

Daily sitting 35

Thursday, June 30, 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 62)

Mr. Northrup, Member for Sussex-Fundy-St. Martins, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 63)

Ms. Wilson, Member for Moncton Southwest, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 64)

Mr. Jeff Carr, Member for New Maryland-Sunbury, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 65)

Mr. Crossman, Member for Hampton, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the Legislature to reinstate the Gagetown Ferry service. (Petition 66)

Mr. Harvey gave Notice of Motion 172 that on Thursday, July 7, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Guitard:

THAT, notwithstanding the Standing Rules of the Assembly, following the adoption of this motion, there shall be 4 remaining hours for the proceedings at all stages of the passing of Bills 32, 41, and 43, and 1 remaining hour for the proceedings at all stages of the passing of Bills 17, 24, 31, 38, 40, and 42, and at the expiration of the said 4 hours and the said 1 hour, unless sooner concluded, the Speaker, or the Chair of the Committee of the Whole House or the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Policy as the case may be, shall interrupt the proceedings and put every question necessary to dispose of the order for second reading of the said Bills; the order for consideration of the said Bills in committee and report of the Bills to the House; and the order for third reading and passage of the said Bills; and where necessary, the said Bills shall be allowed to receive more than one reading or advance more than one stage in one day.

THAT, notwithstanding the expiry of the said 4 hours or 1 hour of debate, there shall be, if necessary, 20 remaining minutes allocated at committee stage for the consideration of any of the said Bills.

THAT, if necessary, the time for the daily adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly on Friday, July 8, 2016, prescribed by Special Order of the House adopted December 2, 2015, be extended until the expiration of the allocated times at all stages necessary for the passage of the said Bills and Royal Assent.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 31, 40, 32, 43, 42, 41, 24, 38, 17, 44 and 45 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

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.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Albert, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some further time, Mr. Fitch moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Harmonized Sales Tax Act*, be amended as follows:

In section 3, by striking out the words "on July 1, 2016" and replacing them with the following: "after a referendum has been held in which the result of the vote was fifty percent plus one in favour of this increase."

Mr. Deputy Speaker ruled the proposed amendment out of order, as it is not permissible to amend a provision of a Bill at second reading.

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 the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 31 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative on the following recorded division:

YEAS - 25

Hon. Mr. Boudreau	Hon. Mr. Fraser	Ms. LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Doucet	Hon. Ms. Harris	Mr. Harvey
Hon. Mr. Gallant	Hon. Ms. Landry	Mr. Bourque
Hon. Ms. Rogers	Hon. Mr. Landry	Mr. Bernard LeBlanc
Hon. Mr. Horsman	Hon. Mr. Kenny	Mr. Roussel
Hon. Mr. Arseneault	Hon. Mr. Rousselle	Mr. LePage
Hon. Mr. Melanson	Hon. Mr. Ames	Mr. Guitard
Mr. Albert	Mr. Bertrand LeBlanc	
Hon. Mr. Doherty	Mr. Chiasson	

NAYS - 15

Mr. Holder	Mr. Macdonald	Mr. Wetmore
Ms. Dubé	Mr. Savoie	Mr. Crossman
Mr. Northrup	Ms. Wilson	Mr. Keirstead
Mr. Higgs	Mr. Flemming	Mr. Steeves
Ms. Shephard	Mr. Fairgrieve	Mr. Jeff Carr

Accordingly, Bill 31, *An Act to Amend the Harmonized Sales Tax Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 40, *Loan Act 2016*, a debate arose thereon.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 40 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 40, *Loan Act 2016*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, as designated by the Government House Leader.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the New Brunswick Income Tax Act*, a debate arose thereon.

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

Debate resumed on Motion 12, moved by Ms. Shephard, seconded by Mr. Steeves, as follows:

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 after some time, Ms. LeBlanc took the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 12 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 21, Mr. Steeves moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver:

WHEREAS there are limited opportunities for interaction among those adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and in particular for the severely autistic;

WHEREAS adults with disabilities may have access to “at home” care but only depending on the family income levels and the health and longevity of the parents;

WHEREAS most often care services come from agencies who hire workers at a minimal wage, often without a significant level of training;

WHEREAS formal intensive interventions such as Applied Behavioural Analysis are only available to children 5 years of age and under, and are available in a less intensive manner to school aged children (to a maximum age of 21);

WHEREAS access to public services, even if it were for five hours a day during the week, would be welcomed by those families who have no limited access to options in their own home;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Assembly urges the government to consider opening up the current Centres for Autism to be used as a service delivery point, depending on their capacity, to provide programming for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder issues.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Horsman, seconded by Hon. Ms. Rogers, moved in amendment:

AMENDMENT

That Motion 21 be amended as follows:

That the second “whereas” clause be substituted with the following:

“WHEREAS adults with autism have access to all services available to adults with disabilities, which includes income assistance, housing, residential care options and support services;”

That the third “whereas” clause be deleted;

That the fourth “whereas” clause be amended as follows:

By deleting all the words after “Behavioural Analysis” and replacing with “have been made available to adults on the high end of the autism spectrum in a few specifically created residential settings”;

That the fifth “whereas” clause be amended as follows:

By deleting the words after “public services” and replacing with “is available to adults with disabilities, including autism, through the Disability Support Program”.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, the amendment was adopted.

Madam Deputy Speaker put the question on Motion 21 as amended as follows:

WHEREAS there are limited opportunities for interaction among those adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and in particular for the severely autistic;

WHEREAS adults with autism have access to all services available to adults with disabilities, which includes income assistance, housing, residential care options and support services;

WHEREAS formal intensive interventions such as Applied Behavioural Analysis have been made available to adults on the high end of the autism spectrum in a few specifically created residential settings;

WHEREAS access to public services is available to adults with disabilities, including autism, through the Disability Support Program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Assembly urges the government to consider opening up the current Centres for Autism to be used as a service delivery point, depending on their capacity, to provide programming for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder issues.

And the question being put, Motion 21 as amended was resolved in the affirmative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 20, Mr. Fitch moved, seconded by Mr. Holder:

WHEREAS improving access to post-secondary education is good for individual students, for the economy and creating jobs, and for the overall betterment of our society;

WHEREAS the surprise announcement of a new funding program for post-secondary institutions has left New Brunswickers bewildered and confused, with many unanswered questions;

WHEREAS the potential negative impact of the proposed changes are enormous, especially clawing back important financial support programs that were benefiting thousands of students, graduates and their families;

WHEREAS the timing of the proposed changes, coming a few months before the start of the next school year, will leave many students and families scrambling to reassess their post-secondary dreams;

WHEREAS the Gallant Government has made the ability to attend private and extra-provincial institutions virtually impossible for low-income students - not only cutting off their freedom to choose but also the ability to enrol in study programs not offered in New Brunswick public institutions;

WHEREAS none of the proposed changes are the result of widespread consultation with the public, professors, students, or their families, nor has any evidence been produced to prove that the benefits will outweigh the heavy costs of eliminating existing programming and limiting access to a small number of schools;

WHEREAS the chaotic changes proposed by the government fail to address other outstanding issues such as teaching quality, matching training to the workforce, infrastructure deficits, financial accessibility for the middle class, or student retention;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Assembly urges the Gallant Government to post-pone the proposed student financial program changes for one year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government give strong consideration to including private entities, such as Crandall University and Oulton's College, on the list of eligible institutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government give strong consideration to creating a sliding scale for student eligibility instead of a hard cut-off point where the applicant receives all benefits or none.

And the question being put, 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, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.