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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



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Speaker: Hon. Kathleen Casey

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

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First Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly

Friday, 6 July 2007

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Districts and Members

District #1 Souris-Elmira	Campbell, Allan
District #2 Georgetown-St. Peters	Currie, Mike
District #3 Montague-Kilmuir	Bagnall, Jim
District #4 Belfast-Murray River	Binns, Pat
District #5 Vernon River-Stratford	McIsaac, Alan
District #6 Stratford-Kinlock	Dunsford, Cynthia
District #7 Morell-Mermaid	Crane, Olive
District #8 Tracadie-Hillsborough Park	Watts, Buck
District #9 York-Oyster Bed	Vessey, Robert
District #10 Charlottetown-Sherwood	Mitchell, Robert
District #11 Charlottetown-Parkdale	Currie, Doug
District #12 Charlottetown-Victoria Park	Brown, Richard
District #13 Charlottetown-Brighton	Ghiz, Robert
District #14 Charlottetown-Lewis Point	Casey, Kathleen
District #15 West Royalty-Springvale	Dumville, Bush
District #16 Cornwall-Meadowbank	MacKinley, Ron
District #17 Kellys Cross-Cumberland	Docherty, Valerie
District #18 Rustico-Emerald	Bertram, Carolyn
District #19 Borden-Kinkora	Webster, George
District #20 Kensington-Malpeque	Sheridan, Wes
District #21 Summerside-Wilmot	Sherry, Janice
District #22 Summerside-St. Eleanors	Greenan, Gerard
District #23 Tyne Valley-Linkletter	Biggar, Paula
District #24 Evangeline-Miscouche	Gallant, Sonny
District #25 O'Leary-Inverness	Henderson, Robert
District #26 Alberton-Roseville	Murphy, Pat
District #27 Tignish-Palmer Road	LeClair, Neil

Members and Districts

Bagnall, Jim	District #3 Montague-Kilmuir
Bertram, Carolyn	District #18 Rustico-Emerald
Biggar, Paula	District #23 Tyne Valley-Linkletter
Binns, Pat	District #4 Belfast-Murray River
Brown, Richard	District #12 Charlottetown-Victoria Park
Campbell, Allan	District #1 Souris-Elmira
Casey, Kathleen	District #14 Charlottetown-Lewis Point
Crane, Olive	District #7 Morell-Mermaid
Currie, Doug	District #11 Charlottetown-Parkdale
Currie, Mike	District #2 Georgetown-St. Peters
Docherty, Valerie	District #17 Kellys Cross-Cumberland
Dumville, Bush	District #15 West Royalty-Springvale
Dunsford, Cynthia	District #6 Stratford-Kinlock
Gallant, Sonny	District #24 Evangeline-Miscouche
Ghiz, Robert	District #13 Charlottetown-Brighton
Greenan, Gerard	District #22 Summerside-St. Eleanors
Henderson, Robert	District #25 O'Leary-Inverness
LeClair, Neil	District #27 Tignish-Palmer Road
MacKinley, Ron	District #16 Cornwall-Meadowbank
McIsaac, Alan	District #5 Vernon River-Stratford
Mitchell, Robert	District #10 Charlottetown - Sherwood
Murphy, Pat	District #26 Alberton-Roseville
Sheridan, Wes	District #20 Kensington-Malpeque
Sherry, Janice	District #21 Summerside-Wilmot
Vessey, Robert	District #9 York-Oyster Bed
Watts, Buck	District #8 Tracadie-Hillsborough Park
Webster, George	District #19 Borden-Kinkora

The Legislature sat at 4:00 p.m.

Clerk: Hon. members, welcome.

I wish to advise that I've received a communication from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor:

July 6, 2007
Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Province House
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Dear Mr. MacKay,

I am directed by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to indicate through you to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly that Her Honour is constrained from opening the first session of the 63rd General Assembly of this Province until such time as Honourable Members have elected one from among their numbers as Speaker of the House.

Further, Her Honour is anxious for the Honourable Members to know that she will proceed immediately to the opening of the session when one such Member is duly elected as Speaker.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
Cindy Cheverie
Executive Assistant

Hon. members, pursuant to Rule 8(3) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to advise that the office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received one written notice of intention to seek the Speakership of the Legislative Assembly. Notice has been received from Ms. Kathleen Casey, hon. Member for Charlottetown-Lewis Point. Hon. members, the Rules of the Legislative Assembly presume a secret

balloting procedure and do not address the situation of only one member seeking the Speakership. As a servant of this House, I seek your direction.

Premier Ghiz: Mr. Clerk, given that there is only one eligible candidate for the Speakership, a secret balloting procedure is unnecessary. I would therefore move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the hon. Member for Charlottetown-Lewis Point be declared elected by acclamation as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

Clerk: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

Speaker (Casey): Hon. members, it is my pleasure today to express my grateful acknowledgment of the honour conferred on me by the House in electing me to be your Speaker. Conscious as I am of my comparative inexperience in parliamentary procedure, I would have hesitated in accepting a position involving such responsibility were it not for the fact that I know I shall be able, at all times, to rely with confidence upon the courtesy, forbearance and kindness of every member of the Assembly.

Again, my thanks to you, and I now submit myself to the House.

Premier Ghiz: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that Ms. Paula Biggar, hon. Member for Tyne Valley-Linkletter, be elected Deputy Speaker of this House.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Premier Ghiz: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that Warrant Officer J. A. MacDonald, C.D., of Charlottetown, be appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms of this House.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Premier Ghiz: Madam Speaker, I also move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that Sgt. Maurice R. Fitzpatrick of Tracadie Cross be appointed as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of this House.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Premier Ghiz: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that a special Committee on Committees be appointed, said committee to prepare and report back with all dispatch, a list of hon. members to compose the Standing Committees ordered pursuant to the Rules of this House, and that the said Committee on Committees be composed of the following members: hon. Member for York-Oyster Bed as chair; hon. Leader of the Opposition; hon. Provincial Treasurer; hon. Member for Montague-Kilmuir; and hon. Member for Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Speaker: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Speaker: Hon. members, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor having declared that she would proceed to open the 1st Session of the 63rd General Assembly after a Speaker has been elected, I hereby propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of Her Honour's arrival.

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod: Her Honour requests permission to enter the Chamber.

Speaker: May it please Your Honour:

It is my duty to inform you that the Legislative Assembly has been pleased to elect me to the important and time honoured position of Speaker and I hereby present myself for Your Honour's approval.

Clerk: Ms. Casey, I am commanded by her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that she is fully sensible to your zeal for the public service and of your sufficiency to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected by this Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, she doth now readily approve of its choice, and allow and confirm you to be its Speaker.

Speaker: Your Honour having been pleased to approve the choice of the Assembly in electing me to be its Speaker, it now becomes my duty, in the name of and on behalf of the Assembly, to claim and demand that they have all of their ancient and accustomed right and privileges, most especially: freedom from arrest, freedom of speech in debate, access to Your Honour when they think the welfare of the public service demands it, and the most favourable consideration be put on all of their proceedings.

And, on my own behalf, I beg to request that any wrong of mine not be imputed to the Assembly.

Clerk: Madam Speaker,

Her Honour has the utmost confidence in the loyalty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's person and government in the wisdom, temper and prudence which will accompany all its proceedings. She doth most willingly and readily grant and allow

them all their privileges in as full and ample a manner as they may have at any time heretofore been granted and allowed.

And, with respect to yourself Madam Speaker, though Her Honour is sensible that you do not stand in need of such assurance, Her Honour will ever put the most favourable construction on your words and on your actions.

**The Honourable Barbara A. Hagerman
Lieutenant Governor:** Please be seated.

Madam Speaker and hon. members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen and to wish you success as hon. members of this distinguished Assembly.

I wish to advise that my government is not prepared to commence a legislative session at this time. However, it is my fervent hope that divine providence will guide you in all your deliberations.

Thank you.

Clerk: Hon. Madam Speaker and hon. members, I am commanded by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that it is her pleasure that this Legislative Assembly attend before Her Honour in this Assembly at a time to be determined by the Speaker at which time Her Honour will formally proceed with further sessional business of the 63rd General Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Vessey: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that this House adjourn to the call of the Speaker.

Speaker: Before putting the question, hon. members, I wish to invite all of those present here today to a reception on the first floor.

It has also been my distinct pleasure to be elected as your Speaker. I am especially pleased to have family visiting with me from parts of this country, Ontario and Nova Scotia, especially my dad. Gerald Tonary is here today, which makes this an extra special day.

Now for the question.

Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until the call of the Speaker.

