

Daily sitting 3

Thursday, December 4, 2014

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker introduced the new Chaplain for the session, Father Donald Savoie, pastor of Paroisse Sainte-Anne-des-Pays-Bas.

---

Mr. Speaker introduced the new pages for the session: Daniel Curwin, Moncton; Kate Deveau, Fredericton.

The returning pages are: Julie Frigault, Moncton; Ben Graham, Jacksonville; Jack Simpson, Fredericton; Lindsay Hodd, Musquash; Phoebe Marmura Brown, Fredericton; Alex Robichaud, Laval, Quebec.

---

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested that certain Congratulatory Messages be delivered during Statements by Ministers.

---

It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

---

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Melanson,

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*.

By Hon. Ms. Landry,

Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

---

Mr. Stewart gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Thursday, December 11, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS the Province faces significant financial challenges;

WHEREAS the Liberal government made a promise to create 5,000 jobs by the end of the first year of its mandate;

WHEREAS the natural resources sector is a major economic generator;

WHEREAS the natural gas industry has been well established in a safe and responsible way in New Brunswick for a number of years;

WHEREAS the safe, responsible development of natural gas and a stable domestic supply thereof are key opportunities for the province;

WHEREAS the government's intention to introduce a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing puts New Brunswick and its economy at risk;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly supports the safe, responsible development of natural gas and urges the government not to introduce barriers to its development.

---

Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, December 11, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Wilson:

WHEREAS the President of the Riverview Liberal Association sent an email on November 10, 2014, advising that government road contracts would be made available to supporters of the government, and that the Executive Assistant to the Minister of Social Development had enquired with respect to Liberal companies and individuals to be awarded road work contracts;

WHEREAS the Minister of Health, on November 21, 2014, terminated the employment of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Vitalité Health Network;

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Vitalité Health Network issued a statement on November 25, 2014, to indicate that it did not question the qualifications of the former President and Chief Executive Officer, that to the best of its knowledge, the former President and Chief Executive Officer met all the requirements of his mandate, that it was not consulted prior to the termination, and that if it had been consulted, it would have indicated that there were no reasons for the dismissal of the former President and Chief Executive Officer;

AND WHEREAS these instances fall short of the government's commitment to do things differently;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly condemn the government for its failure to live up to its commitment to increase transparency and accountability in government.

---

Mr. Wetmore gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, December 11, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS it was revealed on or before September 3, 2014, that criminal charges had been laid against the Member for Carleton-Victoria, who was then the Liberal candidate in that riding in the September 22, 2014, general election;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party and its candidates made comments that referred to the laying of the criminal charges as “suspicious” and “very troubling” and that questioned the timing of the release of the news;

WHEREAS those comments also called into question whether the Member for Carleton and the Member for Rothesay, who were then candidates in those ridings in the September 22, 2014, general election, in their then capacities as Premier and Attorney General, respectively, were involved inappropriately in the process to determine whether criminal charges should be laid against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria were dropped on or about September 12, 2014;

WHEREAS the Premier, who was then running for the office he now holds, then called for an independent review of the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS the Liberal Party also set out a series of questions with respect to the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria;

WHEREAS those questions remain unanswered;

WHEREAS those unanswered questions bring into question the integrity of the administration of justice in the Province of New Brunswick;

AND WHEREAS it is in the public interest to have those unanswered questions answered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to appoint a commission under the *Inquiries Act* to investigate whether there was any political or other interference whatsoever in the processes to determine whether to lay and to withdraw the criminal charges against the Member for Carleton-Victoria.

---

Hon. Mr. Fraser gave notice that on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, Bills 2 and 3 would be called for second reading.

---

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by the Honourable the Premier: (Motion 4)

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rule 89, the following Standing Committees be appointed for the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly and that the membership of the said Committees be as follows:

The Legislative Administration Committee be composed of Hon. Mr. Collins, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, Ms. Harris, Hon. Mr. Melanson, Hon. Mr. Fraser, Mr. Albert, Mr. Guitard, Mr. Oliver, Mr. B. Macdonald and Mr. Coon.

The Standing Committee on Procedure be composed of Mr. Albert, Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Hon. Mr. Fraser, Mr. Guitard, Ms. Harris, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc, Ms. Dubé, Mr. B. Macdonald, Mr. Jody Carr and Mr. Holder.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

---

Hon. Mr. Fraser gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT the definition of “recognized party” in the Standing Rules be suspended for the duration of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, and that the Member for Fredericton South be afforded the same rights and privileges under Standing Rules 40 and 40.1, with respect to Statements by Members and replies to Statements by Ministers, as other members of recognized parties in the House.

---

On motion of Hon. Mr. Fraser, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Friday, December 5, 2014, at 11 a.m.

---

And then, 3.09 p.m., the House adjourned.