

JOURNAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2018

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Prayers

Routine Proceedings

Journals

Journals for Friday, 18 May 2018 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege

Hon. Mr. Speaker made the following ruling:

“Honourable Members,

On Thursday, May 17, the Member for Vernon River – Stratford rose on a point of order to object to language used by the Member for Charlottetown – Parkdale during Question Period earlier that day. The language in question was the phrase “dubious and self-serving decisions,” used in reference to the work of the Legislative Management Committee. The Member for Vernon River – Stratford asked that I consider whether that language was unparliamentary.

I have consulted the transcript of Question Period for May 17, and see that the following remarks are attributed to the Member for Charlottetown – Parkdale:

“ . . . the Legislative Management Committee is controlled by government members and meets behind closed doors. This can lead to dubious and self-serving decisions such as rejecting key recommendations by the conflict of interest commissioner.”

Honourable Members, section 34(2) of the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* states that “No member shall use language or words offensive toward the House or any member.” Also, *Beauchesne’s Parliamentary Rules and Forms* (6th Edition) citation 484(3) states as follows:

“ . . . a Member will not be permitted by the Speaker to indulge in any reflections on the House itself as a political institution; or to impute to any Member or Members unworthy motives for their actions in a particular case [. . .]”

In the course of debate, members must be free in debate to disagree with or criticize decisions made by any committee of the House. In the case of the Legislative Management Committee, I recognize that this can present a challenge, as the committee meets *in camera* and does not typically table a report of decisions. Nonetheless, criticism of committee decisions should be restricted to the merits of the committee’s decisions themselves, without delving into the individual or collective motives of the members. This is particularly so in this case in that the committee’s proceedings were, pursuant to the Rules of this House, conducted in-camera and the

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member for Charlottetown-Parkdale is not a member of that committee and would not have any first hand knowledge of the deliberations that went in to this decision. Having stated this, I am reluctant to find the members' remarks to be unparliamentary but would strongly suggest that the Member for Charlottetown-Parkdale refrain from imputing unworthy motives to other members in the future and instead focus on the merits of decisions themselves.

Thank-you, Honourable members.”

Statements by Members

2:15 Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road) congratulated Maci Kinch on being awarded the Horatio Alger Canadian Scholarship.

2:16 Colin LaVie (Souris-Elmira) recognized Olivia MacNeil of Red Point on being crowned miss teen Maritime International.

2:18 Leader of the Third Party acknowledged the importance of natural asset valuation.

2:20

Questions by Members

Statements by Ministers

3:02 Hon. Robert Mitchell (Health and Wellness) announced the Renewing Provincial Diabetes Strategy.

3:06 Sidney MacEwen (Morell-Mermaid) and Leader of the Third Party added their comments.

3:10 Hon. Jordan Brown (Education, Early Learning and Culture) announced Reading Town Week 2018, which is a National Reading Campaign encouraging Canadians to read.

3:12 Hannah Bell (Charlottetown-Parkdale) added her comments.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

None

Tabling of Documents

Allen Roach (Montague-Kilmuir) tabled,

1st by leave, a Jurisdictional scan re: Bill No. 104;

2nd by leave, research on Bill No. 104;

3rd by leave, letters on Bill No. 104;

4th by leave, CFIB survey from Erin McGrath-Gaudet.

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Reports by Committees

Hal Perry (Tignish-Palmer Road), Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness, presented a report of the said committee on Committee Activities.

[Appendix ??? – Health and Wellness – Page ???]

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be received.

Introduction of Government Bills

None

Government Motions

None

Orders Of The Day (Government)

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

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTION EXPENSES ACT (Bill No. 37)

Promoter: Hon. Jordan Brown
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.

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 Finance.

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Heath MacDonald (Finance) tabled the following documents: 2018-2019 Professional and Contract Services; 2018-2019 Grants in Lieu of Property Taxes; and 2018-2019 Salary Position Listing.

During Committee of the Whole House, Hon. Richard Brown (Communities, Land and Environment) tabled, a document titled: Going forward on Climate Change Mitigation.

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

Adjournment

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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 24, 2018.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly