

Daily sitting 27

Thursday, April 7, 2016

*10 o'clock a.m.*

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised the students in the gallery to cover the political message on their clothing, as guests in the gallery are not permitted to make political statements.

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During Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and requested that the students in the gallery be removed for continuing to make political statements and disrupting debate.

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Mr. Holder, Member for Portland-Simonds, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 31)

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Mr. Keirstead, Member for Albert, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of the redemption center owners' request for increased handling fees. (Petition 32)

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Mr. Fitch gave Notice of Motion 18 that on Thursday, April 14, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Dubé:

WHEREAS many New Brunswickers have to seek medical treatment outside of the province each year because specific services may not be available in New Brunswick;

WHEREAS the cost of travelling out-of-province to access the treatment is not covered by Medicare;

WHEREAS travel expenses for medical treatments pose hardship to many families;

WHEREAS there are charitable organizations, such as Hope Air, which provide travel support to those in need of medical treatment;

WHEREAS Members of the government previously sought to institute a new policy that would see travel points gained on government air travel, such as flights to Switzerland, become the property of the Crown;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urges the government of New Brunswick to collect all air travel

points gained on government air travel and donate those points to organizations who can help New Brunswickers in financial need access out-of-province medical treatment.

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Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that following third reading, it was the intention of government that Bills 30, 35, 31, 32, 24 and 40 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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The following Bills were read a third time:

Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Act.*

Bill 34, *An Act to Amend the Credit Unions Act.*

Ordered that the said Bills do pass.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards 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 after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Coon rose and apologized to the House for the actions of the students who were removed from the gallery earlier in the sitting day. Mr. Speaker cautioned the Member that such actions would not be tolerated in the future.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 30 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 35, *Health Quality and Patient Safety Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Madam Deputy Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the time designated for Opposition Members' Business had arrived.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 5, *Green Jobs Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

#### AMENDMENT

THAT the motion for second reading be amended by deleting all the words after the word "that" and substituting the following:

Bill 5, *Green Jobs Act*, be not now read a second time but that the order for second reading be discharged and the subject matter of the Bill referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put on the amendment, it was resolved in the affirmative.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 10 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 10, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 17, Mr. Jody Carr moved, on behalf of Mr. Urquhart, seconded by Ms. Lynch:

WHEREAS Lyme Disease is a preventable disease;

WHEREAS the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation said the disease is vastly under-reported in Canada;

WHEREAS Lyme Disease can be debilitating and cause symptoms such as extreme fatigue, cardiac and nervous system disorders and arthritic symptoms, which affect one's quality of life and ability to work;

WHEREAS a conference on the Federal Framework on Lyme Disease is being held in May of 2016 that will include provincial health ministers and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS Lyme Disease in New Brunswick often goes undiagnosed for many months, or even years, before treatment;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers have been travelling to the United States of America in order to receive diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease;

WHEREAS New Brunswick needs better public education about Lyme Diseases' symptoms and treatment;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly urges the current government to work collaboratively with the federal government and other provinces and territories to better educate the public on the spread of Lyme Disease and its symptoms;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly request the Department of Health also work collaboratively to find solutions to update public health information on prevention and detection of Lyme Disease, protect health professionals who choose to treat Lyme Disease beyond thirty days from suspension by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, recruit health professionals who specialize in the detection and treatment of Lyme Disease, and implement improved professional development for health professionals in the awareness, prevention, treatment and diagnosis of Lyme Disease.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

AMENDMENT

That Motion 17 be amended as follows:

That the second Whereas clause be deleted.

That the fifth Whereas clause be deleted and the following substituted:

“WHEREAS the Public Health Division of the Department of Health is currently working on a long term strategy that will help better understand Lyme Disease to identify the risk areas, who is at risk, and to assess the health care system support for testing and early diagnosis and treatment;”

That the sixth Whereas clause be deleted.

That the seventh Whereas clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words “needs better” and substituting the words “is committed to enhanced”.

That an eighth Whereas clause be added which reads as follows:

“WHEREAS the New Brunswick laboratories continue to follow the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines that are consistent with the international standards to ensure New Brunswickers receive accurate diagnosis and treatment;”

That the resolution clauses be deleted and replaced with the following:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly support the efforts of government to continue to work collaboratively on a long term strategy with its partners including the federal government, other provinces and territories, the Regional Health Authorities, other departments, health care professional associations and advocacy groups to better understand Lyme Disease in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this includes continuing to provide awareness for the public on the risk of acquiring Lyme Disease in the province, how to protect themselves, Lyme Disease symptoms and when to seek medical attention, and continue to provide health care professionals international and national guidelines on risk in New Brunswick, and early diagnosis and treatment.”

Mr. 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. Jody Carr, seconded by Ms. Lynch, moved a sub-amendment:

#### SUB-AMENDMENT

That the amendment to Motion 17 be amended as follows:

That the first resolution clause be amended by inserting after the word “strategy” the words “by forming a provincial working group” and by inserting after the words “New Brunswick” the words “and to report to this Legislative Assembly on its progress in a timely manner”.

That the second resolution clause be amended by inserting after the word “early” the words “and late”.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment and it was defeated.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed amendment and it was adopted.

Mr. Speaker put the question on Motion 17 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS Lyme Disease is a preventable disease;

WHEREAS Lyme Disease can be debilitating and cause symptoms such as extreme fatigue, cardiac and nervous system disorders and arthritic symptoms, which affect one’s quality of life and ability to work;

WHEREAS a conference on the Federal Framework on Lyme Disease is being held in May of 2016 that will include provincial health ministers and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS the Public Health Division of the Department of Health is currently working on a long term strategy that will help better understand Lyme Disease to identify the risk areas, who is at risk, and to assess the health care system support for testing and early diagnosis and treatment;

WHEREAS New Brunswick is committed to enhanced public education about Lyme Diseases' symptoms and treatment;

WHEREAS the New Brunswick laboratories continue to follow the Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines that are consistent with the international standards to ensure New Brunswickers receive accurate diagnosis and treatment;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Legislative Assembly support the efforts of government to continue to work collaboratively on a long term strategy with its partners including the federal government, other provinces and territories, the Regional Health Authorities, other departments, health care professional associations and advocacy groups to better understand Lyme Disease in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this includes continuing to provide awareness for the public on the risk of acquiring Lyme Disease in the province, how to protect themselves, Lyme Disease symptoms and when to seek medical attention, and continue to provide health care professionals international and national guidelines on risk in New Brunswick, and early diagnosis and treatment.

And the question being put, Motion 17 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

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And then, 6.10 p.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:

Response to Petition 12

April 6, 2016