

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 20 APRIL 2018

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Wednesday, 18 April 2018 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River), rising on a Matter of Privilege and citing sections 27 and 31 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, citations 75, 93 and 99 of *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th Edition*, and other parliamentary authorities, asserted that her personal privileges as a Member of the Legislative Assembly had been infringed upon after having received threats of a lawsuit following questions asked during Oral Question Period on Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Hon. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters), rising on a Matter of Privilege and citing citation 99 of *Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, 6th Edition*, and Chapter 3 of House of Commons Procedure and Practice, 2nd Edition, asserted that his privileges as a Member of the Legislative Assembly had been infringed upon after having received threats of legal action resulting from questions and statements made during the conduct of his responsibilities in the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Statements by Members

10:28 Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque) recognized hockey coach of the Vegas Golden Knights, Summerside native Gerard "Turk" Gallant.

10:29 Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) recognized Souris entrepreneur Sean Fitzpatrick on the start of his business *6 Zero*.

10:32 Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) highlighted the Charlottetown Farmer's Market nutrition coupon program.

10:36

Questions by Members

Hon. Mr. Speaker reminded Members that responses to oral questions taken as notice are for just that, oral questions taken as notice; and that responses to questions taken as notice during consideration of the estimates should be responded to during the consideration of the estimates.

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Statements by Ministers

11:19 Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning) provided additional information on debt reduction and Island Advantage Bursaries.

11:21 Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) and Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) added their comments.

11:26 Hon. Richard Brown (Communities, Land and Environment) recognized Sunday, April 22 as Earth Day.

11:29 Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

11:33 Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness) updated the House on the automatic external defibrillator registry.

11:36 Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

None

Tabling of Documents

11:39 Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) tabled, by leave, screenshots in support of the Matter of Privilege she raised earlier in the sitting day.

11:40 Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) tabled, by leave, a screenshot in support of the Matter of Privilege he raised earlier in the day.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition tabled, by leave, a news article on wifi in Island hospitals.

Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora) tabled, by leave, an email and photo dated December 18, 2017.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

Bill introduced and read a First Time;

Cannabis Taxation Agreement Act (Bill No. 31) by Hon. Heath MacDonald (Finance).

Government Motions

None

Orders of the Day (Government)

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11:42 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 the Department of Justice and Public Safety (completed).

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

The House reverted to

Government Motions

Hon. Chris Palmer (Economic Development and Tourism) moved, seconded by Hon. Pat Murphy (Rural and Regional Development), the following Motion (No. 43):

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has committed to holding a referendum on democratic renewal in conjunction with the new General Election;

AND WHEREAS the 2017 Speech from the Throne said the following:

“On a topic of such significance, Government takes its role very seriously – and must do everything within the scope of its responsibility to assure clarity, fairness and the inclusion of all voices during this process.”

“To that end, Government will request the creation of a map that clearly lays out the geographic boundaries inherent in the mixed member proportional model considered in the 2016 plebiscite. Furthermore, legislation will be developed to be debated in 2018 to permit all member to offer their input and advice. **This legislation will include a clear referendum question-** as well as the rules required for a fair and transparent process.”

AND WHEREAS the Mixed Member Proportional system has already been identified as an option during the upcoming referendum;

AND WHEREAS our current system of “first past the post” has served Prince Edward Island for well over a century – both provincially and nationally – and is fully understood by Islanders;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly will soon debate legislation governing the referendum on democratic options;

AND WHEREAS the question to be placed before Islanders during a referendum is of fundamental importance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly agree that the upcoming referendum on democratic renewal offer a clear choice as to whether Islanders wish to adopt the Mixed Member Proportional system, no or yes.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (12:25); continued by the Seconder (12:39); Hon. Premier (12:51); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

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Adjournment

1:00 On Motion of Hon. Alan McIsaac (Agriculture and Fisheries), seconded by Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly