

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 9 MAY, 2017

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Thursday, 4 May, 2017 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

None

Statements by Members

2:24 Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria Park) congratulated former Guardian editor Gary MacDougall on recently winning the Atlantic Journalism Lifetime Achievement Award.

2:25 Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot) congratulated constituents Patrick Martin and Alex Lapp who have joined the crew of the Bluenose 2.

2:26 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) recognized National Nursing Week.

2:28

Questions by Members

During Oral Question Period Hon. Mr. Speaker reminded Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) not to use a member's given name in the House.

Statements by Ministers

3:10 Hon. Premier provided details on the 41st Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, which PEI will host on August 27-29, 2017.

3:14 Hon. Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:19 Hon. Robert Henderson (Health and Wellness) acknowledged National Nursing Week and expressed appreciation for the efforts, compassion and teamwork displayed by PEI nurses.

3:21 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

None

Tabling of Documents

Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) tabled,

1st, by Command, the Annual Report of PEI Housing Corporation for the period ending March 31, 2015.

2nd, by leave, a lab analysis report on a unit at Hunt Court Seniors Housing and an accompanying photograph.

Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) tabled, by leave, emails related to the E-gaming initiative.

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) tabled, by leave, an email chain respecting E-gaming referred to during Oral Question Period.

Hon. Mr. Speaker tabled, by Command, the Report of Electoral Boundaries Commission of Prince Edward Island dated May 5, 2017.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

Bills introduced and read a First Time:

An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act (Bill No. 77) by Hon. H. Wade MacLauchlan (Premier).

Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Protection Act (Bill No. 76) by Hon. H. Wade MacLauchlan (Premier).

Government Motions

None

Orders of the Day (Government)

3:31 The Order of the Day being read for the consideration of the Estimates in Committee, Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) took the Chair of the Committee to consider the Estimates for Workforce and Advanced Learning (complete); Finance (complete); Council of Atlantic Premiers (complete); Employee Benefits (complete); General Government (complete); Interest Charges on Debt (complete); and the P.E.I. Public Service Commission (complete).

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) tabled the following documents for Family and Human Services: Details of Debt for Housing Services Division; and Breakdown of Supports for Children Grants.

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning) tabled the following documents for Workforce and Advanced Learning: Restricted Funding Breakdown UPEI and Holland College; and Job Descriptions – Labour Market Research Staff.

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Allen Roach (Finance) tabled the following documents for Finance: Professional and Contract Services; Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes; Municipal Funding Report; and Salary Position Listing.

After sometime spent therein, Hon. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported that the Committee had gone into supply to be granted to Her Majesty and had come to certain resolutions thereon, which said resolutions she was directed to report to the House whenever it should be pleased to receive the same.

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be now received.

The said Resolutions were severally read at the Table and are as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following sums be granted and placed at the disposal of the Crown.

[Appendix ??? – Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure – Page ???]

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

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

APPROPRIATION ACT (CURRENT EXPENDITURES) 2017 (Bill No. 68)

Promoter: Hon. Allen Roach

Chair: Kathleen Casey

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

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

5:07 Hon. Mr. Speaker declared recess until 7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Motions Other Than Government

The following Bill was further considered by a Committee of the Whole House:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT (NO. 4) (Bill 104)

Promoter: Hon. Jamie Fox

Chair: Bush Dumville

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

After some time spent therein, Hon. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported the Bill agreed to with amendment.

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition moved, seconded by Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River), the following Motion (No. 31):

WHEREAS several organizations have identified a need for improved legal aid services for Prince Edward Islanders;

AND WHEREAS the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has indicated in their 2015 Equality Report Card that most people earn too much money to qualify for legal aid, but too little to afford the legal services necessary to meaningfully address legal problems;

AND WHEREAS 56% of PEI's total legal aid expenditures in 2013–2014 were for family law legal aid, and 73% of family legal aid recipients were women;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge the government of Prince Edward Island to review the current income eligibility criteria to ensure that a greater percentage of Prince Edward Islanders who need to utilize legal services, are able to access legal aid programs.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:26); continued by the Seconder (7:31); Hon. Premier (7:36); Bradley G. Trivers (7:45); and Leader of the Third Party (7:47).

7:52 There being no further speakers, the Mover then closed the debate.

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

Nays (0)

Yeas (21)

Richard Brown (Charlottetown-Victoria Park)
Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy)
Hon. Premier
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. Robert Mitchell (Communities, Land and Environment)
Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning)
Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point)
Leader of the Third Party

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road)
Hon. Leader of the Opposition
Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque)
James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock)
Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald)
Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot)
Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid)
Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River)
Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira)

Motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and resolved accordingly.

James Aylward (Stratford Kinlock) moved, seconded by Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque), the following Motion (No. 66):

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island currently has a shortage of foster care homes where there are just 60 foster homes for roughly 225 children in care;

AND WHEREAS due to this shortage cribs have been put in five provincial group homes to house infants in need of emergency foster care;

AND WHEREAS the shortage of families is putting additional pressure on existing foster parents who feel obligated to take additional children in need of a place to stay;

AND WHEREAS there is concern that the current financial assistance is not enough to cover all the costs associated with foster care and may be proving to be a disincentive to Islanders who would like to provide foster care but feel they may not be able to afford to do so under the existing formula;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly encourage government to examine various models of foster care programming in other jurisdictions to determine how best to finance and serve the need for emergency foster care for Prince Edward Island children.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (7:59); continued by the Seconder (8:05); Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) (8:08) and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

Leader of the Third Party moved, seconded by Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road), the following Motion (No. 103):

WHEREAS our modern consumerist lifestyle has many negative economic, social and environmental consequences;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island has shown leadership nationally in sustainable waste management;

AND WHEREAS the government of Sweden has proposed a tax cut on repairs to household goods to encourage the recycling and reuse of goods;

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge government to explore the creation of a tax break on repairs to household goods.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (8:19); continued by Hon. Robert Mitchell (Communities, Land and Environment) (8:25); Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) (8:32); Bradley G. Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (8:48); Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) (8:54) and, on her Motion, debate was adjourned.

Unanimous consent was sought, and not received, to extend the sitting beyond regular sitting hours.

Adjournment

9:00 On Motion of Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services), seconded by Chris Palmer (Summerside-Wilmot), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on May 10, 2017.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly