

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Thursday, 16 November 2017 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters), rising on a Matter of Privilege, asserted that the privileges of all Members of the Legislative Assembly had been violated by a breach of budget confidentiality, when a Guardian newspaper ad for the Liberal candidate in the District 11 by-election referenced details of the Capital Budget; ads that appear in the Saturday morning paper must be submitted by 11 a.m. on Thursday, meaning that the Liberal Party's advertisement agency had details of the capital estimates a full day ahead of the House.

Hon. Mr. Speaker advised that he would take the matter under consideration and report back to the House.

Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque), rising on a Point of Order and citing previous Speaker's Rulings of April 20, 2016 and December 7, 2016, objected to a Government announcement made by the Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture in Charlottetown on Monday and reminded Government that such announcements are to be made in the House while it is in session.

Hon. Mr. Speaker advised that he would take the matter under consideration and report back to the House.

Statements by Members

2:35 Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot) recognized Three Oaks Senior High School for winning an award for its efforts in land and seascape preservation and enhancement at the 30th Annual PEI Environmental Awards.

2:37 Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria Park) congratulated the Sydney Boutique Inn and Suites on their recent renovations to the former Notre Dame Convent.

2:38 Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora) discussed forest clear-cutting and the need for a reforestation plan.

2:41

Questions by Members

Statements by Ministers

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3:21 Hon. Premier congratulated the recipients of the John J. Sark Memorial Scholarship; Eric Anderson, John Ryan Francis and Dylan MacLennan.

3:24 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:27 Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) announced that applications are being accepted for the Poverty Reduction Advisory Council through Engage PEI.

3:29 Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:32 Hon. Jordan Brown (Education, Early Learning and Culture) recognized November 20, 2017 as National Child Day.

3:35 Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

None

Tabling of Documents

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) tabled, by leave, a series of emails from 2012, relating to “Newco”, a proposed payment processing company; which were referred to during Oral Question Period.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

Bills introduced and read a First Time:

3:41 **An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act** (Bill No. 14) by Hon. Jordan Brown (Education, Early Learning and Culture).

3:43 **An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act** (Bill No. 17) by Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy).

Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2018 (Bill No. 19) by Hon. Allen Roach (Finance).

Government Motions

None

Orders of the Day (Government)

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3:45 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 further 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, 2019, and also until the passage of the Capital Estimates for the fiscal year ending 31 March, 2020.

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

7:00 Private Members Bill introduced and read a First Time:

An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act (Bill No. 101) by Steven Myers (Georgetown - St. Peters)

Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) moved, seconded by Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald), the following Motion (No. 2):

WHEREAS in the spring of 2017 a total of \$7.2 million dollars was allocated by the federal and provincial governments towards transitional housing for victims of family violence and affordable and social housing for families and seniors in our province;

AND WHEREAS the director of provincial housing services has indicated that there is a wait list of 900 seniors who require housing and another 400 families in need of family housing and that list is expected to grow;

AND WHEREAS this money has been allocated but not spent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the provincial government to take immediate action to address the current and growing crisis in available, accessible and affordable housing for Prince Edward Islanders.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:04); continued by the Seconder (7:25); Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora) (7:34); Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) (7:55); who moved, seconded by Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) the following amendment:

In the second WHEREAS clause, delete the number “900” and substitute with “670”, and delete the number “400” and substitute with “300”;

Delete the third WHEREAS clause, and substitute with “AND WHEREAS government has started to dispense the \$7.2 million allocated by the federal and provincial governments”;

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In the operative clause delete the words “that this Legislative Assembly call upon” and “to take immediate action to address the current and growing crisis in available, accessible and affordable housing” and after “the province government”, add “continue with planned investment under the current Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement while continuing to develop a collaborative housing strategy to create short and long term solutions to housing challenges”.

Rising on a Point of Order, Bradley G. Trivers asserted that the amendment changed the intent of the Motion and is therefore out of order.

Hon. Mr. Speaker declared a brief recess to consider the matter. Having resumed the Chair, and citing Beauchesne’s Parliamentary Rules and Forms (6th Edition) as follows, ruled the amendment to be in order:

567. The object of an amendment may be either to modify a question in such a way as to increase its acceptability or to present to the House a different proposition as an alternative to the original question.

Debate on the amendment was continued by the Seconder (8:18); Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) (8:28); who moved, seconded by Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) the following amendment to the amendment:

In the operative clause, delete the words “continue with planned” and substitute with “immediately make” and delete the words “continue to develop” and substitute with “immediately developing”.

Debate on the amendment to the amendment was continued by the Seconder (8:33); Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) (8:38); Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) (8:41); Hon. Premier (8:50); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

Adjournment

9:00 On Motion of Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries), seconded by Chris Palmer (Summerside –Wilmot), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly