

Daily sitting 23

Thursday, March 31, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Wetmore, Member for Gagetown-Petitcodiac, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 20)

Mr. Stewart, Member for Southwest Miramichi-Bay du Vin, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of the Glencoe area in opposition to certain property on route 17 being used as a land reclamation site. (Petition 21)

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Boudreau,

Bill 35, *Health Quality and Patient Safety Act*.

By Hon. Mr. Horsman,

Bill 36, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act*.

Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Off-Road Vehicle Act*.

The following Private Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Mr. Bourque,

Bill 38, *Vestcor Act*.

Ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Mr. Fitch rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Boudreau misled the House during Oral Questions. Mr. Speaker ruled that such an allegation was unparliamentary and could only be raised by way of a substantive motion.

Mr. Albert gave notice that on Friday, April 1, 2016, Bills 35, 36 and 37 would be called for second reading.

Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 34, 33, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 24 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Credit Unions Act*, 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 after some time, Ms. Harris took the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 34 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Credit Unions Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

Debate resumed on Motion 11, moved by Ms. Dubé, seconded by Ms. Wilson, as follows:

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.

Ms. Dubé rose on a point of order and submitted that Hon. Mr. Arseneault made reference to the absence of a Member. Madam Deputy Speaker ruled the point well taken.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 11 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 6, Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Lynch:

WHEREAS New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province;

WHEREAS access to second language training is limited or non-existent in many communities across the province, which impedes mutual understanding and access to opportunities;

WHEREAS access to French immersion education programming is limited or non-existent in many schools across the province;

WHEREAS the government's ability to continue to provide a high quality of services to citizens in both official languages may be affected by a lack of investment in second language training and education;

WHEREAS there are best practices in other jurisdictions, as well as new technology, which could be explored to address the gap in investment in second language training and education;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to examine the issue of second language education and training, and report back to this Assembly with a plan to enhance opportunities for New Brunswickers to improve their skills in communicating in both official languages.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Arseneault, seconded by Mr. Ames, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 6 be amended as follows:

That the second whereas clause be deleted and substituted with the following:

“WHEREAS access to second language training should be supported and promoted as it provides many benefits including the fostering of mutual understanding between linguistic communities and access to enhanced opportunities;”

That the third whereas clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words “is limited or non-existent in many schools across the province” and substituting the following:

“will be enhanced with the introduction of first year early immersion and is supported through pre-intensive, intensive and post-intensive and various language and cultural programs for students”.

That the fourth whereas clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words “government’s ability to continue” and substituting the words “government is committed” and deleting the words “may be affected by a lack of” and substituting the words “through ongoing” and by adding “s” to the word “investment”.

That the fifth whereas clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words “could be explored to address the gap in” and substituting the words “will continue to be explored to enhance the”.

That the resolution clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words “examine the issue of” and substituting the word “promote” and deleting the words “report back to this Assembly with a plan” and substituting the word “continue”.

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

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

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

And then, 6.15 p.m., the House adjourned.