

The House met at 11:00 A.M.

At the hour of 11:00 A.M. this day, His Honour the Honourable John James Grant, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, came to the Chamber of the House of Assembly and, seated in the Speaker's Chair, was pleased to prorogue this, the Fourth Session of the Sixty-First General Assembly with the following speech:

“Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, in closing this, the Fourth Session of the Sixty-first General Assembly, I thank you for the attention, consideration and care you have given to the legislation and measures that have come before you.

The last session focused on jobs and preparing for future opportunities. As well as adding jobs, the Commission on Building Our New Economy was appointed to seize opportunities and ensure that benefits are shared by communities across the province.

Providing better care sooner also continued to be a priority as the province's fifth Collaborative Emergency Centre was established. The centres keep emergency rooms open and reduce wait times, with 24/7 access to emergency services and same-day or next-day medical appointments.

Government is also ensuring lower, fairer power rates for Nova Scotians, with legislation passed last session. The Act capped the amount ratepayers cover for executive salaries at Nova Scotia Power. It eliminates executive bonuses from the rate base and makes multi-year rate hearings mandatory so families can better plan the household budget.

This was in addition to the federal loan guarantees secured by Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador recently for the Lower Churchill project which will save Nova Scotia ratepayers about \$100 million over the life of the project. That means Nova Scotians are that much closer to the good jobs, lower, more stable power rates and 35 years of clean energy that will come with development of the Lower Churchill project.

Other highlights from the session included:

Legislation that allows domestic violence victims to get out of their lease early, without worrying about the financial implications;

Approving legislation to better support Nova Scotia's creative economy with a one-stop shop for creative businesses;

Imposing strict rules for debt collectors to better protect Nova Scotians and to ensure they are treated with dignity and respect;

Making life a bit more affordable for Nova Scotians with a spouse or a partner in long-term care by ensuring they keep more of their shared income;

Passing legislation that gives police another tool to help bring missing persons home to their families and loved ones;

Amending the Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression, to protect the rights of transgender people.

In total, 33 bills received the approval of the House, including Private and Local Bills.

I thank you for the ample provision you have made for the Public Service and I assure you that care and prudence will be exercised to ensure that the amounts voted are expended in the best interests of Nova Scotia.

I'll bid you farewell."

Hon. D. Dexter, Premier, then said:

"Mr. Speaker, and members of the House of Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor, that this, the Fourth Session of the Sixty-First General Assembly be prorogued and this session is accordingly prorogued, and that the Fifth Session of the said General Assembly meet at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of this day for the dispatch of business."

His Honour was then pleased to retire and the Speaker withdrew.

The House rose at 11:10 A.M.

*Neil R. Ferguson
Chief Clerk, House of Assembly*