

Daily sitting 31

Thursday, May 19, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bernard LeBlanc, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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Mr. LePage, Member for Restigouche West, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to support a ban on the spraying of glyphosate on Crown forest land. (Petition 39)

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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 40)

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Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to support a ban on the spraying of glyphosate on Crown forest land. (Petition 41)

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Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition on behalf of residents of Back River Road in Kings County urging the government to repair and chip seal the road. (Petition 42)

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Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to reinstate the New Brunswick tuition tax rebate and forgive student debt for graduates who reside in the province. (Petition 43)

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Mr. Albert, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 31, 32, 40, 24, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 41 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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Debate resumed on the adjourned debate on the motion that Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Harmonized Sales Tax Act*, be now read a second time.

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. Deputy Speaker resumed the chair.

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

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

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 13, Mr. Holder moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 13 was resolved in the negative.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 12, Ms. Shephard moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

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

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And then, 6.15 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: