

Daily sitting 5

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

1 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

Mr. Wetmore welcomed to the House Eugene G. B. McGinley, Q.C., former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Liberal MLA for Bathurst City (1972-1974), Bathurst (1974-1978), Grand Lake (2003-2006) and Grand Lake-Gagetown (2006-2010). Hon. Ms. Harris and Hon. Mr. Kenny joined in this regard.

Mr. Speaker laid upon the table of the House the *Independent Auditor's Report on the financial statements of the Office of the Auditor General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018*.

Mr. Coon, Member for Fredericton South, laid upon the table of the House a petition in opposition to pesticide use on upper Green River Crown land. (Petition 3)

Hon. Ms. Harris, Government House Leader, announced that it was the intention of government that the House resume the adjourned debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The Order of the Day being read that the House proceed to take into further consideration the amendment to the proposed Address in answer to Her Honour's speech at the opening of the session,

And the debate continuing, after some time, Hon. Mr. Bourque, seconded by Hon. Ms. Harris, moved a sub-amendment:

SUB-AMENDMENT

THAT the proposed amendment to the Motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne be amended as follows:

By deleting all the words after the word "government" and adding the following:

"must also undertake the following initiatives:

- Work with the paramedic union to immediately increase the wages of paramedics in New Brunswick, and to begin to address the issue of out-of-service ambulances, commit to offer positions to all paramedic graduates in New Brunswick through filling vacancies with qualified personnel and hiring additional permanent full-time paramedics for positions expected to be vacated through attrition in advance;

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- If the current judicial review sets aside the previous court order on paramedic staffing and rules in favour of the McEvoy arbitration ruling, immediately implement the arbitrator's ruling;
 - Move the mandate for energy efficiency to a new agency based on the Nova Scotia model;
 - Introduce a motion to direct a legislative committee to bring together all parties to focus on eliminating poverty, including through a complete review of social assistance restrictions and claw backs with the aim of drastically improving the system, and an examination of the merits of a guaranteed basic income pilot, and improvements to public transportation in rural and urban New Brunswick;
 - Introduce a motion to direct a legislative committee to develop a comprehensive plan for sustainable rural economic development;
 - Ensure social license is considered when a legislative committee considers a ban on herbicides;
 - Reaffirm and accelerate a commitment to ensuring seniors have the option of Home First while recognizing the important role homecare workers play in supporting seniors, and addressing the work force challenges as such;
 - Improve wages for home support workers;
 - Enhance supports for adults on the autism spectrum;
 - Implement and consider the further expansion of the 2018 palliative care strategy;
 - Further reduce the small business tax by 0.5 per cent each year until it is eliminated;

AND THAT Her Honour cause her government to lay upon the table of the House an implementation plan for the initiatives contained in her speech and this Address by November 30, 2018;

AND THAT Her Honour cause her First Minister to undertake to meet regularly, both when the House is in session and when it is not, with each of the leaders of the recognized parties of this Assembly to consult them on the business of the executive branch of government.”

At 3.10 p.m. the House recessed. At 3.24 p.m. the House resumed.

Mr. Speaker put the question on the proposed sub-amendment.

Mr. Holder rose on a point of order and questioned whether the sub-amendment was in order as it may contradict the government's own Throne Speech, which could be considered a matter of confidence. Mr. Speaker ruled the point not well taken and advised the House that it was not within the authority of the Speaker to determine what was a matter of confidence.

Debate ensued on the sub-amendment.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and announced that the hour of daily adjournment had arrived.

And then, 6.10 p.m., the House adjourned.

The following document, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, was deemed laid upon the table of the House pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Annual Report 2017-2018
Maritime Provinces Higher
Education Commission

October 26, 2018