



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK Second Session, 58th Legislative Assembly

ORDER AND NOTICE PAPER - Sitting No. 6
Wednesday, December 9, 2015

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Prayers
Introduction of Guests
Statements by Members
Oral Questions (30 minutes)
Tabling of Documents
Statements by Ministers
Presentations of Petitions
Answers to Petitions and Written Questions
Presentations of Committee Reports
Introduction of Bills
Notices of Motions
Notice of Opposition Members' Business
Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House
Deferred Recorded Divisions
Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS AND ORDERS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.
Debate interrupted due to expiration of time.
Debate to resume on Wednesday, December 9, 2015.

GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bills Ordered for Second Reading

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act - Hon. Mr. Arseneault

Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Service New Brunswick Act - Hon. Dr. Doherty

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Assessment Act - Hon. Dr. Doherty

Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Financial and Consumer Services Commission Act
- Hon. Mr. Horsman

Bill 7, An Act to Amend An Act Respecting Payday Loans - Hon. Mr. Horsman

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Marshland Infrastructure Maintenance Act - Hon. Mr. Doucet

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

CONCLUDED

Motion 5 by Hon. Mr. Fraser. Carried December 2, 2015.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' BUSINESS

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS FOR SECOND READING

Bill 5, Green Jobs Act - Mr. Coon

Bill 9, An Act Respecting the Right to Work - Ms. Lynch

OPPOSITION MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Debatable Motions

Motion 1 by Mr. Steeves, seconded by Ms. Shephard to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

WHEREAS the current government did not campaign on taking seniors' assets from them;

WHEREAS the Premier is reported to have promised in a pre-election meeting of the Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents' Rights that he would not take seniors assets away from them;

WHEREAS the current government did bring forward a policy to take away seniors' assets this past Spring;

WHEREAS the Premier has since then hit the "reset button" and has only said his Government was taking the policy off the table for the time being;

WHEREAS the Minister of Social Development has stated that the decision to take away seniors' assets was a fair policy that was poorly communicated;

WHEREAS the Premier still has not unequivocally committed to remove seniors' assets from the consideration of financial need;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to place a moratorium on the policy of taking seniors' assets for the rest of their mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to work with all seniors groups and associations in reviewing polices that affect senior care.

Motion 2 by Mr. Higgs, seconded by Mr. Jeff Carr to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

WHEREAS the proposed federal government income tax changes, combined with the most recent provincial government income tax increases, will result in New Brunswick having the highest income tax rates in Canada;

WHEREAS the provincial government is considering increasing the HST in New Brunswick to 15%, making it equivalent to the highest sales tax rate in Canada;

WHEREAS the provincial government has already increased the fees for a multitude of licenses, services and registrations;

WHEREAS the combined effect of Canada's highest income tax rates, highest sales tax rates, and increased fees, will make New Brunswick uncompetitive in attracting professionals such as doctors and entrepreneurs;

WHEREAS the previous provincial government had already corrected revenue gaps to diminish the deficit and was addressing the real problem of controlling expenditures;

WHEREAS the recent Strategic Program Review options are heavily weighted toward increasing taxes instead of eliminating government waste;

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has stated he is contemplating reducing the recently increased provincial income tax rates in an attempt to restore competitiveness;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the federal government that income tax abatement be implemented on the proposed federal income tax rate for those with incomes over \$200,000 in order to maintain the federal income taxation rate for these individuals at 29%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Government of New Brunswick to reject any further increases in provincial tax rates or fees and that the Government of New Brunswick focus its revenue generation efforts on increased private sector economic activity in the province.

Motion 3 by Mr. Urquhart, seconded by Mr. B. Macdonald to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

WHEREAS the Mactaquac Dam and power station are expected to end their useful life in 2030;

WHEREAS NB Power is asking the public to provide input into three potential options addressing the future of this vital facility, namely a dam with a new power station, a dam with no power station, or no dam options;

WHEREAS the second and third options involving the removal of the power station or the free running of the St. John River provide no ongoing economic benefits for the province;

WHEREAS the first option maintains a dam and power station that will allow the continued enjoyment of the headpond as well as creating economic opportunity and jobs through the generation of power for use or sale by New Brunswickers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly supports the first option proposed by NB Power, to maintain the dam and to install a new power station at or near the current location in Mactaquac.

Motion 4 by Ms. Dubé, seconded by Ms. Wilson to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

WHEREAS the government has been conducting an endless attack on rural New Brunswick by reducing and eliminating services to regions which are already disadvantaged by distance, opportunity for employment, and access to government;

WHEREAS these rural attacks include closures of schools, Service New Brunswick offices, library services, and court houses;

WHEREAS a Health Authority has also announced plans to reduce the number of hospital beds in their network by nearly 20%;

WHEREAS a Health Authority has also suggested that rural hospitals could be repurposed to become senior care centers;

WHEREAS the former Progressive Conservative government was implementing a plan to find efficiencies in the health care system without any reduction in the number of hospital beds;

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

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly not support the plan to reduce the number of hospital beds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the government be urged to conduct public consultations with the communities that will be affected by the proposed service point closures in an effort to find efficiencies without reducing services, especially in rural regions.

Motion 6 by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Lynch to propose the following resolution on Thursday, December 10, 2015:

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.

PETITIONS

Petition 1: Mr. Wetmore, December 8, 2015.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts and the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations will meet jointly on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber.

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly