

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The House met at 10 a.m.

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

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 Income Tax Act, 2000” (Bill 35).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The 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 Amend the Income Tax Act, 2000” (Bill 35).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 35 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House recessed at 10:14 a.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 2 p.m.

## **ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Members’ Statements**

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten) recognizing the late Sammy Porter of Conception Bay South and their family’s establishment of Sammy’s Climb Higher Foundation.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The Member for Exploits (P. Forsey) recognizing Elsie Keats of Phillip's Head for their community service.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) recognizing Renews-Cappahayden's Community Clean-Up.

The Member for Fogo Island - Cape Freels (J. McKenna) recognizing the Gander Bay Volunteer Firemen's Ball.

The Member for Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans (C. Tibbs) recognizing Declan Christian Tibbs of Grand Falls-Windsor on their achievements in dance.

### **Ministerial Statements**

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) recognizing progress made on online service delivery via MyGovNL.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

### **Oral Questions**

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

### **Point of Order**

The Member for Corner Brook (G. Byrne) raised a point of order under Standing Order 49 regarding the use of Members' personal names during oral questions.

The Member for Conception Bay South spoke to the point of order.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

### **Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees**

There were no reports by Standing or Select Committees presented.

### **Tabling of Documents**

There were no documents tabled.

### **Notices of Motion**

The Minister of Digital Government and Service NL (S. Stoodley) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce bills entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act, 2009” (Bill 77); and

“An Act to Amend the Credit Union Act, 2009 No. 2” (Bill 78).

The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (E. Loveless) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

“An Act to Amend the Crop Insurance Act” (Bill 76).

### **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 Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) regarding the need for increased support programs and services for mental health issues.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The Member for Topsail - Paradise (P. Dinn) regarding access to mental healthcare in the province.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's participation in the federal buyback program for firearms.

## **PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION**

Pursuant to notice and on motion, debate commenced on the resolution standing in the name of the Member for Conception Bay South (B. Petten):

### **WHEREAS**

- a) the wait lists for mental health and addictions care are too long, even for youth in crisis;
- b) many not finding help are left with few alternatives;
- c) abuse of deadly drugs is worsening, particularly in Labrador;
- d) the fatal overdose rate is accelerating;
- e) the drug-related crime rate is accelerating;
- f) up to 87 per cent of inmates suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues, but many are released back into the community without proper treatment or support;
- g) there are too few options for drug detox and rehabilitation, too few drug-free shelters, and too few options for families in crisis;
- h) police are seeing an alarming rise in the number of calls related to mental health crises and addictions, and begging for more support; and communities are afraid;

**AND WHEREAS** the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions was announced on September 1, 2023 to look at "prevention, early intervention, treatment and support ... with an emphasis on youth and young adults" and the "social determinants of health, such as housing, poverty and education"; yet, the committee has seldom met since then; and some people with lived experience say they have not been properly included;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House urge the government expedite the work of the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions; and fully include people with lived experience; relevant government departments;

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

professionals in health care, policing, justice, corrections, education and social work; community groups, Indigenous communities, faith groups and others who can provide insight to help address the wide array of challenges more effectively, so everyone in need has somewhere to turn right away.

During the debate, the Member for Waterford Valley (T. Osborne) moved an amendment.

The Speaker recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the amendment not in order.

Debate resumed on the resolution.

During the debate, the Member for Gander (J. Haggie) moved an amendment.

The Speaker (S. Gambin-Walsh) recessed the proceedings to consider the amendment.

The Speaker resumed the Chair and ruled the amendment in order.

Debate resumed and concluded on the amendment and the resolution itself.

The Speaker (D. Bennett) put the question and declared the amendment carried.

The resolution then read:

#### **WHEREAS**

- a) the wait lists for mental health and addictions care are too long, even for youth in crisis;
- b) many not finding help are left with few alternatives;
- c) abuse of deadly drugs is worsening, particularly in Labrador;
- d) the fatal overdose rate is accelerating;
- e) the drug-related crime rate is accelerating;
- f) up to 87 per cent of inmates suffer from mental health or substance abuse issues, but many are released back into the community without proper treatment or support;
- g) People in the province have a need for additional options for drug detox and rehabilitation, drug-free shelters, and families in crisis;

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

- h) police are seeing an alarming rise in the number of calls related to mental health crises and addictions, and begging for more support; and communities are afraid;

**AND WHEREAS** the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions was announced on September 1, 2023 to look at “prevention, early intervention, treatment and support ... with an emphasis on youth and young adults” and the “social determinants of health, such as housing, poverty and education”; the committee should meet more often; and some people with lived experience say they have not been properly included;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House urge the government expedite the work of the All-Party Committee on Substance Use and Addictions; and fully engage with people with lived experience; relevant government departments; professionals in health care, policing, justice, corrections, education and social work; community groups, Indigenous communities, faith groups and others who can provide insight to help address the wide array of challenges more effectively.

The Speaker put the question on the resolution as amended.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The House divided.

<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>
A. Furey	T. Wakeham
L. Dempster	B. Petten
J. Haggie	P. Dinn
G. Byrne	H. Conway Ottenheimer
B. Davis	J. Wall
F. Hutton	J. Dwyer
T. Osborne	C. Tibbs
S. Coady	L. O'Driscoll
P. Parsons	P. Forsey
E. Loveless	J. McKenna
K. L. Howell	J. Dinn
S. Stoodley	J. Brown
J. Abbott	L. Evans
P. Pike	E. Joyce
S. Gambin-Walsh	P. Lane
L. Stoyles	
P. Trimper	

The Speaker declared the resolution as amended carried.

Pursuant to Standing Order 9(3), the Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow, Thursday, May 16 at 1:30 p.m.

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