

Prince Edward Island

Daily Journal for the
Legislative Assembly for
Wednesday, November 22, 2006

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Journals:

Journals for Friday, November 17, 2006 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege:

There were none.

Statements by Members:

2:11 Beth MacKenzie (Park Corner-Oyster Bed) made a Statement congratulating Dr. Sheldon R. Cameron, Frank J. Ledwell and Dorothy Lewis, recipients of the 2006 Order of Prince Edward Island.

2:13 Eva Rodgeron (West Point-Bloomfield) made a Statement on the rededication of the O'Leary Cenotaph.

Carolyn Bertram (Crapaud-Hazel Grove) made a Statement objecting to remarks made by the Honourable Member for Park Corner-Oyster Bed during debate on Motion No. 13 yesterday.

2:16 Questions by Members:

Statements by Ministers:

2:56 Honourable Elmer MacFadyen (Community and Cultural Affairs) made a Statement on the Elmira Railway Station.

2:58 Carolyn Bertram (Crapaud-Hazel Grove) added her comments.

3:00 Honourable Chester Gillan (Health and Social Services and Seniors) made a Statement announcing a new Menactra Vaccine added to the immunization schedule.

3:01 Honourable Leader of the Opposition added his comments.

Honourable Philip Brown (Tourism) made a Statement of tribute to the late David Rodd.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition added his comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions:

There were none.

Tabling of Documents:

Carolyn Bertram (Crapaud-Hazel Grove) tabled Personal T4s for the year 2005.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition tabled Fiscal Reference Tables, dated September 2006.

Honourable Mr. Speaker tabled, by Command, the Annual Report of the Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the period ending June 30, 2006.

Reports by Committees:

There were none.

Introduction of Government Bills:

There were none.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:

There were none.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT:

3:06 The following Bill was read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of the Whole House:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT (Bill No. 3)

Promoter: Honourable Jamie Ballem

Chair: Dr. David McKenna

After some time spent therein, Honourable Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported the Bill agreed to without amendment.

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Honourable Mitch Murphy (Provincial Treasurer) sought, and received, consent of the House to revert to

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:

Honourable Chester Gillan moved, seconded by Dr. David McKenna, the following Motion for a Resolution (Motion No. 2):

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island has the second highest number of seniors in Canada at just over 14 percent of the population, or 20,000 residents aged 65 plus;

AND WHEREAS an estimated three million retired older adults spend five billion hours of their time each year on productive activities, which contributes nearly \$60 billion to Canada's economy;

AND WHEREAS Statistics Canada research demonstrates that older Canadians are redefining the concept of retirement, with many working choosing to work longer hours and opting out of an early retirement;

AND WHEREAS the average age of retirement in Canada is 62.5, up from 61 in 2000;

AND WHEREAS nearly eight percent of Canadians aged 65 and older are currently in the workforce;

AND WHEREAS many seniors are choosing to remain in the labour force not only to earn income, but also to remain mentally active and maintain regular social contact;

AND WHEREAS with an aging population and limited labour force growth, labour shortage has become a long-term issue;

AND WHEREAS small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone to the economy of Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS smaller firms are bearing the brunt of a nationwide shortage of qualified labour;

AND WHEREAS many sectors of the economy are struggling to fill employment vacancies, from construction and agriculture, to retail and tourism;

AND WHEREAS employment opportunities in western Canada are also affecting the labour shortage in the Atlantic region;

AND WHEREAS the Prince Edward Island tourism industry has identified untapped potential in workers of mature years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of this Legislative Assembly encourage the Island's business community and Government to work together to focus on building a stronger workforce, particularly focusing on removing roadblocks for seniors through providing flexibility in labour market and pension programs;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Members of the Assembly promote healthy living initiatives and positive public attitudes regarding the role of seniors as active contributors to society.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:49); continued by the Seconder (4:02); Olive Crane (Morell-Fortune Bay) (4:20); Wilbur MacDonald (Belfast-Pownal Bay) (4:25); Honourable Leader of the Opposition (4:35); Wes MacAleer (Charlottetown-Spring Park) (4:40); Carolyn Bertram (Crapaud-Hazel Grove) (4:45); Eva Rodgerson (West Point-Bloomfield) (4:50); Wayne Collins (Winsloe-West Royalty) (4:53); Honourable Philip Brown (Tourism) (4:55); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT:

5:00 On Motion of Cletus Dunn (Government House Leader), seconded by Eva Rodgerson (West Point-Bloomfield), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 23, 2006.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly