

Daily sitting 28

Friday, March 20, 2015

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Fraser accused the Opposition of “not being honest”. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken and requested that the Member withdraw the remark, which he did.

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 38)

Mr. Oliver, Member for Kings Centre, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the District Education Council to keep Browns Flat Elementary School open. (Petition 39)

Mr. Guitard gave Notice of Motion 26 that on Thursday, March 26, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be two days of debate remaining for the proceedings at all stages of the passage of Bills 9 and 14, which shall include the days spent considering said Bills from March 24, 2015, and onward, and, at the expiration of the said two days, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in the Committee of the Whole House and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills, and, where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to advance more than one stage in one day.

Mr. Northrup gave Notice of Motion 27 that on Thursday, March 26, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

WHEREAS New Brunswickers enjoy outdoor activities such as skiing and snowboarding to stay active over the winter months;

WHEREAS skiing and snowboarding are activities that should be enjoyed safely;

WHEREAS head injuries are the leading cause of death among skiers and snowboarders of all ages;

WHEREAS helmet use reduces the risk that people who ski or snowboard will suffer a traumatic brain injury, and can save the lives of participants;

WHEREAS there have been numerous traumatic brain injuries attributed to people skiing or snowboarding without a helmet in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS members of the public have advocated for New Brunswick to make helmets mandatory for all people who ski or snowboard;

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to make mandatory the wearing of helmets when skiing or snowboarding;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to introduce legislation to make mandatory the wearing of helmets when skiing or snowboarding.

Mr. Steeves gave Notice of Motion 28 that on Thursday, March 26, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

WHEREAS adoption is a very important personal matter;

WHEREAS New Brunswick has maintained adoption records for over 100 years;

WHEREAS the *Family Services Act* provides that adoption records are sealed and the identities of children, birth parents, and adoptive parents are protected;

WHEREAS societal views of adoption have varied over the years, and attitudes among New Brunswickers about adoption are changing;

WHEREAS the Department of Social Development proposed in April 2014 to modernize the Post-Adoption Disclosure Registry, based on research into best practices and a jurisdictional review;

WHEREAS the Department proposed to open sealed adoption records to give adult adoptees and biological parents access to information identifying each other if certain criteria are met;

WHEREAS the Department sought public input on these proposals, including the publication of a discussion paper, a series of regional public meetings, and a stakeholders' forum;

WHEREAS the Department published a Public Response Paper in August 2014 that outlined the input received during the said citizen engagement process;

WHEREAS the feedback received by the Department, as reported in the Public Response Paper, overwhelmingly supported the opening of sealed adoption records and agreed that there are benefits to doing so;

WHEREAS it is worthwhile for the government to implement the Department's proposals;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly urge the government to implement the proposals of the Department of Social Development to modernize the Post-Adoption Disclosure Registry and to open sealed adoption records to give adult adoptees and biological parents access to information identifying each other where appropriate criteria are met.

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 9, 14 and 17 be called for second reading.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act*, be now read a second time as follows:

AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

"Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments."

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

And the question being put that Bill 9 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 26

Hon. Mr. Boudreau	Hon. Ms. Rogers	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Mr. Melanson	Hon. Mr. Fraser	Mr. Harvey
Hon. Mr. Gallant	Hon. Ms. Landry	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Albert	Hon. Mr. Kenny	Mr. Roussel
Hon. Mr. Horsman	Hon. Mr. Rousselle	Mr. Ames
Hon. Mr. Arseneault	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	Ms. Harris
Hon. Mr. Doucet	Mr. Chiasson	Mr. LePage
Hon. Mr. Doherty	Ms. LeBlanc	Mr. Coon
Hon. Mr. Landry	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

NAYS - 19

Mr. Holder	Ms. Lynch	Mr. Keirstead
Mr. Jody Carr	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Steeves
Mr. Fitch	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Jeff Carr
Ms. Dubé	Mr. Flemming	Mr. Oliver
Mr. Northrup	Mr. Alward	Mr. Urquhart
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Wetmore	
Ms. Shephard	Mr. Crossman	

Accordingly, Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 14, *An Act Respecting Responsible Governance*, be now read a second time.

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

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 14 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 14, *An Act Respecting Responsible Governance*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

And then, 2.10 p.m., the House adjourned.