

Monday, March 4, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

The Member for Conception Bay East - Bell Island (F. Hutton), duly elected in the by-election of January 30, 2024, was formally introduced to the House of Assembly, and took their seat.

The Speaker introduced Page:

Emily Conway of Mount Pearl, who is studying sociology at Memorial University.

Pursuant to a Speaker's ruling issued on October 19, 2023, the Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) withdrew their unparliamentary language.

By leave, the Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey) paid tribute to the late Derrick Bragg, Member of the House of Assembly for the district of Fogo Islands - Cape Freels and Minister Without Portfolio.

The Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) and Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Speaker led the House in a moment of silence in recognition of the late MHA Bragg.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Members' Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) recognizing Barbara Keats of Bunyan's Cove and their contributions in service to the district of Bonavista.

The Member for Cape St. Francis (J. Wall) recognizing Jack Hickey of Torbay on their success in the Firefighters Combat Challenge and induction into the hall of fame.

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) recognizing recipients of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Business Recognition Celebration awards, from the town of Conception Bay South.

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kinsmen Club of Botwood.

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The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing Crystal Kelly on their appointment as Captain of the Witless Bay Volunteer Fire Department.

With leave and notwithstanding Standing Order 25(2), the Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) paying tribute to the late The Right Honourable Brian Mulrooney, P.C., C.C., G.O.Q., former Prime Minister of Canada.

### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Leader of the Government in the House (A. Furey) paid tribute to the late The Right Honourable Brian Mulrooney, P.C., C.C., G.O.Q., former Prime Minister of Canada.

The Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

The Speaker led the House in a moment of silence in recognition of the late The Right Honourable Brian Mulrooney, P.C., C.C., G.O.Q.

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

Order-in-Council 2023-261 authorizing the Department of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador to pre-commit the amount of \$25,540 against budgetary appropriations in each of fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, to facilitate the continuation of the BizPal service;

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Order-in-Council 2023-268 authorizing the Department of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador to pre-commit up to \$9,967.50, plus HST, against its budgetary appropriations for fiscal year 2024-25, to facilitate an agreement with Harbour View Inn Inc., operating as Courtyard by Marriott St. John's, for hosting the delegates to the Canadian Conference on Personal Property Security Law;

Order-in-Council 2023-273 authorizing Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the following amounts against its budgetary appropriations: \$796,732 in fiscal year 2024-25 and \$597,549 in fiscal year 2025-26, excluding HST, to facilitate a two-year extension of the lease agreement for 36,135 square feet of office space at 81 Kenmount Road, in St. John's, with Frog Pond Holdings Limited;

Order-in-Council 2023-274 authorizing the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to pre-commit the following amounts against its budgetary appropriations: \$164,568 in the fiscal year 2024-25, \$282,117 per year for fiscal years 2025-26 through 2028-29, and \$117,548 in fiscal year 2029-30, excluding HST, to facilitate a lease agreement for 8,097 square feet of office space, in Mount Pearl, with Redwood Construction Limited;

Order-in-Council 2023-275 authorizing the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs to pre-commit up to \$53,229, excluding HST, against its 2024-2025 budgetary appropriations, to facilitate a contract with the Cavendish Hotel GP Ltd., operating as Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland, to enable the Province to host the 2024 Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government Annual Meeting; and

Order-in-Council 2023-276 authorizing the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation to pre-commit the following amounts against its budgetary appropriations: \$229,465 for fiscal 2024-25 and \$171,050 for fiscal 2025-26 excluding HST, to facilitate a contract with MQO Research Inc. to carry out the 2024 and 2025 Annual Visitor Exit Surveys.

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### **Notices of Motion**

The Minister of Education (K.L. Howell) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Memorial University Act, No. 2” (Bill 69).

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

“An Act to Repeal the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act” (Bill 70).

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

**THAT** the Member for Placentia - St. Mary's (S. Gambin-Walsh) be appointed Deputy Speaker/Deputy Chair of Committees.

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 Tuesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 7.

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

**THAT** notwithstanding Standing Order 63, this House shall not proceed with Private Members' Day on Wednesday, March 6 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.

### **Answers to Questions for Which Notice Has Been Given**

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

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## **Petitions**

The following Members presented petitions:

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding allowing Local Service Districts (LSD) to maintain their utility tax and be returned to the LSD for operational funding.

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding road conditions on Route 60.

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. The Minister Responsible for Labour (B. Davis) replied to the petition.

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

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding eliminating the use of private agency travel nurses and focus on retention and recruitment efforts within the public system.

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

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

The Speaker called orders of the day.

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

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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

A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission Act" (Bill 44);

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- A bill, “An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015” (Bill 45);
- A bill, “An Act Respecting the Practice of Pharmacy in the Province” (Bill 66);
- A bill, “An Act Respecting Recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation” (Bill 67); and
- A bill, “An Act to Amend the Lands Act, No. 2” (Bill 68).

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

The Minister of Finance (S. Coady) informed the House a Message had been received from the Lieutenant Governor.

The Message was read to the House by the Speaker, as follows:

“29 February 2024

As Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, I transmit a request to appropriate sums required for the Public Service of the Province for the year ending 31 March 2025, by way of Interim Supply, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 54 and 90 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, I recommend this request to the House of Assembly.

Signed: Joan Marie Aylward  
Lieutenant Governor”

Pursuant to notice and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider the Message together with a resolution and a related bill entitled “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, 2025 and for other Purposes Relating to the Public Service” (Bill 63) for the granting of interim supply to His Majesty.

The Speaker left the Chair.

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The acting Deputy Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole on Supply.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The acting Chair (S. Gambin-Walsh) reported the Committee of the Whole on Supply 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, Tuesday, March 5 at 1:30 p.m.

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