

Daily sitting 2

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to provide one Member's Statement to the Green caucus and to the People's Alliance caucus.

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

It was agreed by unanimous consent to provide two questions, with two supplementary questions each, to the Green caucus and to the People's Alliance caucus during Oral Questions.

Hon. Mr. Bourque laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *New Brunswick's Ambulance Services, Green Paper prepared by the Department of Health in support of a legislative committee review of the provision of land ambulance services in New Brunswick, October 2018*.

It was agreed by unanimous consent that the Green caucus and the People's Alliance caucus be permitted to respond to Statements by Ministers.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition urging the government to contribute to national land conservation targets by setting goals and creating an action plan. (Petition 1)

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition in support of a ban on the spraying of glyphosate in Crown forest management. (Petition 2)

The following Bill was introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. Mr. Melanson,

Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act*.

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Melanson: (Motion 1)

THAT the definition of "recognized party" in the Standing Rules be suspended for the duration of the 59th Legislative Assembly, and that members of the Green and People's Alliance caucuses be afforded the same rights and privileges under Standing Rules 40, 40.1 and 104,

with respect to Statements by Members and replies to Statements by Ministers and the membership of the Legislative Administration Committee, as other members of recognized parties in the House.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Rogers: (Motion 2)

THAT notwithstanding Standing Rule 29(1), the time for the daily meeting and adjournment of the sitting of the Assembly on Fridays shall be as follows:

Friday 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

THAT this Special Order shall remain in effect during the remainder of the First Session of the Fifty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

With leave of the House, Hon. Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Mr. McKee: (Motion 3)

THAT, pursuant to Standing Rules 89 and 104, the following Standing Committees be appointed for the Fifty-Ninth Legislative Assembly and that the membership of the said Committees be as follows:

The Legislative Administration Committee be composed of Hon. Mr. Guitard, Mr. C. Chiasson, Ms. LeBlanc, Hon. Ms. Harris, Hon. Mr. Melanson, Mr. D'Amours, Mr. Arseneault, Mr. Fairgrieve, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Coon, Mr. Arseneau, Mr. Austin, and Ms. Conroy;

The Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be composed of Hon. Ms. Harris, Mr. Arseneault, Mr. McKee, Mr. C. Chiasson, Mr. Gauvin, Mr. Northrup, Mr. Carr, Mr. Savoie, Mr. Coon and Mr. Austin;

THAT the Standing Committee on Procedure, Privileges and Legislative Officers be directed to undertake a complete review of the Standing Rules and prepare a report with recommendations to ensure that the rules will work in a minority legislature and look for opportunities to enhance the role of the legislature through measures including, but not limited to, a fixed legislative calendar, a more collaborative seating arrangement, free votes, the ability to call

witnesses to testify during committee review of bills, clearer mandates for committees, and a clearer role for legislative review and response to reports and recommendations from legislative officers;

THAT the other Standing Committees, namely the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations, Standing Committee on Economic Policy, Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy, Standing Committee on Law Amendments, Standing Committee on Private Bills, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and Standing Committee on Social Policy be appointed for the Fifty-Ninth Legislative Assembly and that the membership of the said Committees consist of four Liberal members, four Progressive Conservative members, one Green member and one People's Alliance member; whose names shall be submitted by the Leader of each party to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly by Friday, October 26, 2018.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Arseneault gave Notice of Motion 4 that on Tuesday, October 30, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. K. Chiasson:

THAT the Standing Committee on Estimates and Fiscal Policy be directed to develop a new, more open and transparent budget process in which departmental budget submissions will be reviewed by committee and public meetings will be undertaken;

THAT the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be directed to review resource royalty rates to ensure that they better protect the balance between economic growth and getting value from our resources while protecting private woodlot owners, and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT the Standing Committee on Social Policy be directed to review the billing number system while protecting rural health care and enabling the hiring of more doctors, and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT the Standing Committee on Crown Corporations be directed to consult experts, the paramedic association, paramedic union, and other stakeholders to complete a public review of the ambulance

system with particular focus on paramedic shortages, and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee, and that the committee prepare a report by no later than December 15, 2018, on its review;

THAT the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be directed to consider a phased-in ban of the use of herbicides, such as glyphosate, with the scope of the ban to be based on objective evidence; and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be directed to review and make recommendations relating to municipal governance, and modernizing the municipal taxation system including examining the possibility of reducing or eliminating the so-called double tax, and of eliminating industrial assessment exemptions including machinery and equipment; and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT any discussion paper on private sector pay equity tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the Standing Committee on Law Amendments, and that the committee be directed to prepare a report recommending the form of legislation for private sector pay equity;

THAT any discussion paper on minimum wage increases tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Policy, and that the committee be directed to prepare a report recommending a rate for minimum wage increases effective April 1, 2020, April 1, 2021, and April 1, 2022;

THAT the Standing Committee on Law Amendments be directed to review and make recommendations on a potential question or questions relating to proportional representation, preferential balloting and the voting age that could be posed to New Brunswickers at the 2020 municipal elections as well as potential amendments to the *Referendum Act* to ensure a fair process; and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT the Standing Committee on Economic Policy be directed to study and make recommendations on whether the form and amount of financial assistance to industry to help attract investment and create jobs is appropriate; and that any discussion paper on that topic tabled in the House or filed with the Office of the Clerk by a Minister of the Crown stand referred to the committee;

THAT notwithstanding the powers and mandates of certain standing committees as defined in the Standing Rules or in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Procedure adopted by the House on March 10, 2015, that any committee directed to prepare a report under this motion, in addition to the powers and mandates traditionally conferred upon the said committee, shall have, as required during the Fifty-Ninth Legislative Assembly to carry out the responsibilities assigned by this motion, the following additional powers:

- to meet during sittings of the House and during the recess after prorogation until the following session;
- to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient;
- to retain such personnel and expertise as may be required to assist the committee;
- to hold such public consultations as it deems necessary;

THAT any committee directed to prepare a report under this motion may, during a period when the Legislative Assembly is adjourned or prorogued, release a report by depositing a copy with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and, upon the resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present the report to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Coon gave Notice of Motion 5 that on Thursday, November 1, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Arseneau:

WHEREAS the World Health Organization deemed glyphosate “probably carcinogenic to humans” in 2015;

WHEREAS there is increasing scientific evidence of the risk glyphosate poses to the health of our forest ecosystems and wildlife;

WHEREAS I and the Member for Restigouche West tabled one of the largest petitions in the history of the Legislative Assembly with over 34,000 signatures asking for the spraying to end;

WHEREAS \$2.5 million tax dollars were used to pay for spraying glyphosate on Crown lands in 2017;

WHEREAS Agent Orange was approved by the provincial government to spray over forest plantations and under power lines right up until it was banned by the federal government, and replaced with glyphosate;

WHEREAS Québec has banned the use of glyphosate for forestry operations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to ban the spraying of glyphosate and other herbicides over our forests and under our powerlines.

Mr. Arseneau gave Notice of Motion 6 that on Thursday, November 1, 2018, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Ms. Mitton:

WHEREAS the 2018 New Brunswick General Election produced a minority government where the proportion of Members elected to the Legislative Assembly does not reflect the proportion of votes received by each party in the election;

WHEREAS Fair Vote Canada found that Legislatures using proportional representation are more stable, as there is no incentive for calling a quick election in order to gain a majority government;

WHEREAS the 2017 Commission on Electoral Reform recommended that the government move to a Preferential Ballot voting system and consider some form of proportional representation;

WHEREAS a recent poll determined that more than half of New Brunswickers say that the number of votes is more important than the number of seats in determining who will govern New Brunswick;

WHEREAS over ninety countries currently use proportional representation, including 85% of countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to launch a public inquiry into how to best adopt proportional representation in New Brunswick so that the composition of the Legislative Assembly reflects the number of votes cast.

Ms. Mitton gave Notice of Motion 7 that on Thursday, November 1, 2018, she would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Coon:

WHEREAS there was no evaluation of Medavie's previous contract to provide ambulance services;

WHEREAS many paramedics are overworked, resulting in stress-related leaves of absence;

WHEREAS there is an ongoing shortage of 150 paramedics in New Brunswick with an additional 125 to 150 out on long term leave at any given time;

WHEREAS paramedics logged 216,000 hours of overtime, at a cost of \$8 million, in 2017;

WHEREAS there were 7500 instances of ambulances being pulled off the road in 2017, a 55% increase over 2016;

WHEREAS there have been three deaths in northern New Brunswick, including two in Saint-Quentin, since August 2016 when ambulances have taken more than 20 minutes to arrive on scene;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government of New Brunswick to launch a public inquiry into ambulance services in New Brunswick;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to immediately ensure that the number of ambulances per community is based on a community needs assessment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to immediately ensure that the deployment of ambulances be community-based not provincial in terms of territorial coverage.

Hon. Mr. Gallant offered condolences to the family of the late J. Raymond Frenette, former Premier and Liberal MLA for Moncton East (1974-1998).

Hon. Mr. Kenny offered condolences to the family of the late Frank Branch, former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Liberal MLA for Gloucester County (1970-1974), Nepisiguit-Chaleur (1974-1995) and Nepisiguit (2003-2006).

And then, 12 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.