

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2016

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Thursday, 12 May, 2016 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Hon. Mr. Speaker welcomed all Members and media back to the Chamber for continuation of the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly and thanked all Legislative Assembly staff for preparations for the Fall Sitting.

The Clerk advised the House of the resignation of Janice Sherry (Summerside-Wilmot) as Member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Summerside-Wilmot effective July 31, 2016. As a result, a by-election was held in that district on October 17, 2016 and the Chief Electoral Officer confirmed, pursuant to the *Election Act*, that Mr. Chris Palmer of Summerside has been declared elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Summerside-Wilmot. The Clerk advised that Mr. Palmer had subscribed to the necessary Oath of Allegiance as required pursuant to the Constitution Acts 1867 and now seeks permission to take his seat in the House. Mr. Palmer then presented himself at the Bar of the House. He was greeted by the Hon. Premier who addressed himself to the House as follows: “Mr. Speaker, I wish to present Mr. Chris L. Palmer, who has been declared elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Summerside-Wilmot. Mr. Palmer has been duly sworn as a Member and now requests permission to take his seat in the House.”

Hon. Mr. Speaker replied: “Personally, and on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you to this Chamber and now grant you permission to take your seat in this House as the Honourable Member of the Summerside-Wilmot.”

Hon. Premier then escorted Mr. Palmer to his seat in the House.

On Motion of the Hon. Premier, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition,

RESOLVED that the following students be appointed as Pages for this Session of the Legislative Assembly:

Brandon O’Brien, Souris Regional High School
Paige Miller, Montague Regional High School
Lindsay Sanderson, Morell Regional High School
Olivia Corrigan, Colonel Gray Senior High School
Yun Huang, Charlottetown Rural High School
Sebastien Arsenault, École François-Buote
Nathan Kerley, Bluefield High School

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Carleigh MacLeod, Kensington Intermediate-Senior High School
Jasmin Howatt, Kinkora Regional High School
Chelsea Perry, Three Oaks Senior High School
Chandler Gard, Westile Composite High School

Hon. Premier, as a consequence of the resignation of Sonny Gallant (Evangeline-Miscouche) as Deputy Speaker of the House (effective November 15, 2016), moved, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the following motion:

RESOLVED that Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) be elected Deputy Speaker of the House.

Matters of Privilege

James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock), rising on a Matter of Privilege, asserted that statements made by Hon. Heath MacDonald (Economic Development and Tourism) on the topic of the E-gaming Initiative during Oral Question Period in the Spring 2016 sitting were contrary to the *Auditor General's Report, Special Assignment: Government Involvement in the E-Gaming Initiative and Financial Services Platform*, and therefore constituted a deliberate breach of privilege in this matter. In the event that Hon. Speaker was to determine that *prima facie* breach of privilege had occurred, James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) indicated that he would be prepared to move a motion that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges.

Hon. Mr. Speaker advised that he would review the matter and report back to the House.

Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River), rising on a Matter of Privilege, asserted that statements made by Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries) regarding the timing of his involvement on Treasury Board during Oral Question Period in the Spring 2016 sitting were in contradiction to details obtained from Cabinet Orders-in-Council, and therefore constituted a deliberate breach of privilege in this matter. In the event that Hon. Speaker was to determine that *prima facie* breach of privilege had occurred, Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) indicated that she would be prepared to move a motion that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges.

Hon. Mr. Speaker advised that he would review the matter and report back to the House.

Statements by Members

2:34 Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale) recognized the importance of Remembrance Day.

2:35 Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot) expressed his thanks to constituents of Summerside-Wilmot for electing him as the Member of the Legislative Assembly.

2:37 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) congratulated Diane Griffin of Stratford on her appointment to the Senate of Canada.

2:39

Questions by Members

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Statements by Ministers

- 3:20 Hon. Premier encouraged Members of the House to discuss the results of the Plebiscite on Democratic Renewal.
- 3:23 Leader of the Third Party added his comments.
- 3:26 Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) updated the House on the work of the interprovincial power cable in the Northumberland Strait between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.
- 3:29 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.
- 3:32 Hon. Allen Roach (Finance) updated the House on the provincial bond ratings.
- 3:35 Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.
- 3:39 Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture) highlighted the pilot project called “Bring Your Own Device” in Colonel Grey Senior High School.
- 3:41 Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

None

Tabling of Documents

The Clerk informed the House that the following documents were received pursuant to Rule 80 (k) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island by the Office of the Clerk and tabled intersessionally since the House last met on May 13, 2016:

2013-2014 Annual Reports for Health PEI for the period ending March 31, 2014;

2014-2015 Annual Reports for Health PEI for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2014-2015 Annual Report for Island Waste Management Corporation for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2014-2015 Annual Report for the PEI Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Initiative Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2008-2009 Annual Report for the Provincial Treasury for the period ending March 31, 2009;

2009-2010 Annual Reports for Finance and Municipal Affairs for the period ending March 31, 2010;

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2010-2011 Annual Reports for Finance and Municipal Affairs for the period ending March 31, 2011;

2011-2012 Annual Reports for Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs for the period ending March 31, 2012

2012-2013 Annual Reports for Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs for the period ending March 31, 2013;

2013-2014 Annual Reports for Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs for the period ending March 31, 2014;

2014-2015 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Lotteries Commission for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2015 Annual Report for the Environmental Advisory Council for the period ending December 31, 2015;

