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Daily sitting 2

Thursday, November 3, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker introduced the new pages for the session: Emily Dow, Woodstock; Jennifer Estey, Fredericton; Trupti Gadkari, Gujarat, India; Melissa Gottschall, Antigonish, Nova Scotia; Austin Henderson, Salisbury; Katie Kim, Moncton; Abigail McCarthy, Saint John; Mackenzie Taylor, Woodstock.

The returning pages are: Katie Avery, Fredericton; Phoebe Marmura Brown, Fredericton; Corben Parker, Fredericton; Lauren Colter, Fredericton; Andrea Robertson, Caracas, Venezuela; Nathaniel Wallace, Fredericton; Alex Robichaud, Laval, Quebec.

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Mr. Speaker interrupted the proceedings and requested that Ms. Wilson refrain from making political statements during Introduction of Guests.

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It was agreed by unanimous consent to extend the time allotted for Oral Questions by fifteen minutes.

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Mr. Crossman, Member for Hampton, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to study the Baxter's Corner intersection for safety and signage upgrades. (Petition 1)

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Mr. Crossman, Member for Hampton, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to make FibreOp internet available to residents of Baxter's Corner. (Petition 2)

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The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Doherty,

Bill 2, *An Act to Repeal An Act to Comply with the Request of The City of Saint John on Taxation of the LNG Terminal.*

By Hon. Mr. Doucet,

Bill 3, *An Act Respecting Government Reorganization.*

By Hon. Mr. Arseneault,

Bill 4, *An Act to Amend the Adult Education and Training Act.*

By Hon. Ms. Rogers,

Bill 5, *An Act Respecting Cost of Credit Disclosure and Payday Loans.*

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Mr. Higgs gave Notice of Motion 1 that on Thursday, November 10, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Crossman:

WHEREAS only 20 percent of grade six Anglophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics according to provincial assessment results;

WHEREAS only 49 percent of grade ten Francophone students are at an appropriate or higher level in mathematics path A;

WHEREAS only 56 percent of grade four Francophone students are reading at an appropriate level;

WHEREAS grade two Anglophone student reading levels have been declining over the past number of years;

WHEREAS the current government's ten year education plan contained no details, no goals, no measurements and no accountability mechanisms, as well as no suggestions for major overhauls of the education system, and the government has done little to move the education file forward in this province;

WHEREAS educators are expressing concern that changes to the French Immersion program are based on political promises and not research evidence;

WHEREAS the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development stated that private tutors are an important part of the education system, which leaves out rural New Brunswickers who do not have equal access to private tutors;

WHEREAS teachers feel they are not allowed to speak up about potential improvements to the system because of employment rules and the lack of meaningful consultation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to take responsibility for the crisis in education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to work with educators and parents in developing solutions.

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Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 2 that on Thursday, November 10, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fitch:

WHEREAS the government has increased income tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased business property tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased gas tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased diesel tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased tobacco tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased corporate income tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased property transfer tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased bank tax;

WHEREAS the government has increased Harmonized Sales Tax;

WHEREAS the government eliminated tuition tax credits;

WHEREAS the government wants to implement carbon tax;

WHEREAS the government is considering a sugar tax;

WHEREAS the government has found over \$500 million in revenue sources and has still failed to balance the budget;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to place a moratorium on any further tax increases.

Mr. Savoie gave Notice of Motion 3 that on Thursday, November 10, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. MacDonald:

WHEREAS the softwood lumber agreement between Canada and the United States of America has expired and the two countries are in the midst of negotiations for a new agreement;

WHEREAS 83 percent of New Brunswick's land base is forested and about half of that is Crown forest;

WHEREAS the forest industry in New Brunswick employs over 22,000 people;

WHEREAS the forest industry in New Brunswick contributes over \$1.45 billion to the economy annually;

WHEREAS New Brunswickers have a vested interest in the negotiations of a new softwood lumber agreement;

WHEREAS impositions of tariffs and trade caps with the United States could pose a significant risk to New Brunswick's economy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to meet with the federal government to continue to promote New Brunswick interests with regard to the negotiations of a new softwood lumber agreement.

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Mr. Stewart gave Notice of Motion 4 that on Thursday, November 10, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Fairgrieve:

WHEREAS the Auditor General is responsible for leading and directing independent audits and advising on how well the provincial government is managing its responsibilities and resources;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts financial audits of government services and programs to support the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements submitted to government and the public;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts performance audits of government services and programs, providing a systematic and objective assessment of how well government is managing its activities, responsibilities and resources;

WHEREAS the Auditor General conducts special examination of our Crown Corporations, providing assurance that their assets are safeguarded, their resources are managed economically and efficiently and their operations are carried out effectively;

WHEREAS government spent considerable time and effort on a Strategic Program Review, but refused more resources to the Auditor General, even though it is this office that performs financial, performance and special reviews of government services, and provides recommendations to government to improve these practices;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to start supporting the Auditor General's office, and allowing additional performance audits and special investigations to be conducted, so that we can reach the goal of a balanced budget and better taxpayer protection.

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Mr. Urquhart gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Thursday, November 10, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Savoie:

WHEREAS 30 percent of New Brunswick's forests are privately owned;

WHEREAS silviculture is a productive means to increase wood fibre while maintaining the same amount of trees;

WHEREAS many silvicultural practices help combat climate change through carbon sequestration;

WHEREAS the current government has increased revenues with over \$500 million worth of tax increases;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to reprioritize its spending and reinvest the dollars cut from the silviculture program back into silviculture;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the current government to reinstate the budget for private woodlot silviculture activities.

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Mr. Fitch offered condolences to the family of the late René "Pepsi" Landry, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Moncton North (1999-2003).

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Mr. Stewart offered condolences to the family of the late Dr. Jim Parrott, former Progressive Conservative MLA for Fundy-River Valley (2010-2014).

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Mr. Speaker reminded Members of the sixty second time limit on statements of condolence or congratulation.

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Mr. Speaker, at the request of Hon. Mr. Doucet, reverted to Government Motions for the Ordering of the Business of the House.

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Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Bills 2, 3, 4, and 5 would be called for second reading.

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And then, 11.44 a.m., the House adjourned.