

Daily sitting 66

Thursday, May 15, 2014

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. Riordon gave Notice of Motion 62 that on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. McLean:

THAT, in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1) and by Special Order of the House adopted November 6, 2013, the House sit on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.;

THAT this Special Order come into effect immediately upon its adoption and remain in effect for the remainder of the Fourth Session of the Fifty-Seventh Legislative Assembly.

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Hon. Mr. P. Robichaud requested leave of the House to move a motion to sit this evening beyond the ordinary hour of adjournment, and leave was denied.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 44, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Doucet:

WHEREAS the government intends to implement new natural gas royalties effective April 1; and

WHEREAS the proposed royalties are much lower than were recommended in the LaPierre Report; and

WHEREAS the new natural gas royalties are poised to be the lowest in North America; and

WHEREAS the new royalties are structured to promote rapid, indiscriminate development of shale gas reserves without regard to any long term benefit from the resource; and

WHEREAS in this race for the bottom in resource value, the government is squandering the potential for any real wealth that might come to the province from these resources; and

WHEREAS these are non-renewable resources which, if squandered now, cannot be replaced; and

WHEREAS the government has not shared the advice papers on which these radically low royalty plans have been developed; and

WHEREAS this matter is vitally important to New Brunswick people and our future;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the provincial government to delay the implementation of the new royalties to allow for the proposed natural gas royalty regulations to be referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments along with the relevant studies and recommendations supporting the royalty plan, and provide a reasonable opportunity for New Brunswick citizens to review this information, provide feedback and receive responses from officials of the Department of Energy and Mines in regards to the rationale for the implementation of this particular royalty scheme.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Urquhart, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. C. Landry took the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Urquhart resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 44 was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 60, Mr. D. Landry moved, seconded by Mr. Melanson:

WHEREAS the Alward government has indicated that participation in the shared risk pension plan would be voluntary;

WHEREAS the Premier imposed the shared risk pension plan on civil servants and retirees without giving them an opportunity for negotiation;

WHEREAS the Alward government provided the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation with an opportunity to negotiate the reform of its pension plan;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the provincial government to halt plans for implementation of the shared risk pension plan model and to immediately announce a new and inclusive process of engagement for public pension reform whereby the government would meet with bargaining and non-bargaining groups as well as other pension plan representatives to review all relevant financial information, discuss all possible options for pension reform, and establish a process for negotiation.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. C. Landry resumed the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. Urquhart resumed the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

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And then, 6 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.