

Daily sitting 50

Thursday, May 7, 2015

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Albert rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Fitch should withdraw the phrase "not the truth". Mr. Speaker took the matter under advisement.

Hon. Mr. Horsman laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Annual Report 2012, Office of the Chief Coroner*.

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 88)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Rousselle, Q.C.,

Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Horsman,

Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Financial and Consumer Services Commission Act*.

Mr. Albert gave notice that on Friday, May 8, 2015, Bills 28 and 29 would be called for second reading.

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bill 27 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 27, *Loan Act 2015*, a debate arose thereon.

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

At 12 o'clock p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker left the chair to resume again at 1 o'clock p.m.

1 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 27 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 27, *Loan Act 2015*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

At 1.05 p.m., Mr. Speaker declared a recess and left the chair.

2.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 35, Mr. Jody Carr moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Rousselle, seconded by Mr. Albert, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 35 be amended:

In the fourth “whereas” clause, delete all words after “operators” and insert “through the provision of funding increases regarding the wages of child care workers”;

In the fifth “whereas” clause, delete the words “day care subsidies” and insert “the budget of the Daycare Assistance Program”;

In the sixth “whereas” clause, delete all words after “announced” and insert “an increase of funding in the QIFS program of \$412,600 over the previous year”;

By deleting the last “whereas” clauses entirely;

By deleting both resolution clauses and substituting:

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support the increase in QIFS funding.”

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted on the following recorded division:

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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	
Hon. Mr. Landry	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc	

NAYS - 19

Mr. Holder	Mr. Coon	Mr. Crossman
Mr. Jody Carr	Ms. Lynch	Mr. Steeves
Mr. Fitch	Mr. Macdonald	Mr. Jeff Carr
Ms. Dubé	Mr. Stewart	Mr. Oliver
Mr. MacDonald	Mr. Savoie	Mr. Urquhart
Mr. Northrup	Ms. Wilson	
Ms. Shephard	Mr. Wetmore	

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 35 as amended as follows:

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, through the provision of funding increases regarding the wages of child care workers;

WHEREAS the Leader of the Liberal Party and now Premier of New Brunswick promised during the 2014 election campaign that the budget of the Daycare Assistance Program would be doubled if elected;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development announced an increase of funding in the QIFS program of \$412,600 over the previous year;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly support the increase in QIFS funding.

And the question being put, Motion 35 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 34, Ms. Dubé moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc resumed the chair.

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

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

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.