2014-2015 Annual Report for Holland College for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2015 Annual Report for the Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island for the period ending December 31, 2015;

2011-2012 Annual Reports for Innovation and Advanced Learning for the period ending March 31, 2012;

2012-2013 Annual Reports for Innovation and Advanced Learning for the period ending March 31, 2013;

2013-2014 Annual Reports for Innovation and Advanced Learning for the period ending March 31, 2014;

2015-2016 Annual Report for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, PEI Division for the period ending March 31, 2016;

2014-2015 Annual Report for the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2015-2016 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission for the period ending March 31, 2016;

2014-2015 Annual Report for Tourism and Culture for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2014-2015 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Public Service Commission for the period ending March 31, 2015;

2015 Report of the Prince Edward Island Office of the Information and Privacy Commission for the period ending December 31, 2015;

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2015-2016 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Crown Building Corporation for the period ending March 31, 2016;

2015-2016 Annual Report for Island Investment Development Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2016;

2015-2016 Annual Report for Finance PEI for the period ending March 31, 2016;

2016 Report of the Auditor General of Prince Edward Island Special Assignment: Government Involvement with the E-gaming Initiative and Financial Services Platform required pursuant to Section 14(d) of the *Audit Act* RSPEI 1988.

2015-2016 Annual Report for Health PEI for the period ending March 31, 2016;

Report of the Atlantic Provinces Auditors General: Joint Audit of Atlantic Lottery Corporation, October 2016, in accordance with the *Audit Act* RSPEI 1988.

2014-2015 Annual Report for the English Language School Board for the period ending March 31, 2015;

Interim Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the 2016 Plebiscite on Democratic Renewal, in accordance with Section 119 of the *Election Act* RSPEI 1988.

2015-2016 Annual Report for Innovation PEI for the period ending March 31, 2016.

Answers to written questions from the 1st Session of the 65th General Assembly Nos. 77 & 78 and answers to written question from the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly Nos. 1,009; 1,010; 1,012; 1,021-1,030; 1,038-1,047; and 1,049-1,054.

3:49 Hon. Heath MacDonald tabled, by leave, answers to written questions Nos. 1,032 through 1,037.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

Bills introduced and read a First Time:

3:50 **An Act to Amend the Unsightly Property Act** (Bill No. 35) by Hon. Robert Mitchell (Communities, Land and Environment).

3:51 **Procurement of Goods Act** (Bill No. 36) by Hon. Allen Roach (Finance).

3:52 **An Act to Amend the Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices Sale and Access Act** (Bill No. 37) by Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness).

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3:53 **An Act to Amend the Public Health Act** (Bill No. 38) by Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness).

3:54 **An Act to Amend the Registered Nurses Act** (Bill No. 39) by Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness).

Government Motions

Hon. Heath MacDonald moved, seconded by Hon. Alan McIsaac, the following Motion (No. 3):

WHEREAS export growth is a vital component of growing the Prince Edward Island economy;

AND WHEREAS government established Sales PEI and the Food Island Partnership to support Island companies to drive business expansion and trade in exports;

AND WHEREAS PEI exports reached a milestone by surpassing \$1 billion in international merchandise exports for the first time in 2014;

AND WHEREAS PEI's export performance in 2015 ranked first among all provinces and territories by growing an additional 15% versus 2014;

AND WHEREAS export growth continues to be driven by our world-class food, agriculture, fish and seafood products and strong increases in the strategic sectors of aerospace, bioscience, and advanced manufacturing and marine technologies;

AND WHEREAS our government has launched the Grow Export training initiative to ensure companies are export-ready to increase and foster new export development and capacity;

AND WHEREAS our government continues to provide a variety of export help and supports for the Island exporting community including funding for inbound and outbound missions, market-related information, and other targeted assistance;

AND WHEREAS our government will be working closely with the federal government on the development of export and trade promotion strategies to meet the needs of Island companies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of this Legislative Assembly recognize the importance that export growth plays in building a vibrant PEI economy;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government will continue to support and invest in PEI companies so they can reach new international markets and further grow their exports.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:57); continued by the Seconder (4:08); Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) (4:16); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (4:25); Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) (4:36); Leader of the Third Party (4:49); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

5:00 Hon. Mr. Speaker declared recess until 7:00 p.m.

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7:00 p.m.

Motions Other Than Government

Unanimous consent was granted to proceed with Motion No. 54 (Plebiscite on electoral reform), without proper notice.

Leader of the Third Party moved, seconded by Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid), the following Motion (No. 54):

WHEREAS the plebiscite on Democratic Renewal was held from October 29th – November 7th, 2016 to determine the views of Islanders on the future of the province's electoral system;

AND WHEREAS a Mixed-Member Proportional Representation system receive a majority of ballots cast;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that government shall introduce legislation to implement Mixed-Member Proportional Representation for the next provincial election.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:04); continued by the Seconder (7:12); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (7:15); Hon. Leader of the Opposition (7:17); Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) (7:20); Hon Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) (7:21); Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) (7:26); Jordan Brown (Charlottetown-Brighton) (8:03); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

Unanimous consent of the House was sought, and not received, to continue debate on the motion beyond sessional sitting hours.

Adjournment

9:00 On Motion of Sonny Gallant (Government House Leader), seconded by Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2016.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly