

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Tuesday, 8 May 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 John D. MacKinnon for the accomplishments and contributions he has made to his community and Prince Edward Island.

2:21 Allen Roach (Montague-Kilmuir) acknowledged Eastern Fabricators as they grow and prosper in Prince Edward Island as a rural business.

2:23 Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) informed the House of the importance of small business saluting private enterprise on Prince Edward Island.

2:25

Questions by Members

Statements by Ministers

3:07 Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness) updated the House on the Opioid strategy and the Rapid Response Protocol on Prince Edward Island.

3:10 Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:13 Hon. Sonny Gallant (Workforce and Advanced Learning) informed the House of mental health funding and the new psychology doctorate program at the University of Prince Edward Island.

3:16 Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) and Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) added their comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) tabled, by leave, a petition signed by 93 people asking the Legislative Assembly remove HST from facility rentals for non-profit amateur sports.

ORDERED, that the Petition be received and lie on the Table.

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tabling of Documents

Hon. Premier tabled, by leave, a letter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner; and a letter from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Leader of the Third Party tabled, by leave, a document from Statistics Canada called Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin.

Reports by Committees

None

Introduction of Government Bills

The following Bills were introduced and read a First Time:

An Act to Amend the Election Expenses Act (Bill No. 37) by Hon. Jordan Brown (Justice and Public Safety)

Electoral System Referendum Act (Bill No. 38) by Hon. Jordan Brown (Justice and Public Safety)

Motions Other Than Government

Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) moved, seconded by Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald), the following Motion (No. 61):

WHEREAS participation in community programming such as amateur sports, arts and culture events, provides social, emotional, physical and psychological benefits that empower our communities contributing to well-being and success;

AND WHEREAS, non-profit organizations currently must pay HST on facility rentals such as community halls, local rinks and other facilities;

AND WHEREAS, the additional cost through this taxation make it more difficult for non-profit organizations to operate, and may discourage or prevent participation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly urge Government to eliminate the HST from facility rentals to non-profit organizations.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:27); continued by the Seconder (3:30); Hon. Heath MacDonald (Finance) (3:35); who moved, seconded by Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) the following amendment:

In the operative clause, delete the word “eliminate”, and insert the following words after “urge Government to”:

“explore providing relief from the provincial portion of”

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Debate on the amendment was commenced by the Mover; continued by the Seconder (3:42); Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald) (3:48); Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness) (3:52); Hon. Chris Palmer (Economic Development and Tourism) (3:56); Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters) (4:04); Hon. Tina Mundy (Family and Human Services) (4:10); Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) (4:21).

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

Nays (0)

Yeas (26)

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)
Leader of the Third Party
Hon. Leader of the Opposition
Darlene Compton (Belfast-Murray River)
Matthew MacKay (Kensington-Malpeque)
Jamie Fox (Borden-Kinkora)
Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale)
Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road)
Brad Trivers (Rustico-Emerald)
Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid)
Steven Myers (Georgetown-St. Peters)
Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira)

The amendment was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and resolved accordingly.

There being no further speakers on the Main Motion, as amended, the Mover then closed the debate.

Hon. Mr. Speaker put the Question on the Main Motion, which was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and resolved accordingly.

Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) moved, seconded by Leader of the Third Party, the following Motion (No. 57):

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS the Provincial Nominee Program underwent evaluations in 2012 and 2016 in which recommendations were made to develop performance measures and targets that would influence the quality and effectiveness of the program;

AND WHEREAS media has reported that a majority of applicants to the program are defaulting on their \$150,000 business deposits because they are not meeting the terms of their escrow agreements with the province;

AND WHEREAS two thirds of the PNP businesses in 2016-17, a total of 177 people, didn't receive a refund for the business portion of their deposit, with the majority simply never opening a business;

AND WHEREAS Island Investment Development Inc., a Crown corporation indicates \$18 million in net revenues as a result of forfeited deposits in 2016-17;

AND WHEREAS questions and concerns have arisen around key outcomes of the Provincial Nominee Program and how the government's internal review rated the program's performance on these outcomes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to request an audit of the Provincial Nominee Program from the Auditor General.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (4:40); continued by the Seconder (4:53); and, on his Motion, debate was adjourned.

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

7:00 p.m.

Government Motions

None

Orders of the Day (Government)

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 Tourism PEI (completed); the Department of Rural and Regional Development (completed); the Employment Development Agency (completed); and the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Pat Murphy (Rural and Regional Development) tabled the following documents: CDP Projects; Deputy Minister's Travel 2017/2018; Permanent Positions Staff List; 2018-2019 Grants and Professional Services Information; Community Development Fund 2017/2018 Projects; and Northside Windmill Enhancement Program 2017-2018 Projects.

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Paula Biggar (Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy) tabled the following documents: 2017-2018 Grants; Salaries; Deputy Minister Travel 2018-19; and Professional Services 2018-19.

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Adjournment

9:00 On Motion of Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness), seconded by Hon. Robert Henderson (Agriculture and Fisheries), the House adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly