

Daily sitting 9

Thursday, November 17, 2016

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Boudreau,

Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Smoke-free Places Act.*Bill 19, *An Act Respecting Nurse Practitioners.*

By Mr. Coon,

Bill 20, *An Act to Amend the Political Process Financing Act.*

Mr. Higgs gave Notice of Motion 8 that on Thursday, December 8, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Crossman:

WHEREAS the recent assessment results indicate that the majority of Grade 12 students, who started in the Grade 1 Immersion program, have utterly failed to meet expected outcomes; and

WHEREAS those assessment results indicate that not even 42% of those tested met or exceeded the Advanced Proficiency level, when the provincial target was 85%; and

WHEREAS those assessment results indicate that a large percentage of the students who started the Grade 1 Immersion program either dropped out of the program or no longer met the program definition by the time they reached Grade 12; and

WHEREAS a number of those Grade 12 students who dropped out of the program or failed to meet the definition under Policy 309 took the assessment test anyway – but that these results are not publicly reported; and

WHEREAS the Gallant government made a political promise during the last election campaign to reinstate the Grade 1 French Immersion despite these completely dismal assessment results and without having any evidence concerning the new Grade 3 Program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to put a moratorium on reinstating the Grade 1 French Immersion program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to release their transition plan to reinstate Grade 1

French Immersion program so that parents, teachers, administrators, and students can judge whether the plan addresses the serious failings of the original Grade 1 program.

Mr. Keirstead gave Notice of Motion 9 that on Thursday, December 8, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Jody Carr:

WHEREAS the Select Committee on Climate Change worked diligently to consult with New Brunswickers, stakeholder groups, and experts, on developing a plan to address climate change; and

WHEREAS the Committee made a recommendation to “Develop a made-in-New Brunswick carbon pricing mechanism, as opposed to having one imposed on New Brunswickers by the federal government”; and

WHEREAS the Committee recommended this mechanism be conditional upon:

- a. Directing all revenue from carbon pricing to a dedicated climate change fund, not general revenue;
- b. Undertaking a detailed analysis of the social, financial, economic, and environmental impacts of the various carbon pricing mechanisms and revenue investment options;
- c. Protecting low-income New Brunswickers;
- d. Including all economic sectors;
- e. Considering the approach taken by neighboring jurisdictions;
- f. Developing the mechanism with the engagement of all concerned interests; and
- g. Ensuring the carbon-pricing mechanism is outlined in legislation and receives public consultation through a committee of the Legislative Assembly.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT this Assembly urges the government to meet all of the conditions recommended by the Committee before imposing a new carbon tax or carbon pricing mechanism on the already over-burdened taxpayers of New Brunswick.

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave Notice of Motion 10 that on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Boudreau:

THAT unless otherwise provided by Standing Rule or Special Order of the House, the Legislative Assembly adopt the following sessional calendar upon resumption of the Third Session of the Fifty-Eighth Legislature on December 6, 2016:

Tuesday, December 6 to Friday, December 9, 2016, inclusive;
Tuesday, December 13 to Friday, December 16, 2016, inclusive;
Tuesday, January 31 to Friday, February 3, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, February 7 to Friday, February 10, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, March 14 to Friday, March 17, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, March 21 to Friday, March 24, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, March 28 to Friday, March 31, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, April 25 to Friday, April 28, 2017, inclusive; and
Tuesday, May 2 to Friday, May 5, 2017, inclusive;

THAT during certain weeks in which the Assembly is adjourned, the following dates are available to the standing committees to meet to consider bills, estimates and the public accounts of various government departments and Crown corporations;

Tuesday, January 17 to Friday, January 20, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, February 14 to Friday, February 17, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, February 21 to Friday, February 24, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, February 28 to Friday, March 3, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, April 11 to Thursday, April 13, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, April 18 to Friday, April 21, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, June 6 to Friday June 9, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, June 13 to Friday June 16, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, September 26 to Friday, September 29, 2017, inclusive;
Tuesday, October 3 to Friday October 6, 2017, inclusive; and
Tuesday, October 10 to Friday, October 13, 2017, inclusive;

THAT notwithstanding the above dates available to committees, that the chairs of standing and select committees may continue to call meetings with appropriate notice on dates of their choosing;

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday May 5, 2017, it stand adjourned until Wednesday, November 1, 2017;

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the Government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during any period of adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied and in such notice shall state a time at which the House shall meet, and thereupon the House shall meet at the

time so stated and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time, and

THAT in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, either of the Deputy Speakers shall act in his stead for the purpose of this order.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Doucet, seconded by Hon. Mr. Boudreau:

RESOLVED, that when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, it stand adjourned until Friday, November 18, 2016, at 9 a.m.

THAT when the Assembly adjourns on Friday, November 18, 2016, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, December 6, 2016.

Hon. Mr. Doucet gave notice that on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Bills 18 and 19 would be called for second reading.

Hon. Mr. Doucet, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that Bills 16, 15 and 17 be called for second reading; following which Opposition Members' Business would be considered.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to recess at 11.45 a.m. and resume sitting at 1 o'clock p.m.

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 16, *An Act to Amend the Crown Construction Contracts Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And after some time, Hon. Mr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Chiasson, 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 16, *An Act to Amend the Crown Construction Contracts 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.

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

Hon. Mr. Fraser rose on a point of order and submitted that Mr. Jeff Carr should limit his remarks to the amendment under consideration. Mr. Speaker ruled the point well taken.

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

The Order being read for second reading of Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 15 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal 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 17, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act*, a debate arose thereon.

At 11.45 a.m., Mr. Speaker left the chair to resume again at 1 o'clock p.m.

1.14 p.m.

Mr. Albert, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

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 2, moved by Mr. Savoie, seconded by Mr. Fitch, as follows:

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.

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

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 2 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 5, Mr. Urquhart moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put, Motion 5 was resolved in the negative.

Pursuant to Notice of Motion 4, Mr. Stewart moved, 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.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

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

And after some further time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

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

And then, 6.15 p.m., the House adjourned.