

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Point of Privilege

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) raised a point of privilege respecting reputational damage caused by the collection of Court costs by the Commissioner for Legislative Standards.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) spoke to the point of privilege.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing athletes and coaches from Central Newfoundland on their performance during the Special Olympic Canada Winter Games.

The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) recognizing Leslie Kenny of Holyrood on becoming the first female fire chief with the Holyrood Fire Department.

The Member for Humber - Bay of Islands (E. Joyce) recognizing the Better Tomorrow Foundation for its community service.

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing the Labrador West Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Future of Labrador West Summit in February.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) recognizing the City of Mount Pearl's 42nd Annual Frosty Festival.

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Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (J. Hogan) recognizing John Howard Society Week.

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

Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

During Oral Questions, there was a disturbance in the public gallery. The Speaker reminded strangers they are not allowed to participate in debate and the galleries would be cleared if the disturbance continued.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

Tabling of Documents

By leave, the Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) tabled:

Copy of correspondence between former Minister of Health and Community Services (J. Haggie) and chair of the board of Central Regional Health Authority dated April 22, 2022, approving entering into a contract with Canadian Health Labs for the use of registered nurse travel teams; and

Copy of decision/direction note dated December 19, 2022, regarding approving Western Regional Integrated Health Authority to extend a contract with Canadian Health Labs for the provision of agency-registered nurses.

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Pursuant to paragraph 19(5)(a) of the *House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act*, the Speaker tabled the minutes of meetings of the House of Assembly Management Commission held on:

August 23, 2023;

October 15, 2023;

November 1, 2023;

November 8, 2023;

November 30, 2023; and

January 10, 2024.

Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

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

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding a replacement for Canning Bridge in Marystown.

The Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development (P. Pike) replied to the petition.

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The Member for Torngat Mountains (L. Evans) regarding timely access to medical care for patients in northern Labrador by ensuring medical flights are available for patients as needed.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding adding an indexing provision to the provincial online calculator to avoid clawing back increases that seniors receive federally.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding introducing legislation to limit the amount by which rent can be increased annually.

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) replied to the petition.

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 Amend the Revenue Administration Act No. 4" (Bill 36);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Memorial University Act No. 2" (Bill 69); and

A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act" (Bill 70).

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

Pursuant to order and on motion, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to resume consideration of 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

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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.

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.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Repeal the Colonial Building Act” (Bill 57).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Repeal the Colonial Building Act” (Bill 57) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 57 be referred to a Committee of the Whole presently.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act Respecting King’s Counsel and Order of Precedence in the Courts” (Bill 53).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act Respecting King’s Counsel and Order of Precedence in the Courts” (Bill 53) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 53 be referred to a Committee of the Whole on tomorrow.

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 Colonial Building Act” (Bill 57).

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 motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The acting Chair (S. Gambin-Walsh) 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 Colonial Building Act” (Bill 57).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 57 be read the third time on tomorrow.

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

THAT the Member for Placentia - St. Mary's be appointed Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

The Speaker put the question and declared the resolution carried.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 6 at 10 a.m.

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