

Daily sitting 7

Thursday, December 10, 2015

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Following Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker requested that Mr. Fitch withdraw the phrase “making up stories” in relation to a Minister, which he did.

Ms. Shephard, Member for Saint John Lancaster, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of the redemption centre owners’ request for an increase in handling fees. (Petition 3)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Coon,
Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act.*

Hon. Mr. Melanson gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Thursday, December 17, 2015, he would move the following resolution, seconded by the Honourable the Premier:

THAT this House approves in general the capital budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne; following which Opposition Members’ Business would be considered.

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Harvey:

THAT the following Address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the humble thanks of this House to Her Honour for the gracious speech which she has been pleased to make to the Legislative Assembly, namely:

Fredericton, N.B.
December 1, 2015.

To Her Honour,
The Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

May It Please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, now in session, beg leave to extend our humble thanks to Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to us, and we assure Your Honour that all matters which may be submitted to us during the session will receive our most careful attention and consideration.

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, Ms. Harris took the chair.

At 12 o'clock p.m., Madam 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 continuing, after some time it was on motion of Mr. Albert, on behalf of the Honourable the Premier, adjourned over.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 1, Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by Ms. Shephard:

WHEREAS the current government did not campaign on taking seniors' assets from them;

WHEREAS the Premier is reported to have promised in a pre-election meeting of the Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents' Rights that he would not take seniors' assets away from them;

WHEREAS the current government did bring forward a policy to take away seniors' assets this past Spring;

WHEREAS the Premier has since then hit the "reset button" and has only said his government was taking the policy off the table for the time being;

WHEREAS the Minister of Social Development has stated that the decision to take away seniors' assets was a fair policy that was poorly communicated;

WHEREAS the Premier still has not unequivocally committed to remove seniors' assets from the consideration of financial need;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to place a moratorium on the policy of taking seniors' assets for the rest of their mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to work with all seniors groups and associations in reviewing policies that affect senior care.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Ms. Harris resumed the chair.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 1 was resolved in the negative

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 2, Mr. Higgs moved, seconded by Mr. Jeff Carr:

WHEREAS the proposed federal government income tax changes, combined with the most recent provincial government income tax increases, will result in New Brunswick having the highest income tax rates in Canada;

WHEREAS the provincial government is considering increasing the HST in New Brunswick to 15%, making it equivalent to the highest sales tax rate in Canada;

WHEREAS the provincial government has already increased the fees for a multitude of licenses, services and registrations;

WHEREAS the combined effect of Canada's highest income tax rates, highest sales tax rates, and increased fees, will make New Brunswick uncompetitive in attracting professionals such as doctors and entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS the previous provincial government had already corrected revenue gaps to diminish the deficit and was addressing the real problem of controlling expenditures;

WHEREAS the recent Strategic Program Review options are heavily weighted toward increasing taxes instead of eliminating government waste;

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has stated he is contemplating reducing the recently increased provincial income tax rates in an attempt to restore competitiveness;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the federal government that income tax abatement be implemented on the proposed federal income tax rate for those with incomes over \$200,000 in order to maintain the federal income taxation rate for these individuals at 29%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Government of New Brunswick to reject any further increases in provincial tax rates or fees and that the Government of New Brunswick focus its revenue generation efforts on increased private sector economic activity in the province.

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, 6.13 p.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:

Annual Report 2014-2015

Department of Human Resources

December 9, 2015

Annual Report 2014-2015

Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat

December 9, 2015