

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2016

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Thursday, 24 November, 2016 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

None

Statements by Members

2:24 Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale) congratulated Cows Inc., who were named one of the top 10 finalists in the Private Business Growth Award that was presented by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Grant Thornton.

2:26 Sonny Gallant (Government House Leader) acknowledged Courtney Mullen, music teacher at Miscouche Consolidated school, on her efforts with the school rock band.

2:27 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) congratulated all students, teachers and volunteers of the Stratford Community School on a successful fall semester.

2:30

Questions by Members

Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) tabled a response to an oral question taken as notice with regard to the social housing waitlist.

Hon. Heath MacDonald (Economic Development and Tourism) responded to an oral question taken as notice with regard to the 2008 Bell Aliant – Government of PEI high speed internet services contract and tabled two letters.

At the conclusion of Oral Question Period, Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters), rising on a Point of Privilege and citing Rule 62(3)b, objected to a response given during Oral Question Period by Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture) and comments made in the media by Hon. Premier.

Hon. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Statements by Ministers

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3:14 Hon. Premier commended the hard work of community volunteers, first responders, and transportation and utility workers who are serving Islanders affected by the winter storm over the weekend.

3:16 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:19 Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) recognized the Prince Edward Island Antique Car Club, which will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada's first automobile on December 11.

3:22 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:25 Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness) announced upgrades to the Hillsborough Hospital in this year's capital estimates.

3:27 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Leader of the Third Party presented to the House a Petition of 2,281 signatures calling for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island to halt the proposed Pure Island Waters bottling facility in Brookvale; conduct a thorough study of all the implications of the water export industry on PEI (including, but not limited to, environmental, economic, trade, regulatory, and governance) prior to approving any water-export developments; and begin a public engagement process to determine the consensus of local residents and Islanders on this issue.

ORDERED, that the Petition be received and lie on the Table.

Tabling of Documents

Hon. Richard Brown (Workforce and Advanced Learning) tabled, by leave, the agenda of the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada Annual Community Meeting of November 28, 2016.

Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) tabled, by leave, a petition from community of Belfast, on the continued existence of Belfast Consolidated School.

Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) tabled, by leave, written questions to the Minister of Health and Wellness.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

None

Government Motions

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None

Orders of the Day (Government)

Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries) moved, seconded by Hon. Allen Roach (Finance), that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration Capital Estimates to be granted to Her Majesty.

The House resolved itself into the said Committee, Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) took the Chair of the Committee, which considered the Capital Estimates which were required to carry on the public services of the Province of Prince Edward Island for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, and also until the passage of the Capital Estimates for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 2019.

Hon. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported progress and asked leave to sit again, to which the House agreed.

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

7:00 p.m.

Motions Other Than Government

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) moved, seconded by Hon. Leader of the Opposition, the following Motion (No. 72):

WHEREAS the Public Schools Branch serves approximately 19,000 students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS the Public Schools Branch includes 56 English public schools, 26 of which have been recommended for review under the School Review Process currently taking place;

AND WHEREAS members of the public have expressed widespread criticism and concern about the current process that calls for a review of schools every five years and which offers no regard for the impact of the school review process on the future of their home community;

AND WHEREAS much of the data collected during the current school review process on the various families of schools concentrates on enrollment numbers, future maintenance costs and projections surrounding residential and economic development in an area;

AND WHEREAS the very principles of the School Review Process are centered on regressive and negative outcomes for the future of our schools and their communities;

AND WHEREAS this government in its 2015 election campaign promised that it would not close schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly listen to their electors and taxpayers' growing concern about the current school review process, which many have publicly

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stated is moving too quickly and is too concentrated on dollars and cents rather than the best interests of Island school aged children and Island communities;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Review Process have as its mandate the maintenance of all current schools in the system regardless of their enrollment;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Review Process in areas of low enrollments concentrate on economic development for the area aimed at bringing in new businesses, and an increased population;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Review Process also ensure that schools with low enrollments receive incentives and supports for the utilization and conversion of extra classroom space by their communities for various activities such as health and wellness, art, culture, music, dance, senior activities, space for new businesses, craft development, training programs, just to name a few;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call for the immediate removal of the every five year requirement for a school review process under the new School Change Policy.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:05); continued by the Seconder (7:16); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (7:33); Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) (7:37); Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) (7:44); Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) (7:47); Leader of the Third Party (7:59); James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) (8:09); Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) (8:18); Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture) (8:25); Jordan Brown (Charlottetown-Brighton) (8:44); Pat Murphy (Alberton-Roseville) (8:52); Hon. Richard Brown (Workforce and Advanced Learning) (8:55); Hon. Robert Mitchell (Communities, Land and Environment) (8:58); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

Some discussion was had on extending regular sitting hours for the purpose of concluding debate on Motion No. 72; however, unanimous consent was not granted.

Adjournment

9:00 On Motion of Sonny Gallant (Government House Leader), seconded by Pat Murphy (Alberton-Roseville), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2016.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly