

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Members' Statements

The following Members provided statements:

The Member for Lake Melville (P. Trimper) acknowledging the winding down of their political career and thanking those they have worked with while serving as a Member of the House of Assembly.

The Member for Mount Pearl - Southlands (P. Lane) recognizing Gerald Coombs of the Mount Pearl Lions Club for their volunteerism and on receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

The Member for Mount Pearl North (L. Stoyles) recognizing the award winners from this year's Focus on Youth Awards held in the City of Mount Pearl.

The Member for Placentia West - Bellevue (J. Dwyer) recognizing the Islanders Riding Club and the fundraising conducted for charities across the province.

The Member for St. John's Centre (J. Dinn) recognizing local choir, St. Teresa's Chorus, for being invited to sing with the Parish of St. Joseph and Benildus in Waterford City, Ireland.

Ministerial Statements

The following Ministers provided statements:

The Minister Responsible for the Status of Persons with Disabilities (J. Korab) highlighting the Newfoundland and Labrador Disability Benefit.

The Members for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) and the Leader of the Third Party (J. Dinn) responded to the statement.

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Oral Questions

The House proceeded to Oral Questions.

Point of Order

The Member for Terra Nova (L. Parrott) raised a point of order, pursuant to Standing Order 49, regarding reflection on a vote of the House by the Member for Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune (E. Loveless) during Oral Questions.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

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 Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) gave notice they would on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS persons who have disabilities far too often face barriers in the community;

AND WHEREAS persons who have disabilities have a right to equal access to services and community spaces, including health care, employment, transportation, housing and education, and a stand-alone statutory office of the advocate for persons with disabilities would play a vital role in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador are properly respected;

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AND WHEREAS according to Statistics Canada, over 30 per cent of the residents of this province live with a disability;

AND WHEREAS people, both those who have a disability and those who do not, have consistently been calling for a disability advocate for many years;

AND WHEREAS the 2021 mandate letter for the then Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development reads: "Please continue work to establish an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities in Newfoundland and Labrador";

AND WHEREAS the Coalition for Persons with Disabilities, Newfoundland and Labrador, has said that they are "very much opposed" to adding the role and responsibilities of an advocate for persons with disabilities to the role of the Seniors' Advocate;

AND WHEREAS the Seniors' Advocate has publicly stated that her statutory office does not have the resources to take on the role and responsibilities of an advocate for persons with disabilities and represent the disabilities community well;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House calls on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately create a dedicated Advocate for Persons with Disabilities who, as a stand-alone statutory Officer of this Honourable House, will investigate and make recommendations based on the principle of nothing about us without us.

Pursuant to Standing Order 63(3), the Opposition House Leader (B. Petten) announced the resolution introduced by the Member for Harbour Main (H. Conway Ottenheimer) will be the one presented on Wednesday, May 21.

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

The Member for Fogo Island - Cape Freels (J. McKenna) regarding the need for an increased police presence in the Local Service District of Stoneville.

The Member for Ferryland (L. O'Driscoll) regarding the need for brush cutting along Route 10, Southern Shore Highway.

The Member for Bonavista (C. Pardy) regarding repairs to the road to Tickle Cove, Open Hall and Red Cliff.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker called orders of the day.

Pursuant to order and on motion, debate commenced and concluded on second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the United Church of Canada Act" (Bill 99).

Pursuant to order and on motion, a bill entitled "An Act to Amend the United Church of Canada Act" (Bill 99) was read the second time and, on motion, it was ordered that Bill 99 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 United Church of Canada Act" (Bill 99).

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.

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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 United Church of Canada Act” (Bill 99).

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

On motion, it was ordered that Bill 99 be read the third time on tomorrow.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 21 at 10 a.m.

Kim Hawley George, KC
Clerk of the House of Assembly