

Daily sitting 15

Thursday, February 12, 2015

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to keep the abortion related provisions of regulations 84-20 in place and continue the two doctor rule. (Petition 15)

With leave of the House, Hon. Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Ms. Dubé: (Motion 15)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 29(1), the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly on Fridays shall be as follows:

Friday 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall remain in effect during the remainder of the First Session of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Bourque gave Notice of Motion 16 that on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc:

THAT, in addition to the existing sitting hours prescribed in Standing Rule 29(1), the House sit on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.;

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

Debate resumed on Motion 9, moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Alward, as follows:

WHEREAS the Energy East crude oil pipeline project will enable access to substantially more Canadian crude oil in Atlantic Canada, ensuring security of supply;

WHEREAS the City of Saint John has an ice-free deep water port facility, capable and experienced in managing the World's largest crude carrying vessels;

WHEREAS the construction of the Energy East crude oil pipeline project is in the national interest, as the ability to export crude from the east coast means that western Canadian producers will become less reliant on US markets, giving our producers access to global markets;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the location of Canada's largest oil refinery;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has recent experience in working effectively with regulators and communities on energy pipeline projects;

WHEREAS the Energy East crude oil pipeline project will result in significant direct and indirect employment opportunities, both during the construction phase and in the long term, providing ongoing economic benefits for the whole province, our region, and the entire country;

WHEREAS Canadian crude oil supplied by pipeline to our refinery would decrease production costs and make the refined petroleum more competitive;

WHEREAS TransCanada Corporation has filed a formal project application for the Energy East crude oil pipeline project with the National Energy Board of Canada;

WHEREAS the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec should not create unnecessary barriers to the Energy East crude oil pipeline project by imposing additional processes and conditions that are not within their constitutional authority;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick re-affirms its unanimous support for the construction of the Energy East crude oil pipeline project to bring western crude oil to Saint John;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick calls on Ontario and Quebec to recognize the National Energy Board as the appropriate body to review the Energy East crude oil pipeline project.

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

And after some further time, Hon. Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Hon. Mr. Fraser, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 9 be amended:

In the second “whereas” clause, after the word “largest” delete “crude carrying vessels” and replace with “oil tankers”;

In the third “whereas” clause, after the word “export” delete “crude” and replace with “oil”; after the words “our producers” insert “better”;

Delete the fifth whereas clause;

In the seventh “whereas” clause, after the word “refinery” delete “would” and replace with “could” and after the word “costs” insert “per barrel”;

Insert a new “whereas” clause before the last one:

“WHEREAS the Energy East project is working to earn social license in the communities through which it will pass”;

In the last “whereas” clause, after the word “Quebec” delete “should not create unnecessary barriers to” and replace with “have expressed their concerns regarding” and after the word “project” delete “by imposing additional processes and conditions that are not within their constitutional authority”;

In the final resolution clause, after the words “New Brunswick” delete “calls on Ontario and Quebec to recognize the National Energy Board as the appropriate body to review the Energy East crude oil pipeline project” and replace with “urge the government to work collaboratively with Quebec, Ontario and all other provinces to ensure that this project proceeds successfully in a responsible manner”.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and a debate ensued.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 9 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS the Energy East crude oil pipeline project will enable access to substantially more Canadian crude oil in Atlantic Canada, ensuring security of supply;

WHEREAS the City of Saint John has an ice-free deep water port facility, capable and experienced in managing the World's largest oil tankers;

WHEREAS the construction of the Energy East crude oil pipeline project is in the national interest, as the ability to export oil from the east coast means that western Canadian producers will become less reliant on US markets, giving our producers better access to global markets;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is the location of Canada's largest oil refinery;

WHEREAS the Energy East crude oil pipeline project will result in significant direct and indirect employment opportunities, both during the construction phase and in the long term, providing ongoing economic benefits for the whole province, our region, and the entire country;

WHEREAS Canadian crude oil supplied by pipeline to our refinery could decrease production costs per barrel and make the refined petroleum more competitive;

WHEREAS TransCanada Corporation has filed a formal project application for the Energy East crude oil pipeline project with the National Energy Board of Canada;

WHEREAS the Energy East Project is working to earn social license in the communities through which it will pass;

WHEREAS the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have expressed their concerns regarding the Energy East crude oil pipeline project;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick re-affirms its unanimous support for the construction of the Energy East crude oil pipeline project to bring western crude oil to Saint John;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to work collaboratively with Quebec, Ontario and all other provinces to ensure that this project proceeds successfully in a responsible manner.

And the question being put, Motion 9 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Steeves moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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