

Daily sitting 14

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Albert, Member for Caraquet, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to provide funding for hearing loss to low-income individuals, as it does for seniors with hearing loss who live in nursing homes. (Petition 9)

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Mr. Harvey, Member for Carleton-Victoria, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Plaster Rock and surrounding areas urging the government to provide ambulance services twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. (Petition 10)

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Melanson,

Bill 18, *An Act Respecting Fiscal Measures*.

By Hon. Mr. Horsman,

Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act*.

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

Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Statute Revision Act*.

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Ms. Dubé gave Notice of Motion 11 that on Thursday, February 11, 2016, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Wilson:

WHEREAS all New Brunswick governments since the nineties have established programs and initiatives to help with job creation and support economic development in northern and rural regions of our province;

WHEREAS the current New Brunswick government made a commitment during the 2014 election to give priority to economic development and job creation in northern and rural regions of the province;

WHEREAS, since the Gallant government was elected, it has initiated or put forward very few initiatives for economic development or job creation projects for northern and rural regions of the province;

WHEREAS the average unemployment rate in northern New Brunswick is currently twice the provincial rate;

WHEREAS northern and rural regions of New Brunswick hold enormous economic development and job creation potential for our province;

WHEREAS, after leading the province of New Brunswick for more than 16 months, the Gallant government seems to have neither a plan nor a vision for economic development in northern and rural regions of our province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the government, in collaboration with the various stakeholders in the economic and political communities, to establish a real job creation and economic development action plan for northern and rural regions of our province for the spring of 2016.

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Ms. Shephard gave Notice of Motion 12 that on Thursday, February 11, 2016, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Steeves:

WHEREAS children deserve the opportunity to grow in a loving, supportive, and stable household;

WHEREAS the current framework for protecting children favors parental privileges over the mental and physical safety of the child;

WHEREAS legislation approved by this Assembly five years ago would have the effect of helping to correct this imbalance with new kinship provisions, but has not been fully proclaimed into law;

WHEREAS there are also other measures that could be undertaken which would put the needs of children first, while supporting the decision-making authority of our dedicated social workers;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to proclaim into law all sections of *An Act to Amend the Family Services Act* of March 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Assembly urge the government to review the framework for child protection in order to ensure the needs of children are placed in priority over parental privileges.

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Mr. Holder gave Notice of Motion 13 that on Thursday, February 11, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Wetmore:

WHEREAS New Brunswick universities are the envy of the world;

WHEREAS the government did not campaign upon any of the proposed changes that are mentioned in the Choices document such as deciding who is allowed to graduate from which programs, interfering in the funding formula, and changing governance models;

WHEREAS the government has failed to act on many of their platform commitments, such as providing universities with a four-year funding forecast;

WHEREAS universities need the support and confidence of government in order to thrive and grow in the increasingly competitive environment for student enrolment, instead of holding secretive, invitation-only meetings;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Assembly encourage the government to start supporting our independent universities, their excellent boards of governors, their competent administrators, and most of all, our students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Assembly urge the government to conduct an open and transparent consultation process, similar to the Poverty Reduction Strategy of 2009, to look at the future of our universities.

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Mr. Jeff Carr gave Notice of Motion 14 that on Thursday, February 11, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Northrup:

WHEREAS the government has repeatedly said their priority was job creation, stimulating the economy and making New Brunswick a better place to raise a family, and has failed on all three points;

WHEREAS the government promised not to raise fees or taxes for small business in their 2014 election platform;

WHEREAS changes to New Brunswick Regulation 2015-62 under the *Harmonized Sales Tax Act* caused appraisers and New Brunswick small businesses to lose income;

WHEREAS the government has provided no evidence to prove that these changes are necessary or that they will improve services for New Brunswickers;

WHEREAS the red book value of cars does not take into consideration the harsh weather and road conditions of New Brunswick, nor if the vehicle was involved in a collision or accident in placing a dollar value on vehicles;

BE IT THEREFOR RESOLVED THAT the Assembly urge the government to reverse the changes to New Brunswick Regulation 2015-62, and allow New Brunswick's qualified appraisers and car dealerships to get back to work.

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Mr. Albert gave notice that on Thursday, February 4, 2016, Bills 18, 19 and 20 would be called for second reading.

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On motion of Mr. Albert, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Thursday, February 4, 2016, at 11 a.m. and that the Assembly sit through the noon recess, if necessary, on said day.

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And then, 11.26 a.m., the House adjourned.

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

Annual Report on Fees, Department of Finance,  
January 2016

February 2, 2016