

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 4 APRIL, 2017

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Thursday, 14 December, 2016 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Hon. Mr. Speaker welcomed back all Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly, and back to the continuation of the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly.

Matters of Privilege

None

Statements by Members

2:28 Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria) highlighted the role of Members of the Legislative Assembly and the importance of working together.

2:30 Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot) recognized the 150th Anniversary of Confederation.

2:31 Hon. Leader of the Opposition recognized students, parents, teachers and community members who have advocated for education over the past few months.

2:33 **Questions by Members**

3:14 At the conclusion of Oral Question Period, Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy), rising on a Matter of Privilege, asked Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) to retract the following comment made during Oral Question Period: "Shake your head, woman". Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) advised that he did not remember making the comment. Hon. Mr. Speaker advised that he would review the record on this matter and report back to the House.

Statements by Ministers

3:17 Hon. Premier congratulated the community of O'Leary on being named Kraft Hockeyville 2017.

3:19 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:22 Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness) recognized April as Daffodil Month, a time for raising awareness about cancer.

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

3:28 Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) congratulated delegates who participated in *Daughters of the Vote* events in Prince Edward Island and Ottawa.

Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) 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 December 15, 2016:

2015-2016 Annual Report for PEI Student Financial Assistance Corporation

2016-2016 Annual Report for the *Victims of Crime Act*

2015 Annual Report for the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island

2014-2015 Annual Report for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

2015-2016 Annual Report for the PEI Liquor Control Commission

2015-2016 Annual Report for Risk Management and Insurance

2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 Annual Report for Agriculture and Forestry

2015-2016 Annual Report for Workforce and Advanced Learning

2016 Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner

2016 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Marketing Council

2016 Annual Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly

2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 Annual Reports for the Agricultural Insurance Corporation

Answers to written questions from the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly Nos. 14-238, 341-399, 409-633, 727-853, 863-989, 999-1008, 1055-1060, 1065-1081, 1091 & 1095.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

Bills introduced and read a First Time:

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 3) (Bill No. 67) by Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy).

3:39 **An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act (Bill No. 61)** by Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture).

An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 64) by Hon. Allen Roach (Finance).

Government Motions

Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness) moved, seconded by Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road), the following Motion (No. 1)

WHEREAS cancer is the leading cause of death in Canada and Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS two in five Canadians are expected to develop cancer in their lifetime;

AND WHEREAS getting screened is one of the best actions Islanders can take to detect cancer early when it is most treatable;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island has many screening programs that Islanders can access directly;

AND WHEREAS research shows a 25 percent reduction in breast cancer among women who are screened regularly;

AND WHEREAS mammography screening is available to women aged 40 to 74 at the QEH and PCH by calling a toll free number to make an appointment;

AND WHEREAS colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among Island men and women and the second leading cause of cancer death in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS average risk Islanders aged 50 to 74 can access an easy to use, at-home FIT KIT screening tool which helps detect colorectal cancer early;

AND WHEREAS cervical cancer has declined among Island women as a result of improved screening and treatment programs;

AND WHEREAS women between 21 and 65 are encouraged to have a pap test every two years by their physician, nurse practitioner, or at a pap clinic in their community;

AND WHEREAS HPV is known to be the cause of up to 70 percent of cervical cancers;

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AND WHEREAS Grade 6 girls and boys are encouraged to participate in the HPV vaccination program offered in Island schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Members of this Assembly and all Islanders talk more about the importance of early detection and participate in cancer screening programs;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Members of this Assembly and all Islanders support the excellent work being done by health professionals, non-government organizations and community volunteers who are promoting healthy living and reducing the burden of cancer in Prince Edward Island.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:44); continued by the Seconder (3:51); Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) (3:55); James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) (4:02); Leader of the Third Party (4:08); Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture) (4:12); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (4:18); Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) (4:20); Jordan Brown (Charlottetown-Brighton) (4:22); and Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale) (4:24).

4:26 There being no further speakers, the Mover then closed the debate.

Hon. Mr. Speaker put the question, which was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and resolved accordingly.

Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) moved, seconded by Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road), the following Motion (No. 79):

WHEREAS government believes it is important that Islanders receive the maximum amount of federal and provincial benefits entitled to them;

AND WHEREAS increasing the uptake of federal and provincial benefits for Islanders will help increase prosperity for our citizens and our communities;

AND WHEREAS these benefits could put extra money in the pockets of our low-income Islanders who need it most;

AND WHEREAS many of these benefits are triggered by filing income tax on an annual basis, so Islanders who do not file an income tax return may be missing out on money owed to them;

AND WHEREAS the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program -- provided by Canada Revenue Agency and community organizations -- assists eligible taxpayers with filing their tax return;

AND WHEREAS the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is free, confidential, and available year round in 15 communities across the province to eligible taxpayers who have a modest income and simple tax situations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Members of this Assembly urges Islanders to access benefits for which they may be entitled to improve their quality of life, and;

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that this Assembly encourages Islanders to seek out information on federal government benefits and to access the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program if they require assistance with income tax filing, and to share this message with their friends and neighbors.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (4:30); continued by the Seconder (4:35); Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria Park) (4:39); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (4:43); Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale) (4:47); Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries) (4:49); James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) (4:52); Hon. Heath MacDonald (Economic Development and Tourism) (4:53); and Leader of the Third Party (4:55).

4:57 There being no further speakers, the Mover then closed the debate.

Hon. Mr. Speaker put the question, which was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and resolved accordingly.

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

7:00 p.m.

Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) apologized and retracted for comments he made during Oral Question Period that were subject of a Point of Privilege raised by Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy). Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) accepted the apology. Hon. Mr. Speaker thanked both honourable Members for their handling of the matter and considered the subject closed.

Motions Other Than Government

Unanimous consent was granted to proceed with Motion No. 88 (Calling on government to re-introduce elected school boards in Prince Edward Island), without proper notice.

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) moved, seconded by Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River), the following Motion (No. 88):

WHEREAS the 2015 Liberal platform promised that as a government they would proceed with school board elections in 2016;

AND WHEREAS it is now April, 2017 and there has been no move on the part of the current administration to follow through on its election promise to the people of Prince Edward Island;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly call upon the government to honour its commitment to the people of Prince Edward Island and take the steps necessary to ensure that Prince Edward Islanders will once again have a voice and input into the direction and policies of their education system through a democratically elected school board system.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:04); continued by the Seconder (7:30); Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture) (7:44); Hon. Leader of the Opposition (8:06); James Aylward

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(Stratford-Kinlock) (8:15); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (8:18); Leader of the Third Party (8:24); Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) (8:35); and Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) (8:41).

8:43 There being no further speakers, the Mover then closed the debate.

Hon. Mr. Speaker put the Question. A Recorded Division being sought, the Clerk recorded the names as follows:

Nays (16)

Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria Park)
Hon. Allen Roach (Finance)
Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy)
Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries)
Hon. Doug Currie (Education, Early Learning and Culture)
Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services)
Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale)
Hon. Pat Murphy (Rural and Regional Development)
Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness)
Hon. Heath MacDonald (Economic Development and Tourism)
Hon. Robert Mitchell (Communities, Land and Environment)
Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning)
Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point)
Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road)
Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot)
Jordan Brown (Charlottetown-Brighton)

Yeas (9)

Leader of the Third Party
Hon. Leader of the Opposition
Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque)
James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock)
Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald)
Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid)
Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River)
Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters)
Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira)

Motion resolved in the Negative.

James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) moved, seconded by Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River), the following Motion (No. 62):

WHEREAS Motion No. 60 (Urging Support for Grandparents Acting as Primary Care Givers) was brought before this Legislative Assembly and passed in the fall session of 2015;

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AND WHEREAS the Legislative Committee on Health and Wellness has received public input from various government agencies and public interest groups supporting the need for both financial and counseling support for these individuals;

AND WHEREAS while many grandparents are happy to take on the care of their grand-children they often do so at great cost to themselves financially, emotionally and physically;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge government to take immediate steps to develop an assistance program for these grand-parents who voluntarily take on the primary care of their family's children.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (8:53); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

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, April 5, 2017.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly