary.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodly) recognizing World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

The Members for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) and Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

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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 Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) tabled:

Correspondence dated November 21, 2022 from the Department of Justice and Public Safety to the Information and Privacy Commissioner respecting “Claire’s Law”.

Pursuant to paragraph 26(5)(a) of the *Financial Administration Act*, the Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) tabled the following pre-commitments:

Order in Council 2023-237 authorizing a pre-commitment of \$75,937.50 to the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills against its budgetary appropriations for fiscal year 2023-24 to facilitate an agreement with Prism Economics to complete a review of the apprenticeship system in Newfoundland and Labrador;

Order in Council 2023-241 authorizing pre-commitments to the Department of Justice and Public Safety:

- A. \$98,500 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$90,300 in fiscal year 2024-25 to facilitate continuation of the contract with Blarney Stone Inc.;
- B. \$1,356,400 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$1,017,300 in fiscal year 2024-25 to facilitate continuation of the contract with the City of St. John’s Public Safety Answering Point;
- C. \$876,500 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$657,400 in fiscal year 2024-25 to facilitate continuation of the contract with the City of Corner Brook Public Safety Answering Point;
- D. \$14,700 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$9,700 in fiscal year 2024-25 to facilitate continuation of the contracts with Bell; and

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- E. \$30,200 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$22,700 in fiscal year 2024-25 to facilitate continuation of the contract with Central Square for FDM software and support maintenance.

Order in Council 2023-242 authorizing a pre-commitment of \$150,000 to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation against its budgetary appropriations for fiscal year 2023-24 to facilitate a contract for four season transition planning for Marble Mountain with SNO-ENGINEERING, INC.; and

Order in Council 2023-243 authorizing a pre-commitment of \$1.14 million in each of the fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation to facilitate the signing of the Atlantic Canada Agreement on Tourism.

Notices of Motion

The Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66).

The Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act Respecting Recognition of the 75th Anniversary of Confederation” (Bill 67).

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 Stephenville - Port au Port (T. Wakeham) regarding the need for a public hearing for the World Energy GH2.project: Nujio'qonik GH2. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change (B. Davis) replied to the petition.

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The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) regarding changes to the *Mental Health Care and Treatment Act*.

The Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) replied to the petition.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) regarding the need for an addictions treatment facility in Labrador.

The Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) replied 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.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding creating Practice Ready Assessment seats at Memorial University to facilitate provisional doctors' licenses.

The Minister of Health and Community Services (T. Osborne) replied to the petition.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding aligning moose hunting regulations with those of the recreational cod fishery.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding the quality of cellular service in the region.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy), with leave, regarding extending the timeline for a driver's medical exam to at least four months.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown), with leave, regarding increasing funding and decreasing fees for social work students at Memorial University.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

Pursuant to notice and on motion, the following bills were introduced and read the first time:

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A bill, “An Act Respecting Health Research Ethics” (Bill 64); and

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Animal Health and Protection Act” (Bill 65).

On motion, it was ordered the above-noted bills be read the second time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the following bill was read the third time and passed:

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill 61).

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider a bill entitled “An Act to Repeal the Farm Products Corporation Act” (Bill 42).

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 Repeal the Farm Products Corporation Act” (Bill 42).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 42 be read the third time now.

Pursuant to order and on motion, the following bill was read the third time and passed:

“An Act to Repeal the Farm Products Corporation Act” (Bill 42).

With leave, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Lands Act, No. 2” (Bill 68).

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The House recessed to await the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Lieutenant Governor took the Chair.

The Speaker addressed the Lieutenant Governor, as follows:

"May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present session passed certain bills, to which, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent."

The Clerk read the following bills:

- A bill, "An Act Respecting the Regulation of Aquaculture in the Province" (Bill 17);
- A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Farm Products Corporation Act" (Bill 42);
- A bill, "An Act Amend the Schools Act, 1997, No. 2" (Bill 43);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Insurance Companies Act" (Bill 47);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, 2022" (Bill 48);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting the King's Printer" (Bill 49);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Change of Name Act, 2009" (Bill 50);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act, 2008" (Bill 51);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Buildings Accessibility Act" (Bill 52);
- A bill, "An Act Respecting Towns and Local Service Districts" (Bill 54);
- A bill, "An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act, the City of Corner Brook Act, the City of Mount Pearl Act, the City of St. John's Act, and the Municipalities Act, 1999" (Bill 55);

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A bill, “An Act Respecting the Quarry Resource in the Province” (Bill 58);

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Mineral Act” (Bill 59);

A bill, “An Act to Amend the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act” (Bill 60); and

A bill, “An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act, 1997” (Bill 61).

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

The Lieutenant Governor addressed then left the Chamber.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

With leave, the Member for Conception Bay East - Bell Island (D. Brazil), gave remarks to mark their up-coming retirement as a Member of the House of Assembly.

The Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham), the House Leader of the Third Party (J. Brown), the Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey) and the Speaker (D. Bennett) extended thanks and best wishes to the Members and staff of the House for the holidays.

All present sang “The Ode to Newfoundland” and “The Ode to Labrador”.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, March 4, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)