

The House met at 2:00 P.M.

Prayers.

TABLING REPORTS, REGULATIONS AND OTHER PAPERS

Hon. B. Estabrooks, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, tabled the Surplus Crown Property Disposal Report for the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Hon. G. Steele, Minister responsible for the Securities Act, rose to announce the appointment of Professor Dawn Russell, Q.C. to act as Nova Scotia's official on a federal securities regulation advisory panel.

Comments were made by Hon. Manning MacDonald and Hon. C. d'Entremont.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 617 - Hon. M. More, Minister of Labour and Workforce Development - welcoming the delegates of the Forum of Labour Market Ministers National Best Practice Workshop.

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

Res. No. 618 - Hon. Maureen MacDonald, Minister of Health - recognizing those involved with the Walk to Remember honouring babies lost to miscarriage or stillborn birth.

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

Res. No. 619 - Hon. P. Paris, Minister of Economic and Rural Development - wishing Trade Team Nova Scotia and its partners well.

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 bill was introduced by the following Member, read a first and ordered to be read a second time on a future day:

No. 40. An Act to Amend Chapter 246 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Labour Standards Code, Respecting a Protected Emergency Leave

(Hon. M. More - Minister of Labour and Workforce Development)

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

Res. No. 620 - Hon. S. McNeil, Leader of the Official Opposition - government must treat Nova Scotia Community College teachers fairly.

Res. No. 621 - Hon. C. d'Entremont, Argyle - recognizing October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.

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

Res. No. 622 - L. Zann, Truro-Bible Hill - recognizing Bob Pierson on being selected as the Truro and area Olympic torchbearer and for lighting the cauldron on November 17th, 2009.

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

Res. No. 623 - A. Younger, Dartmouth East - congratulating the mother of the Minister of Education and Labour Workforce and Development for getting cable to watch House proceedings.

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

Res. No. 624 - C. Porter, Hants West - recognizing the 1958 Windsor Academy Boys Hockey Team.

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

Res. No. 625 - C. MacKinnon, Pictou East - recognizing the years of service to District 13 Wayne Buttle has given and remembering his efforts in constructing the Ivor MacDonald Memorial Rink 35 years ago this month.

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

Res. No. 626 - H. Theriault, Digby-Annapolis - congratulating Zane Lynch on his luck of having his photo taken with the Stanley Cup and Sidney Crosby, along with having his poster and T-shirt autographed.

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

Res. No. 627 - A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West - recognizing Kyle Farrell on receiving the MVP Award with the male under-16 hockey team during the Atlantic Challenge Cup.

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

Res. No. 628 - B. Skabar, Cumberland North - recognizing the Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival for holding a successful event.

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

Res. No. 629 - K. Regan, Bedford-Birch Cove - recognizing those involved with the Halifax-Dartmouth branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association's 11th Annual Music for Mental Health Art Exhibition and Sale.

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

Res. No. 630 - Hon. M. Scott, Cumberland South - congratulating the Cumberland County 4-H program.

With the unanimous consent of the House, the usual two days'

notice was waived and the motion carried nem con.

Res. No. 631 - M. Whynott, Hammonds Plains-Upper Sackville - congratulating Jillian D'Alessio who competed in the K-2 Women's 1,000 metre race and finished 9th.

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

Res. No. 632 - A. Younger, Dartmouth East - congratulating Fares Real Estate on the King's Wharf project.

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

Res. No. 633 - Hon. C. Clarke, Cape Breton North - recognizing the Bras d'Or Seniors and Pensioners Club.

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

Res. No. 634 - J. Morton, Kings North - congratulating the Northville Farm Heritage Centre.

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

Res. No. 635 - H. Theriault, Digby-Annapolis - recognizing Murray Bishop who was by the helm of the Virginia at the Tall Ship Parade of Sail on July 20th.

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

Res. No. 636 - K. Bain, Victoria-The Lakes - remembering the late Dave Strickland.

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

Res. No. 637 - Hon. M. Scott, Cumberland South - congratulating Mitchell Jewkes on an outstanding performance of Buddy Holly in *The Buddy Holly Story*.

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

Res. No. 638 - A. MacLeod, Cape Breton West - recognizing Run for the Cure in the Sydney area.

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

Res. No. 639 - K. Bain, Victoria-The Lakes - recognizing Gary MacDonald on receiving the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal from Her Honour Mayann Francis.

