

The House met at 12:00 Noon.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Pursuant to the order, the Hon. Mr. Fage, Minister of Economic Development, rose to announce details of activities of Nova Scotia Business Inc. and tabled their 2003 Annual Report.

Comments were made by Messrs. Epstein and Manning MacDonald.

Pursuant to the order, the Hon. Mr. d'Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, rose to acknowledge the work of the BSE Task Force.

Comments were made with Messrs. MacDonell and McNeil.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

Pursuant to the order, the Hon. Mr. MacIsaac, Minister of Health, tabled the Annual Reports of South Shore Health 2002-2003 and the Annual Report of the Annapolis Valley Health, for the fiscal year 2002-2003.

Pursuant to the order, the Hon. Mr. Muir, Minister of Education, tabled the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Community College, 2002-2003.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notices were passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 716 - Hon. Mr. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Fisheries - reminding Nova Scotians to nominate persons for the Order of Nova Scotia.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 717 - Hon. Mr. Muir, Minister of Education -

congratulations to Literacy Nova Scotia on its efforts.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 718 - Hon. Mr. MacIsaac, Minister of Health - recognizing National Down Syndrome Awareness Week.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 719 - Hon. Mr. Barnet, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (on behalf of Hon. Mr. Hurlburt, Minister of Natural Resources - congratulations to staff at the Natural Resources Centre for efforts to educate re severe weather events.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 720 - Hon. Mr. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to the Highland Links Golf Course on its world ranking.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were introduced by the following Members, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

No. 40. An Act to Amend Chapter 23 of the Revised Statutes 1989, The Assessment Act

**(Hon. Mr. Barnet - Minister of Service Nova Scotia
And Municipal Relations)**

No. 41. An Act to Amend Chapter 277 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, The Mechanics' Lien Act

(Mr. Dexter - Leader of the Opposition)

No. 42. An Act to Amend Chapter 401 of the Revised

**Statutes, 1989, The Residential Tenancies Act, to
Provide Fair Remedies for Tenants**

(Ms. M. MacDonald - Halifax Needham)

**No. 43. An Act to Amend Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1995-96
The Education Act, to Implement the
Recommendations of the Special Education
Implementation Review Committee**

(Mr. Estabrooks - Timberlea Prospect)

**No. 44. An Act to Restore the Legal and Environmental
Rights of the People of Sydney**

(Mr. Gosse - Cape Breton Nova)

NOTICES OF MOTION

Pursuant to the order, the following notices were passed in at the Clerk's table:

Res. No. 721 - Mr. Dexter, Leader of the Opposition - calling for whistleblowers legislation.

Res. No. 722 - Mr. M. MacDonald, Cape Breton South - announcing Frito-Lays Cape Breton Sea Salt and Pepper chips.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 723 - Mr. DeWolfe, Pictou East - congratulations to the Kinsmen Club of New Glasgow for donations to Summer Street Industries.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 724 - Mr. Corbett, Cape Breton Centre - urging the Member for Halifax Fairview to review his predictions re insurance and Liberals.

Res. No. 725 - Ms. Whalen, Halifax Clayton Park -

congratulations to the Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association for its commitment to newcomers.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 726 - Mr. DeWolfe, Pictou East - congratulations to volunteers with the Pictou County Ground Search and Rescue.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 727 - Mr. Deveaux, Cole Harbour Eastern Passage - calling for the grounding of Paul Martin.

Res. No. 728 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - congratulations to Pine View Farm on receipt of a business award.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 729 - Mr. MacDonell, Hants East - congratulations to Robert Wilson and Thane Myers on a business award.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 730 - Mr. Colwell, Preston - congratulations to the East Preston United Church Laymen's Association on their work.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 731 - Hon. Mr. Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works - congratulations to Tim Macumber on his softball success.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 732 - Ms. Massey, Dartmouth East - communities must be empowered to make local decisions.

Res. No. 733 - Mr. Glavine, Kings West - we must ensure the inclusion of pork producers in the government's intervention in the agricultural crisis.

Res. No. 734 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - congratulations to Vernon Cornish on a volunteer award.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 735 - Mr. Epstein, Halifax Chebucto - congratulations to recipients of Manning Innovation Awards.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 736 - Mr. Sampson, Victoria-The-Lakes - calling for improvement to MacDonald Road, Scotch Lake.

Res. No. 737 - Hon. Mr. Fage, Minister of Economic Development - recognizing the importance of broad band internet access.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 738 - Ms. Raymond, Halifax Atlantic - calling for funding for Family Services Association offices.

Res. No. 739 - Mr. McNeil, Annapolis - government should act on the BSE Task force recommendations.

