

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY 2018

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Friday, 27 April 2018 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

None

Statements by Members

2:19 Alan McIsaac (Vernon River-Stratford) recognized Primrose Guitars located in St. Georges.

2:20 Allen Roach (Montague-Kilmuir) acknowledged the compassionate work of first responders.

2:23 James Aylward (Stratford-Kinlock) recognized Walk So Kids Can Talk being held on May 6th in support for Kids' Help Phone.

2:25

Questions by Members

Statements by Ministers

3:08 Hon. Jordan Brown (Education, Early Learning and Culture) informed the House of front line staff investments.

3:12 Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) and Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) added their comments.

3:18 Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness) announced the concussions awareness project with UPEI.

3:21 Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

None

Tabling of Documents

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Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) tabled, by leave, a letter and paper from UPEI Student Alex MacDonald on midwifery.

Allen Roach (Montague-Kilmuir) tabled, by leave, a letter from class 1C at LM Montgomery School supporting Bill No. 114, plastic bag reduction.

Hon. Paula Biggar, tabled, by leave, articles supporting Motion No. 32, Modernization of Legislative Assembly Sitting Hours.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

None

Government Motions

Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) moved, seconded by Hon. Chris Palmer (Economic Development and Tourism), the following Motion (No. 32):

WHEREAS efforts are being made to encourage more diversity in the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS the sitting hours of the Legislature have been identified as a barrier to women's participation in provincial politics by the Coalition for Women in Government;

AND WHEREAS all political parties strive to improve transparency and accountability;

AND WHEREAS the Legislature presently has two evening sittings which are not televised;

AND WHEREAS the daytime sittings are televised, so increasing the number of sitting hours during the day would make the Legislative proceedings more accessible to Islanders;

AND WHEREAS public attendance in the gallery is higher during daytime sessions compared with evening sessions;

AND WHEREAS Legislatures in all other Provinces and Territories, with the exception of Quebec and Saskatchewan, end their sessions between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm;

AND WHEREAS moving the evening hours to daytime sessions will not affect the number of hours that the Legislature sits;

AND WHEREAS the sitting hours of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island were historically set according to train schedules, which no longer exist;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of this Legislature support adjusting sitting hours;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Rules and Regulations be entrusted to adjust the present sitting hours to include the four hours of evening sessions during the day so that the total number of sitting hours is not reduced.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:26); continued by the Seconder (3:33); Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) (3:37); who moved, seconded by Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) the following amendment:

Delete clauses: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 and insert the following after the third WHEREAS clause:

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Leader of the Opposition authored a discussion paper entitled *Modernizing the House*, filled with new ideas around modernization including changes to the sitting calendar;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges reported back to the House this sitting, and are undertaking a White Paper on the topic;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED members support the work of the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges in their ongoing review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island that includes the sitting calendar.

Debate on the amendment was commenced by the Mover (3:45); continued by the Seconder (3:46); Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora) (3:54); Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) (3:59); Hon. Premier (4:03); Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) (4:09); Hon. Paula Biggar (4:27) (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy); who moved, seconded by Hon. Premier, the following amendment to the amendment:

Delete the numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and the following WHEREAS clause:

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Leader of the Opposition authored a discussion paper entitled *Modernizing the House*, filled with new ideas around modernization including changes to the sitting calendar;

and,

insert the following as the final operative clause:

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Rules and Regulations be entrusted to adjust the present sitting hours to include the four hours of evening sessions during the day so that the total number of sitting hours is not reduced.

Debate was commenced by the Mover; continued by the Seconder; Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) (4:35); Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River) (4:37); and Leader of the Third Party (4:40).

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

Nays (7)

Hon. Leader of the Opposition
Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River)
Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora)
Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald)
Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid)
Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters)
Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira)

Yeas (18)

Hon. Richard Brown (Communities, Land and Environment)
Hon. Chris Palmer (Economic Development and Tourism)
Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation Infrastructure and Energy)
Hon. Premier
Hon. Heath MacDonald (Finance)
Hon. Robert Henderson (Agriculture and Fisheries)
Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness)
Allen Roach (Montague-Kilmuir)
Hon. Pat Murphy (Rural and Regional Development)
Alan McIsaac (Vernon River-Stratford)
Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services)
Hon. Jordan Brown (Education, Early Learning and Culture)
Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning)
Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point)
Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale)
Hon. Leader of the Third Party
Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale)
Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road)

The amendment to the amendment was **CARRIED** and resolved accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Speaker put the Question on the amendment (as amended). A Recorded Division being sought, the Clerk recorded the names as follows:

Nays (7)

Hon. Leader of the Opposition
Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River)
Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora)
Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald)
Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid)
Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters)
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Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point)
Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale)
Hon. Leader of the Third Party
Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale)
Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road)

The amendment (as amendment) was **CARRIED** and resolved accordingly.

Debate on the main motion (as amended) was resumed by Kathleen Casey (Charlottetown-Lewis Point) (4:53); and on her Motion debate was adjourned.

Adjournment

5:00 On Motion of Alan McIsaac (Government House Leader), seconded by Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road), the House adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2018.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly