

Prince Edward Island

Daily Journal for the
Legislative Assembly for
Thursday, October 18, 2007

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Journals:

Journals for Tuesday, October 16, 2007 were adopted by the House without amendment.

Doors were opened

Matters of Privilege:

There were none.

Statements by Members:

- 2:09 Robert Mitchell (Charlottetown-Sherwood) made a Statement on the Food Banks' 2007 'Drive Away Hunger Tour'.
- 2:10 Buck Watts (Tracadie-Hillsborough Park) made a Statement on Habitat for Humanity PEI.
- 2:12 Honourable Leader of the Opposition made a Statement on the 'Drive Away Hunger Tour'.

2:15 Questions by Members:

Statements by Ministers:

Honourable Doug Currie (Health, Social Services and Seniors) made a Statement on a new initiative of government, the Seniors' Emergency Home Repair Program.

Honourable Leader of the Opposition added her comments.

- 3:00 Honourable Gerard Greenan (Education and Attorney General) made a Statement on National School Safety Week.

Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer) made a Statement recognizing International Credit Union Day.

Honourable George Webster (Environment, Energy and Forestry) made a Statement on the Prince Edward Island Model Forest Network fall festival in Richmond and on the Fall Frolic in New Harmony.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions:

There were none.

Tabling of Documents:

Honourable Richard Brown (Development and Technology) tabled, by Command, the 2005-2006 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Business Development Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2006.

Honourable Richard Brown (Development and Technology) tabled, by Command, the 2006-2007 Annual Report for the Prince Edward Island Business Development Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2007.

- 3:11 Honourable Allan Campbell (Fisheries and Aquaculture) tabled, by Command, the 2006/2007 PEI Aquaculture and Fisheries Research Initiative Inc. for the period ending March 31, 2007.

Reports by Committees:

There were none.

Introduction of Government Bills:

The following Bills were introduced and read a First Time:

An Act to Amend the Civil Service Act (Bill No. 9) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

- 3:13 **An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act** (Bill No. 6) by Honourable Carolyn Bertram (Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour).

An Act to Amend the Gasoline Tax Act (Bill No. 10) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

- 3:15 **An Act to Amend the Revenue Tax Act** (Bill No. 11) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

An Act to Amend the Public Purchasing Act (Bill No. 12) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

An Act to Amend the Real Property Assessment Act (Bill No. 14) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act (Bill No. 15) by Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer).

- 3:18 **An Act to Amend the Pharmaceutical Information Act** (Bill No. 13) by Honourable Doug Currie (Health).

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT:

Honourable Olive Crane moved, seconded by Jim Bagnall, the following Motion for a Resolution (Motion No. 5):

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island has a long and proud tradition of military service;

AND WHEREAS these brave men and women risk, and sometimes forfeit, their lives when asked to serve our country;

AND WHEREAS the 140 members of the Prince Edward Island Regiment come from all walks of life;

AND WHEREAS this year 15 members of the Prince Edward Island Regiment completed a six- month tour of military service in Afghanistan;

AND WHEREAS the province of Prince Edward Island does not have any legislation in place to protect the interests of Prince Edward Island Reservists and employers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of this Assembly direct government to consult with interested parties and introduce legislation that would accommodate the interests of both the Prince Edward Island Reservists and employers.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (3:20); continued by the Seconder (3:35); and Honourable Carolyn Bertram (Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour); who moved, seconded by the Hon. Premier, the following amendment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of this Assembly unanimously embrace the spirit of this debate and agree to dissolve this House into the Committee of the Whole and move to Second Reading of *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act* (job protection for reservists).

Honourable Madam Speaker advised that the amendment was not in order as the question presently before the House was in the form of a motion. The House may only have one question under consideration at any one time, therefore it would have to first come to some decision on the motion before the House (pass the motion, defeat the motion or adjourn debate) before moving on to new business such as the consideration of a bill. The amendment as put would not bring debate on the question before the House in the form of a motion to conclusion and would, if passed, move the House to immediately to other proceedings without dispensing with the question before it. As a result, Madam Speaker ruled the amendment out of order.

Debate was motion was then resumed by Honourable Premier; there being no further speakers, the Mover closed the debate.

Honourable Madam Speaker put the Question. A Recorded Division being sought, the names were recorded by the Clerk as follows:

Nays (0)

Yeas (23)

Janice Sherry (Summerside-Wilmot)
Honourable Gerard Greenan (Education and Attorney General)
Honourable Neil LeClair (Agriculture)
Honourable George Webster (Environment, Energy and Forestry)
Honourable Valerie Docherty (Tourism)
Honourable Allan Campbell (Fisheries and Aquaculture)
Cynthia Dunsford (Stratford-Kinlock)
Honourable Carolyn Bertram (Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour)
Honourable Premier
Honourable Wes Sheridan (Provincial Treasurer)
Robert Vessey (Government House Leader)
Honourable Doug Currie (Health, Social Services and Seniors)
Pat Murphy (Alberton-Roseville)
Robert Henderson (O'Leary-Inverness)
Buck Watts (Tracadie-Hillsborough Park)
Bush Dumville (West Royalty-Springvale)
Honourable Leader of the Opposition
Jim Bagnall (Montague-Kilmuir)
Paula Biggar (Tyne Valley-Linkletter)
Alan Mclsaac (Vernon River-Stratford)
Sonny Gallant (Evangeline-Miscouche)
Robert Mitchell (Charlottetown-Sherwood)
Michael Currie (Georgetown-St. Peters)

The Motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and was resolved accordingly.

Honourable Carolyn Bertram (Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour), then sought, and received, unanimous consent of the House to proceed with Second Reading and committee of the whole house consideration of An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act (Bill No. 6).

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT:

The following Bill was read a Second Time and referred to a Committee of the Whole House:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT (Bill No. 6)

Promoter: Honourable Carolyn Bertram
Chair: Alan Mclsaac

After some time spent therein, Honourable Madam Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported the Bill agreed to without amendment.

ORDERED, that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

Honourable Madam Speaker, as previously agreed to by the House, called

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT:

Honourable Olive Crane moved, seconded by Michael Currie, the following Motion for a Resolution (Motion No. 3):

WHEREAS the Prince Edward Island Tourism Advisory Council has identified the Confederation Trail as a priority area for development to enhance the tourism product offered on Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS government, local groups, communities and Islanders have worked together in partnership to promote and develop a shared use walking and cycling trail for the safe enjoyment of Islanders and visitors;

AND WHEREAS community and economic development opportunities in both rural and urban Prince Edward Island have been enhanced as a result of the Confederation Trail;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly acknowledge the importance of the Confederation Trail to Prince Edward Island's economy;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge Islanders to utilize the Confederation Trail to promote healthy lifestyles, education and discovery.

Debate was commenced by the Mover (4:15); continued by the Seconder (4:47); Honourable Valerie Docherty (Tourism) (4:55); Cynthia Dunsford (Stratford-Kinlock) (4:58); and, on her Motion, debate was adjourned.

5:00 Honourable Madam Speaker declared recess until 7:00 p.m.

7:00 P.M.

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS:

There were none.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT:

Honourable Carolyn Bertram (Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour), sought, and received, unanimous consent of the House to proceed with Third Reading of An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act (Bill No. 6).

The following Bill was then read a Third Time and Passed:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT (Bill No. 6).

The Order of the Day being read for the consideration of the Estimates in Committee, Paula Biggar (Tyne Valley-Linkletter), took the Chair of the Committee to further consider the Estimates for the Department of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour (completed); Department of Development and Technology (completed); P.E.I. Business Development Inc. (completed); Employment Development Agency (completed); and the Department of Tourism.

Honourable Madam Speaker resumed the Chair and the Chairperson reported progress and

requested leave to sit again, to which the House agreed.

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion of Robert Vessey (Government House Leader), seconded by Honourable Ron MacKinley (Transportation and Public Works), the House adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2007.

Charles H. MacKay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly