

Monday, December 2, 2024

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) recognizing recipients of the Confederation 75 anniversary medals from the district.

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) recognizing the annual Santa to the Coast event in Labrador.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) recognizing Chantelle and Dave Keen for their "A Haunting on Whiteley" Halloween decorations, and other contributions to the community.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing the official opening of the Echelon Wellness Clinic.

The Member for Placentia - St. Mary's (S. Gambin-Walsh) recognizing Nadine Reid, Confederation 75 anniversary medal recipient.

The Member for Virginia Waters - Pleasantville (B. Davis), with leave, recognizing the late George Powell and sending condolences to friends and family.

The Member for St. John's East - Quidi Vidi (J. Abbott), with leave, recognizing the Sisters of Mercy of St. John's.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Premier (A. Furey) recognizing the late Albert Williams and his contributions to the province.

The Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) and the Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

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The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (B. Davis) recognizing Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement conference and award-winning police officers in the province. The Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and the Member for Labrador West (J. Brown) responded to the statement.

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

There were no documents tabled.

Notices of Motion

The Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

“WHEREAS the Seniors’ Advocate has said that seniors in this province have the lowest incomes in Canada; and

WHEREAS the Seniors’ Advocate has stated that the cost of living for seniors has increased by 22%; and

WHEREAS the Seniors’ Advocate has outlined that despite the NL Seniors’ Benefit being raised by 15%, in reality the purchasing power of seniors has fallen behind by 7%; and

WHEREAS the most recent status update from the Seniors Advocate demonstrates that the recommendation to “Annually index the NL Seniors’ Benefit” has not been implemented; and

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WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate compassionately and correctly states that one third of seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador cannot afford necessities, with many cutting pills in half or not eating nutritious food; and

WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has said that seniors are getting poorer annually while costs continue to rise,

BE IT RESOLVED that this honourable House urge the government to increase the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit by 20% for a maximum benefit of \$1,819 effective January 2025 and further commit to annual increases indexed to inflation."

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten) announced the resolution introduced by the Leader of the Official Opposition (T. Wakeham) will be the one presented on Wednesday, December 4.

The Minister Responsible for Labour (L. Dempster) gave notice they would on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled:

"An Act To Amend the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act No. 2" (Bill 104).

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

"An Act to Amend the House of Assembly Accountability, Integrity and Administration Act" (Bill 103).

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

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Assembly as follows:

WHEREAS section 85 of *the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015*, provides that the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be filled by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on a resolution of the House of Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kerry Hatfield be appointed as the Information and Privacy Commissioner effective December 5, 2024.

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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 Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding the need to reinstate a plow stationed in King's Cove.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (F. Hutton) replied to the petition.

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

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (F. Hutton) replied to the petition.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) regarding the need to prioritize resources in dealing with factors that lead to violent crimes.

The Minister of Justice and Public Safety (B. Davis) replied to the petition.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) regarding the need for improved wi-fi and cell service in the district.

The Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology (A. Parsons) replied to the petition.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) regarding introducing legislation recognizing housing as a human right.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

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

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Lands Act No. 2" (Bill 68).

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Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on third reading of the following bill, and said bill was passed:

A bill, "An Act Respecting Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners" (Bill 87).

Pursuant to order and on motion, the following bills were read the third time and passed:

A bill, "An Act to Repeal the Financial Services Appeal Board Act and to Amend Various Acts of the Province to Eliminate Appeals to the Financial Services Appeal Board" (Bill 96); and

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Arts Council Act" (Bill 98).

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

A bill, "An Act to Amend the United Church of Canada Act" (Bill 99);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Revenue Administration Act No. 6" (Bill 100);

A bill, "An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act No. 2" (Bill 101); and

A bill, "An Act Respecting the Establishment of the Law Enforcement Oversight Commission and the Complaints Process Relating to Law Enforcement Officers" (Bill 102).

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

Pursuant to notice, the Government House Leader (J. Hogan) moved:

THAT notwithstanding Standing Order 9, this House shall not adjourn at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, but shall continue to sit for the conduct of government business and, if not earlier adjourned, the Speaker shall adjourn the House at midnight.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

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

Monday, December 2; and

Tuesday, December 3.

The Speaker put the question and declared the motion carried.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Family Violence Protection Act” (Bill 97).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Family Violence Protection Act” (Bill 97) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 97 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 Family Violence Protection Act” (Bill 97).

The Speaker (P. Trimper) 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 Family Violence Protection Act” (Bill 97).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 97 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Provincial Health Authority Act and the Fatalities Investigations Act” (Bill 85).

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Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Provincial Health Authority Act and the Fatalities Investigations Act” (Bill 85) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 85 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 Provincial Health Authority Act and the Fatalities Investigations Act” (Bill 85).

The Speaker (D. Bennett) left the Chair.

The Deputy Chair of Committees (P. Trimper) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (P. Trimper) 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 Provincial Health Authority Act and the Fatalities Investigations Act” (Bill 85).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 85 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House recessed at 6:22 p.m.

The Speaker resumed the Chair at 7 p.m.

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 Public Safety Act” (Bill 95).

The Speaker left the Chair.

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

On motion, the Committee rose.

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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 Public Safety Act” (Bill 95).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 95 be read the third time on tomorrow.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act” (Bill 93).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act” (Bill 93) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 93 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 Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act” (Bill 93).

The Speaker left the Chair.

The Deputy Chair of Committees (P. Trimper) took the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

On motion, the Committee rose.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chair (P. Trimper) 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 Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000 and the City of St. John’s Municipal Taxation Act” (Bill 93).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 93 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC

Clerk of the House of Assembly (A)