Res. No. 740 - Hon. Mr. Baker, Minister of Justice - congratulations to Province House staff of choice of a Christmas card.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 741 - Mr. Parker, Pictou West - congratulations to John Windebank on his 90th birthday.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 742 - Ms. Whalen, Halifax Clayton Park -

congratulations to Christopher Boland on receipt of an award.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 743 - Hon. Mr. MacDonald, Minister of Tourism and Culture - congratulations to Inverness on its 100th birthday.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 744 - Mr. Deveaux, Cole Harbour-Eastern Passage - Liberals should be honest about their shortcomings.

Res. No. 745 - Mr. MacDonell, Hants East - congratulations to Wilbert Dearman and Borden Oakley on their volunteer service.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days' notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 746 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - congrats to Graeme and Barb Gladwin and staff on a business award.

Res. No. 747 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - congratulations to Oak Island Inn and Spa manager Helmuth Weigert and staff on recognition.

Res. No. 748 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - recognizing Michael Himmelman on his baseball success.

Res. No. 749 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - recognizing Jeff Bolivar for his political participation.

Res. No. 750 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - recognizing Sgt. Doug Rafuse for his service.

Res. No. 751 - Hon. Ms. Bolivar-Getson, Minister of Human Resources - recognizing Michelle Hayward in establishing the Badminton Training Centre.

Res. No. 752 - Hon. Mr. Clarke, Minister of Energy - commending universities and colleges for their environmental concerns.

Res. No. 753 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Oyster Pond Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Res. No. 754 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Ostrea Lake and Pleasant Point Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Res. No. 755 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Lawrencetown Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Services Ladies Auxiliary.

Res. No. 756 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Musquodoboit Lions Club.

Res. No. 757 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Musquodoboit Harbour Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Res. No. 758 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Chezzetcook Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Res. No. 759 - Mr. Dooks, Eastern Shore - commending the Lawrencetown Community Centre.

Res. No. 760 - Mr Samson, Richmond - congratulations to Susan MacNeil and Sacred Heart on hosting a milling frolic.

Res. No. 761 - Mr. Samson, Richmond- congratulations to Marie Burke and Sacred Heart on hosting a milling frolic.

Res. No. 762 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Margie Campbell's contribution to a milling frolic.

Res. No. 763 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Cathy Johnston's contribution to a milling frolic.

No. 764 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Louise Campbell's contribution to a milling frolic.

No. 765 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Elizabeth MacNeil's contribution to a milling frolic.

Res. No. 766 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Margaret Campbell's contribution to a milling frolic.

Res. No. 767 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Carmaine Walker's contribution to a milling frolic.

Res. No. 768 - Mr. Samson, Richmond - acknowledging Theresa Cash's contribution to a milling frolic.

Res. No. 769 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Valerie Fahey.

Res. No. 770 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Ron Ward.

Res. No. 771 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Raelene Wilson.

Res. No. 772 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Bill Hickey.

Res. No. 773 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Grant MacDonald.

Res. No. 774 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Oxford Elementary students.

Res. No. 775 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Springhill Elementary students.

Res. No. 776 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to inmates and staff of Springhill Correction facility.

Res. No. 777 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Laurie Steward.

Res. No. 778 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Mark Tanner.

Res. No. 779 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Wentworth and Volunteer Fire Department.

Res. No. 780 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to the Wild Blueberry and Maple Centre.

Res. No. 781 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to the Springhill Youth Centre and Springhill Department of Leisure Services.

Res. No. 782 - Hon. The Speaker - congratulations to Marion Murray on her 90th birthday.

Res. No. 783 - Mr. Hines, Waverley Fall River-Beaver Bank - congratulations to the Waverley Ratepayers Association on their volunteer work.

Res. No. 784 - Mr. Langille, Colchester North - applauding the hard work of all Nova Scotia Blueberry harvesters.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Chairman of the Committee on Law Amendments, reported that the Committee had met and considered the following Bill and recommended the same to the favourable consideration of the House, with certain amendments:

No. 15. Youth Secretariat Act

The foregoing Bill was ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House on Bills.

ROYAL ASSENT

At the hour of 3:09 p.m. this day, Her Honour, the Honourable Myra A Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, came to the Chamber of the House of Assembly and seated in the Chair was addressed by Mr. Speaker as follows:

“May it please Your Honour, the General Assembly of the Province has at its present Session passed certain Bills to which in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour’s Assent:

Her Honour was then pleased to give her assent to the following Bills:

No. 1 - Automobile Insurance Act

No. 2 - Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act/Labour Standards Code

No. 6 - Public Service Superannuation Act

No. 7 - Labour Standards Code/Vital Statistics Act

No. 8 - Volunteer Protection Act

No. 10 - Municipal Elections Act

**No. 11 - Collection Agencies Act/Consumer Creditors
Conduct Act**

**No. 15 - Court Jurisdiction and Proceedings Transfer
Act**

Her Honour was then pleased to retire.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Hon. the Premier then moved that the House adjourn to meet again at the call of the Speaker.