

Daily sitting 47

Friday, May 1, 2015

9 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Melanson should withdraw the term “chauvinist”, which he did.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislative Assembly to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16. (Petition 85)

Ms. Dubé gave Notice of Motion 34 that on Thursday, May 7, 2015, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Steeves:

WHEREAS the Gallant government proposed changes to the Seniors Prescription Drug Program that will increase premiums;

WHEREAS this sudden increase creates financial hardship for seniors in having access to affordable health care;

WHEREAS the extra costs may prevent seniors from getting the medications they need;

WHEREAS the loss of medications could be harmful to the fragile health of seniors;

WHEREAS this increase is one of the elements of the Gallant government's attack on seniors;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick urge the government to reverse the premium increase and explore alternate savings through the Seniors Prescription Drug Program.

Mr. Jody Carr gave Notice of Motion 35 that on Thursday, May 7, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

WHEREAS every child has the right to quality child care, which prepares children for the next stages of their lives;

WHEREAS finding affordable, quality child care is often a difficult task for many parents, and many families struggle to pay for child care;

WHEREAS the purpose of the Quality Improvement Funding Support (QIFS) program is to make funding support available to approved child day care facilities to increase the availability and quality of child day care services in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the QIFS program makes funding available to assist day care owners and operators, who are required to spend 75% of their time working with children;

WHEREAS the Leader of the Liberal Party and now Premier of New Brunswick promised during the 2014 election campaign that day care subsidies would be doubled if elected;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development announced \$2.4 million in reductions to funding for private government regulated day care operators through the QIFS program;

WHEREAS the said reductions:

- (a) are contradictory to the aforementioned promise of the Liberal Party and its Leader;
- (b) impair the affordability and quality of child care;
- (c) risk the sustainability of day care operators, which are small businesses; and
- (d) have the potential to effect wage reductions or job losses for day care workers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly condemn this government for its failure to protect, promote and defend the interests of day care operators and workers and families in need of day care;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government to acknowledge its errors and reverse the cut of \$2.4 million from the QIFS program for private day care owners and operators.

On motion of Mr. Albert, seconded by Hon. Ms. Rogers:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Standing Rule 109, the following estimates be referred to the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy:

Department of Public Safety.

And then, 10.23 a.m., the House adjourned.

The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Response to Petitions 67, 68, 72, 73

April 30, 2015