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

Res. No. 640 - Hon. C. Clarke, Cape Breton North - recognizing Rev. Dr. Bernard O'Connor for his generosity and wishing him well with his continued ministry and academic pursuits.

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

Res. No. 641 - Hon. C. d'Entremont, Argyle - Premier and Minister of Health must do what they promised during the election.

Res. No. 642 - D. Whalen, Halifax Clayton Park - recognizing the Until the Violence Stops Festival and organizers.

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

Res. No. 643 - C. Porter, Hants West - recognizing John DeCoste, inaugural winner of the Atlantic University Sport Media Award

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

SPEAKER'S RULING

"The honourable member for Cumberland South rose on a point of order in yesterday's proceedings. The gist of his point, I thought, was to the effect that oral questions on different subjects can be asked by a member

through the use of the initial question and two supplementary questions. The reason I was led to believe that this was the substance of the honourable member's query was my perceived reaction to the few words I had to say relating to supplementary questions just prior to yesterday's Question Period.

The honourable member did not, on a reading of Hansard, say this at all but did state words to the effect that the supplementary questions could be posed to different ministers in the same series of questioning by a member. With this, certainly I agree. In other words, in at least situations where the question is somewhat broad-based, supplementary questions could be posed to different ministers, and that's using up the three questions available to the member. Some examples must entail subjects such as departmental scrutiny or occupational health and safety compliance, as examples.

I would point out, however, that while our express Rules are silent on the matters raised in the point of order, there is a long-standing usage or custom of the House to allow a member the opportunity to ask three questions in a series. Namely, the initial question and two supplementary questions. The long-standing use of the word supplementary is indicative in itself of what the nature of the two questions following the initial question will be. The noun 'supplement' in the American College Dictionary is defined in part as "something added to complete a thing, supply a deficiency, or reinforce or extend a whole."

In other words, as Speaker Mitchell stated on March 9, 1972, "A supplementary question, I think, as all honourable members appreciate, should arise from the answer given to the original question and I think that when a question is not answered for one reason or another, then a supplementary really shouldn't arise out of the answer." The same decision was made by Speaker MacLean on March 13, 1975, using similar reasoning.

Speaker Fogarty on December 3, 1997 very clearly stated what I believe to be the practice in this Chamber. He stated, "I will permit a certain amount of preamble and set-up to the first original question. All honourable members know the two supplementary questions should follow and remain on the subject that was presented in the initial question. The two supplementaries should follow from that original question. The subjects were changed here in midstream a moment ago and I will not permit it indefinitely. I want a question and the supplementaries on the same topic."

Now, I point out these decisions of the Chair as evidence of a long-standing custom or usage as to the scope or the breadth of a supplementary question. In the text by Marleau and Monpetit on Pages 430 and 431, supplementary questions are dealt with at some length. The authors point out that at the discretion of the Speaker, at least in the House of Commons, as to the number of supplementaries to be allowed. The guiding principle is that a supplementary question is meant to flow from or be based upon the information given to the House in the response of the minister as a result of the initial question.

So I trust, honourable members, that this will be of some assistance to you.”

SUPPLY UNTO HER MAJESTY

On motion that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on Supply, a debate ensued during which the following took part: H. Epstein, K. Regan and Hon. C. d'Entremont. The question being put by Mr. Speaker, the motion carried nem con.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

The Chairman took the chair of the Committee.

On motion, the adjourned debate of the following Resolution was then resumed:

No. E2, relating to the Department of Community Services. STOOD.

On motion, the following Resolutions were called:

No. E24, relating to the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. STOOD.

No. E32, relating to the Department of Seniors. STOOD.

No. E35, relating to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. ADJOURNED.

On motion, the Committee rose and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair. The Chairman reported that the Committee had made considerable progress and begged leave to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker adjourned the House to meet Friday, October 16th at 9:00 A.M.

MOTIONS UNDER RULE 5(5)

Mr. Speaker interrupted the business having received notices of motion under Rule 5(5). The topic of late debate as submitted by Hon. S. McNeil, Annapolis:

"Therefore be it resolved that the House of Assembly recognize the importance of the Heating Assistance Rebate Program and the serious impact government's decision to reduce the maximum rebate allowance for this program from \$450 to \$200 will have on Nova Scotians this year."

A debate ensued during which the following took part: H. David Wilson and Hon. R. Jennex.